

HB 2765 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

Action Date: 04/03/23

Action: Without recommendation as to passage and be referred to Rules.

Vote: 8-1-0-0

Yeas: 8 - Boice, Hartman, Helm, Levy B, Marsh, McLain, Owens, Scharf

Nays: 1 - Gamba

Fiscal: Fiscal impact issued

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 3/27, 4/3

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Grants the South Suburban Sanitary District (SSSD) the exclusive right to use and sell treated wastewater discharged by the district, and compliant with permitting requirements by the Department of Environmental Quality, into the Klamath River or any of its tributaries. Prohibits appropriation of treated wastewater discharged pursuant to the measure. Requires SSSD to file a notice with the Oregon Water Resources Department prior to using the treated wastewater. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Requirements for water to be delivered to certain Klamath wildlife refuges
- Seasonality of irrigation needs
- Concerns on violation of prior water rights
- Ownership of treated wastewater

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The South Suburban Sanitary District (SSSD) is located in Klamath Falls, Oregon and encompasses approximately 10 square miles and serves an estimated population of 25,000 people. The district's wastewater facility consists of a 130-acre facultative lagoon system. Treatment of wastewater from the facility is regulated by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

House Bill 2765 would allow the SSSD to use and sell treated wastewater discharged by the district under certain conditions.