

HB 3116 -6 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

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

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Sub-Referral To: Joint Committee On Ways and Means

Meeting Dates: 3/19, 4/7

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

The measure appropriates \$2 million from the General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for deposit in the Place-Based Water Planning Fund. Appropriates \$_____ from the General Fund to OWRD for distribution to the Seal Rock Water District, the Harney County Watershed Council, Union County, and Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District to support implementation of their state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plan. The measure declares an emergency and takes effect on July 1, 2025.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

-6 The amendment replaces the measure, appropriates money from the General Fund to the Oregon Water Resources Department for the implementation of the implementation of the place-based water planning program, water basin assessments, the Water Resources Department Water Supply Fund, and for grants that support the advancements of specific state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plans.

Detailed Summary

- Replaces the measure.
- Appropriates \$500,000 General Fund moneys to the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 for the following purposes:
 - Implement and report on recommendations from the evaluation of the place-based water planning program and recommendations of the regional water planning and management group.
 - Produce, or contract for the production of, a prototype for a water basin assessment that is consistent with the Integrated Water Resources Strategy and can form the technical basis for water planning.
 - Develop and document recommendations regarding a proposed schedule and sequence for completion of basin assessments in basins across the state, best practices and lessons learned related to water planning and basin assessments and opportunities to reduce the cost of, or expedite completion of, water basin assessments, including by contracting for development of water basin assessments.
- Appropriates \$3.35 million General Fund moneys to OWRD for deposit in the Water Resources Department Water Supply Fund.
- Increases OWRD's General Fund appropriation made through Enrolled Senate Bill 5543 for specified expenditures by \$3.35 million for the biennium beginning July 1, 2025 for distribution of the following grants for implementation of actions advancing state-recognized place-based integrated water resources plans that are supported by an associated planning group:
 - \$1.1 million to the High Desert Partnership
 - \$500,000 to Union County
 - \$1.1 million to the Gilliam County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Declares emergency, effective July 1, 2025.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

BACKGROUND:

In 2015, the Oregon legislature authorized the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) to pilot a place-based approach to integrated water resources planning by making grants and providing technical assistance to communities to engage in place-based planning. Place-based planning is voluntary, locally led, and tailored to specific water resource needs and challenges of the location in which planning efforts take place. Participating communities are required to build a collaborative and inclusive process; gather information to understand water resources and identify knowledge gaps; examine current and future water needs for people, places, and nature; identify and prioritize strategic, integrated solutions to addressing water needs; and develop a place-based integrated water resources plan (place-based IWRP). In 2019, [House Bill 2084](#) extended the sunset date of place-based IWRP program from July 1, 2019 to July 1, 2023. In 2023, the Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 2010](#) which established the Place-Based Water Planning Fund.