

HB 3195 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

Carrier: Sen. Prozanski

Senate Committee On Natural Resources

Action Date: 04/19/23

Action: Do pass.

Vote: 4-0-0-1

Yeas: 4 - Girod, Golden, Prozanski, Taylor

Abs: 1 - Smith DB

Fiscal: Has minimal fiscal impact

Revenue: No revenue impact

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Meeting Dates: 4/12, 4/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Modifies the definition of "public agency" to expand eligibility for Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund financial assistance by removing the requirement that the applying agency must be authorized or required to construct water pollution control facilities. Includes methods or systems for nonpoint source runoff in "treatment works" definition. Modifies state policy supporting public agencies in transitioning from reliance on federal grants to local fee-based self-sufficiency to include support for public agencies with authority to provide treatment works and support for those with responsibility for implementing a nonpoint source management plan.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Background on Clean Water State Revolving Fund
- Descriptive statistics on financial assistance provided in recent years
- Smaller communities as primary beneficiaries of expanded eligibility
- Federal program eligibility more expansive than current state program
- Nonsubstantive nonpoint source references

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

The Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) program is a federal-state partnership that provides low-cost financing to communities for a wide range of water quality infrastructure projects. In Oregon, the definition of eligible recipients excludes some public agencies, such as domestic water supply districts, if they do not have wastewater system authority. This definition is more restrictive than what is allowable under federal CWSRF program regulations.

House Bill 3195 would modify the definition of "public agency" to expand eligibility for Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund financial assistance and would modify the "treatment works" definition and state policy to incorporate references to nonpoint source management activities.