

Submitter: Jane Huey

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Joint Committee On Ways and Means Subcommittee On
Natural Resources

Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB5543

Maintain OWRD's Current Service Levels — Maintaining current service levels is of paramount importance. With climate change and increasing competition for scarce water resources it is of the utmost importance that OWRD have adequate staff to manage our water. Please support full funding of current service levels.

Reject Package 090 Reductions Related to Data and Services — Water data is the cornerstone of responsible water management. Please reject proposed cuts to OWRD's water data toolkit.

Support Two Package 090 Additions — Please support the Governor's request for additional funds for (1) a one-time investment of \$100,000 for IT for a water use tracking and reporting system, and (2) a one-time investment of \$4.36 million to assist the Department with legal cost to work through important cases.

Please Support Funds to Modernize OWRD's IT — There is a real need for mundane but important information technology work. This work is critically important to the public and the agency alike. Funding IT work should be a priority for the state, including:

Package 107, Strategic Modernization of IT Systems and Tools: Updating IT will help agency staff, water right holders, and the public. It will also make the agency more efficient and data more accessible.

Package 111, Improving Accessibility of Agency Website: This package would ensure that the OWRD website is up to date with information desired by the public, and ensure transparency and accessibility.