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SUMMARY

Requires Water Resources Department to establish grant program for purpose of sharing cost of remediating reductions in amount of ground water available for domestic personal use in Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern due to overallocation of ground water for agricultural use.

Establishes in State Treasury, separate and distinct from General Fund, Domestic Well Remediation Fund to provide funds for grant program.

Appropriates moneys from General Fund to Water Resources Department for deposit into Domestic Well Remediation Fund.

Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to ground water levels; and prescribing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. (1) The Water Resources Department shall establish by rule a grant program for the purpose of sharing the cost of remediating reductions in the amount of ground water available for domestic personal use in the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern due to overallocation of ground water for agricultural use.

(2) In administering the program, the department:

(a) Shall develop a process for applying for a grant and criteria for selecting a grantee.

(b) Shall award grants for:

(A) Up to \$10,000 per grantee to provide for the replacement or repair of a domestic personal use well affected by declining ground water levels within the Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern; and

1 (B) Up to 75 percent of the cost of replacing or repairing the well.

2 (c) Shall, for purposes of the program, adopt by rule a definition for
3 the term "Greater Harney Valley Groundwater Area of Concern" or
4 maintain in rule a definition for the term that the department adopted
5 before the effective date of this 2021 Act.

6 (d) May require a grantee to report to the department on the use
7 of the grant funds.

8 (3) The department shall review the grant program on a biennial
9 basis to assess to what extent the outcome described in subsection (1)
10 of this section is being achieved. The department shall modify the
11 process for awarding grants as necessary to better achieve the out-
12 come described in subsection (1) of this section.

13 SECTION 2. (1) There is established in the State Treasury, separate
14 and distinct from the General Fund, the Domestic Well Remediation
15 Fund. Interest earned by the Domestic Well Remediation Fund shall
16 be credited to the fund. All moneys in the Domestic Well Remediation
17 Fund are continuously appropriated to the Water Resources Depart-
18 ment to carry out the purposes described in section 1 of this 2021 Act.

19 (2) The Domestic Well Remediation Fund shall consist of all moneys
20 credited to the fund, including moneys appropriated or transferred to
21 the fund by the Legislative Assembly.

22 SECTION 3. There is appropriated to the Water Resources Depart-
23 ment, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2021, out of the General
24 Fund, the amount of \$500,000 for deposit into the Domestic Well Re-
25 mediation Fund established in section 2 of this 2021 Act.

26 SECTION 4. This 2021 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the date
27 on which the 2021 regular session of the Eighty-first Legislative As-
28 sembly adjourns sine die.