



# Oregon Water Resources Congress

## Preliminary 2015 Legislative Session Report

The Oregon State Legislature adjourned their 78<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session the evening of Monday, July 6, 2015. This is a brief summary of the 2015 Legislative Session and the key legislation that OWRC actively followed. Please consider attending our 2015 Water Law Seminar on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond, Oregon.

### Policy Legislation

All totaled, 2,799 measures were introduced by the Legislature during this session, with 1079 measures passed through the Senate and 1003 passed through the House. To date, 673 of those measures have been signed into law by Governor Brown. At the start of the session OWRC was tracking over 100 different policy bills. Due to the diversity of our membership and the farmers they serve, OWRC does not track labor/employment bills or farming specific bills (GMOs/Pesticides/etc.); however, our partners at Special Districts Association of Oregon and Oregonians for Food and Shelter, do track these bills and we are happy to provide their session summaries once we receive them. Below are a list of key bills for OWRC members, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the OWRC office.

Bill	Position	Description	Last Action
SB 267A	Support	Extending Irrigation District Pilot Project Allowing Temporary Transfers within Boundaries	Signed by the Governor on June 11, 2015 Effective date, January 1, 2016
HB 2984-2	Support	District Plat-signing authority	Died in Committee OWRC will be working with the Association of Oregon Counties, League of Oregon Cities, the Homebuilders Association and Oregon Farm Bureau on this issue during the interim. We hope to re-introduce a similar bill in a future session.
HB 3208	Support	Piping is not a Land-use decision	Died in Committee Ultimately, we became unsure whether the bill as written would have solved the issues our districts are facing. OWRC is in talks with the Governor's office as well as State Agencies in an attempt to solve the issue outside of the legislature or to at least develop language that will get at a solution for a future session.
HB 3220	Oppose	Removes condemnation authority of districts outside their district boundaries	Died in Committee This was a victory for OWRC, however; the issue is not dead, there is some interest in condemnation and it continues to pop up in

			discussion. OWRC is proactively educating Legislators and interested parties on this rarely used, but vital tool.
HB 3219	Oppose	Prohibits use of expedited district transfer process to change place of use of stored water	Died in Committee. This confusingly worded bill died in committee. While the bill was meant to target a specific district, it would have been applicable statewide.
HB 2400A	Support	SB 839 Legislative fix bill <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dates</li> <li>• Permitting issues</li> </ul>	Signed by the Governor on May 26, 2015 Effective May 26, 2015
SB 266A	Support	Place-Based Planning-sets up grant program	Passed through the Legislature on July 3, 2015
HB 2277	Support	Multnomah County Drainage District bill-Modifies authority of drainage districts to perform flood control activity.	Signed by Governor on June 25, 2015  Mark Landauer at SDAO worked hard to get this bill through the legislature. When it was first introduced on the house side, Farm Bureau opposed it. Once it made it's way to the Senate, WaterWatch opposed it. Unfortunately, to get it passed, it had to be specifically narrowed to only cover MCDD.
SB 268	No Position	Water Resources Department Funding Task Force	Died in Committee  This bill received no hearings and died unceremoniously without any action.
SB 206A	Support	Allows temporary lease or temporary transfer of adjudicated rights while on judicial review in the Klamath Basin	Signed by Governor on June 16, 2015 Effective June 16, 2015  This bill allows the Klamath to temporarily lease or transfer water the same way the rest of the state does. It received broad-based support from stakeholders.

## Budget/Funding Bills

Courtesy of the drought, water funding was a natural resources priority this session. Water resources and development were funded across the board and OWRC counts this as a huge success and a testament to our hard work with our coalition of water stakeholders to get the message to legislators that water is an essential investment in securing our state's future in agriculture.

HB 5042A	Water Resources Department Budget	Governor signed June 29, 2015 Effective July 1, 2015  Total budget allocation for the Water Resources Department is \$54,432,980, not including the amounts listed below.
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HB 5030A	Issuance of Lottery Revenue Bonds	<p>Passed House/Senate July 6, 2015</p> <p>A total of \$21,000,000 was allocated to the Water Resources Department in Lottery Bonds. This includes:  \$11,750,000 to the Water Supply Fund  \$ 6,250,000 to recapitalizing the Water Supply Development Account (SB 839)  \$ 2,000,000 to the Water Conservation/Reuse/Storage Investment Fund (HB1069)</p> <p>***There is a final \$1M dedicated to the Mosier Creek Well Casing***</p>
HB 5005A	Establishes amounts authorized for issuance of general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, certificates of participation and other financing agreements for biennium	<p>Passed House/Senate July 6, 2015</p> <p>This bill included a \$30,520,000 authorization to the Water Resources Department for issuance of Article XI-I (1) general obligation bonds to fund loans for water development projects.</p> <p>Article XI-I (1) is the Constitutional Loan Fund for Water Development Projects.</p>

All totaled, water resources development received over \$50 million in funding. While this session may have been frustrating in the policy arena, there was great success in water funding.

Overall this session was a positive one for OWRC. Water policy bills that would have negatively affected our members died in committee. We secured an extension on the Irrigation District Transfer Pilot Project and secured much needed funding for investing in water resources development.

OWRC will provide a more through legislative summary along with our state partner organizations at the 2015 Water Law Seminar. Again, please consider attending our 2015 Water Law Seminar on Thursday, October 8, 2015 at Eagle Crest Resort in Redmond Oregon for a more in-depth look at this past session. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us here at OWRC.