Oregon Water Resources Department

2009 – 2011 Legislatively Adopted Budget

	2005-07 Actuals	2007-09 Legislatively Approved Budget	2009-11 Legislatively Approved Budget
General Fund	$21,254,080	$26,603,527	$21,035,526
Lottery-Backed Bonds	0	0	3,500,000
Lottery-Bond Issuance/Debt Service	0	0	446,036
General Obligation Bonds	0	0	10,000,000
Other Funds, including fees	4,045,553	7,021,101	9,983,185
Federal Funds	551,585	1,176,003	1,197,639
Other Funds (non-limited)	1,521,457	1	0
Total Funds	$27,372,675	$34,800,632	$46,162,386
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	138.13	147.60	146.29

Key Components of the Water Resources Department Budget

SB 5551 "Water Resources Department Budget"

New Investments:

- Add 1 transfer staff liaison to the Department's reimbursement authority program (pkg #125)
- Add 3 reimbursement authority staff in-house for water right applications & certificates (pkg #126)

New Key Performance Measures:

- "Fully Implement The Water Resources Commission's 2000 Water Measurement Strategy"
- "Increase Water Use Reporting"

Budget Notes:

- Work with stakeholders to evaluate the adequacy and equity of new fees; report findings.
- Make significant progress in addressing backlogs in water rights and services.

Six positions, removed in February to help balance the 2007-09 budget, are also removed in SB 5551:

- 2 water measurement technicians
- 2 Oregon Plan for Salmon & Watersheds positions
- 1 water use reporting position
- 1 information technology position

Additional program reductions:

- $50,000 from legal budget
- $50,000 from ground water studies
- $100,000 from water measurement equipment
- $200,000 from Klamath Adjudication
- $300,000 from Water Development Loan Fund

http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/sb5500.dir/sb5551.en.pdf

SB 788 "Relating to Water"

In 2007-09, the Department recovered, on average, about 28 percent of its costs related to customer transactions. This bill will increase cost recovery to 50 percent. The bill also requires owners of new exempt use wells to submit a map of the well location (by tax lot) to the Department, as well as a one-time $300 recording fee. The recording fees will support a variety of ground water activities at the Department.

Final enrolled text: http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/sb0700.dir/sb0788.en.pdf

HB 2231 "Increasing Start Card Fees"

This bill is designed to maintain WRD's current well inspection program, and increases the Start Card Fee from $125 to $225. The last increase was in 2003.

Final enrolled text: http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2231.en.pdf

HB 2232 "Establishing Geotechnical Hole Report Fees"

HB 2232A establishes a fee to collect, enter, and post data related to geotechnical holes (test holes for which data about subsurface conditions is collected and posted on-line). The fee is $25 for the first report and $10 for each additional report at a project site within a seven-day period.

Final enrolled text: http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb2200.dir/hb2232.en.pdf

Additional 2009 Water Resource-Related Legislation

SB 195 "Allowing Wave Energy Pilot Projects to Connect to the Grid"

Today, wave energy pilot projects are precluded from connecting to the grid, which is important for developers to recoup their investments. SB 195 now allows such pilot projects to connect to the grid, but also retains the state's ability to protect the environment, ensure a valid public participation process, and pay (through fees) for agency participation at the same time. The bill maintains the five megawatt size limitation currently in statute and provides for a special advisory committee comprised of local government and tribal representatives to recommend siting standards. This bill takes effect July 1 and sunsets December 31, 2009.

Final enrolled text: http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/sb0100.dir/sb0195.en.pdf

SB 664 "Expanding Pilot Project – Irrigation District Transfers"

The 2003 Legislative Assembly authorized a pilot project allowing for the temporary transfer of water rights between existing water right holders within eligible irrigation district boundaries without triggering a formal transfer process or fee. Three irrigation districts currently qualify. This bill extends the sunset for the pilot project to June 30, 2016, and expands the program to an additional 12 districts.

Final enrolled text: http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/sb0600.dir/sb0664.en.pdf

HB 3369 "The 2009 Water Investment Act"

HB 3369 as adopted contains four components:

- Places additional requirements on the Department's loan fund for the construction of water development projects.
- Establishes a new grant fund for the construction of water development projects.
- Specifies requirements for the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recovery Project to use the grant fund above.
- Directs the Water Resources Department to develop a state-wide, integrated water resources strategy. The development of an integrated water resources strategy will help Oregon meet its future water needs in terms of water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs. The project team will be managed by the Water Resources Department, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality and Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The dollars necessary to implement the bill are noted in SB 5535 and SB 5505 below.

Final enrolled text: http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/hb3300.dir/hb3369.en.pdf

SB 5505 "Authorizing General Obligation Bonds"

Among other projects, this bill authorizes the state to issue $10 million in general obligation bonds to provide loans for the construction of water development projects in the Columbia River Basin by water developers that are not municipalities or municipal water providers.

Final enrolled text: http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/sb5500.dir/sb5505.en.pdf

SB 5535 "Authorizing Lottery-Backed Bonds"

This bill authorizes the state to issue $2.5 million in lottery-backed bonds for the Umatilla Basin Aquifer Recovery Project, plus $500,000 for water development project feasibility studies, $217,000 to operate loan and grant programs, and $283,000 for two positions related to a state-wide integrated water resources strategy. This bill operates in conjunction with SB 5054, which allocates the funds to the above projects.

Final enrolled text: http://www.leg.state.or.us/09reg/measpdf/sb5500.dir/sb5535.en.pdf

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