

## ANALYSIS

### Department of Environmental Quality Oregon Water Data Portal

---

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Acknowledge receipt of a report from the Department of Environmental Quality on the status of the Oregon Water Data Portal project.

**Analysis:** The Oregon Water Data Portal (OWDP) project was initiated by the legislature in 2021 when HB 5006 directed the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and other state water agencies to begin initial scoping and design of a “database framework of water and infrastructure data”. The intent was to provide a single point of access for public water and infrastructure data to inform water resource decisions in Oregon. DEQ was granted \$350,000 General Fund, on a one-time basis, to begin the OWDP project during the 2021-23 biennium. This initial planning phase defined scope and methodology, culminating in a report delivered to the legislature in June 2023 which documented the project’s status to date, outlined findings, and made recommendations for the project’s next steps.

During the 2023 legislative session, HB 5018 provided DEQ with \$1.2 million General Fund on a one-time basis, as well as two limited duration positions (1.88 FTE), to support the continued development of the OWDP. Funding for the project’s second phase was made possible through the 2023 statewide drought package. A budget note in HB 5018 directed the Department to coordinate with other water-related state agencies and service providers to pursue development of the OWDP, prioritizing specified objectives, and report back to the legislature with a status update during the 2024 legislative session. The text of the budget note reads:

**“Budget Note: Oregon Water Data Portal**

The Department of Environmental Quality is directed to coordinate with other water-related agencies and contracted service providers to pursue stage 2 development of the Oregon Water Data Portal project, initiated by HB 5006 in the 2021 legislative session. The Department shall prioritize the following project objectives during the 2023-25 biennium, and provide a comprehensive report including, at a minimum, the following information:

- Identifying dedicated staffing, stage 2 project cost, and contract services with third party providers necessary to develop a pilot version of the data portal;
- Establishment of an inter-agency governance structure, agreements and standard operating procedures necessary to support continuation of project development;
- Analysis of the inventory of existing state agency water data to identify state data needs, tools, and efforts necessary to acquire additional data to support water-related decision making;
- Conducting Oregon tribal and stakeholder engagement to identify data priorities and inform further project development considerations;
- Engagement with the Department of Administrative Services, Enterprise Information Services Office, including status of the Stage Gate process; and
- Identification of risks, likely impacts, and mitigation strategies.

The Department, in coordination with an inter-agency steering committee, will report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means, during the 2024 legislative session, with the status of the Oregon Water

Data Portal project.”

The Department’s recently submitted report provides a status update outlining seven months of progress this biennium. The report describes the project’s governance; interagency coordination; tribal and community engagement plan; approach to data analysis; and identified project risks, impacts and mitigation strategies. Project deliverables this biennium include:

- A pilot portal with enough state tabular and geospatial data to demonstrate value;
- A plan to govern, maintain and automate the OWDP;
- Support for participating agencies as they modernize data and organizational processes; and
- An assessment of the pilot portal's performance.

The four risks identified by the project team include the lack of some data sets in a usable format; limitations in the ability to integrate data sets; the level of business process maturity across agencies; and a lack of participation. Mitigation measures include a data inventory assessment and recommendations to correct missing or unusable data; contracting with Internet of Water and engaging with the Department of Administrative Services to assist with integration issues; identifying agencies in need of process assistance and working to mature their information management; and the project team will actively solicit all 17 agencies to participate early in development. If an agency’s participation is not possible for some reason, the project team will document accordingly.

The Department anticipates release of the OWDP pilot by early 2025.

**Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of the report.

**Request:** Report on the Oregon Water Data Portal by the Department of Environment Quality (DEQ).

**Recommendation:** Acknowledge receipt of the report.

**Discussion:** The budget report for House Bill 5018 (2023) included a budget note directing DEQ to pursue stage 2 development of the Oregon Water Data Portal (OWDP) project and to provide a report to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means during the 2024 Legislative Session. The OWDP stage 1 was implemented by the Water Resources Department as directed by the Legislature in House Bill 5006 (2021). The budget note requires the development of a plan for the pilot version of the OWDP, establishment of governance and agreements between partners, an analysis of existing state agency water data, tribal and stakeholder engagement, Department of Administrative Services (DAS) engagement, and identification of risks, impacts, and mitigation strategies.

DEQ has worked collaboratively with partner agencies including both the Water Resources Department and DAS. The OWDP team continues to develop stage 2 of the OWDP and expects the pilot portal to be available in early 2025, with enough features to attract early users and validate technology assumptions and processes. The OWDP team is continuing to assess existing data and identifying accessibility, useability, and gaps in the data.

A Project Steering Committee, which includes partner agency participants and is expected to expand as stage 2 progresses. The Project Steering Committee will develop the governance structure for the OWDP. Members of this committee have also conducted a series of listening sessions with Tribal Government and interested party representatives.

The ODWP team has identified four risks and provided mitigation measures. Risks include concerns on existing data form, technological capacities, abilities, and willingness of participation. The ODWP team has identified risk mitigation strategies for each of the identified risks.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Agency Headquarters

700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600

Portland, OR 97232

(503) 229-5696

FAX (503) 229-6124

TTY 711

January 12, 2024

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The [Oregon Water Data Portal](#), launched by the 2021 Legislature as an initial scoping effort and subsequently funded for pilot phase development in 2023-25, will provide a modernized, single point of access for public water and infrastructure data to inform water resource decisions in Oregon. The Department of Environmental Quality, in coordination with other participating agencies, has prepared the attached status report update for consideration by the Interim Committee on Ways & Means, pursuant to budget note #3 in the budget report accompanying the agency's budget bill HB 5018 (2023).

## **Agency Action**

Phase One of the OWDP project, from 2021-2023, defined the scope and methodology of the OWDP project, and produced a [legislative report](#) (June 2023) documenting project scoping findings and making recommendations for next steps. Phase Two launched at the beginning of the 2023-2025 biennium and will produce a pilot scale version of the portal with enough state tabular and geospatial data to demonstrate the general utility of the platform. DEQ has prepared a Status Report on Phase 2 work, as seen in the Attached.

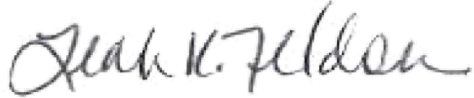
## **Action Requested**

DEQ respectfully requests that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means acknowledge receipt of the attached Status Report on Oregon Water Data Portal activities.

**Legislation Affected**

HB 5018 (2023), budget note #3 in the measure's budget report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leah K. Feldon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leah" being more prominent.

Leah Feldon  
Director

CC: Brian Boling, Department of Environmental Quality  
Matthew Davis, Department of Environmental Quality  
April McDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Sione Filimoehala, DAS Chief Financial Office