



Date: March 18, 2025

TO: Senators Ken Helm and Mark Owens
Co-Chairs, House Committee on Agricultural, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

RE: Letter of Support Oregon Water Resources Department HB 3116

Dear Co-Chairs Ken Helm and Mark Owens, and Members of the House Committee on Agricultural, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water,

On behalf of the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership (MCWPP), we would like to express our sincere gratitude for your ongoing commitment to advancing Place-Based Planning in Oregon, particularly in the area of water resource management. We are writing to strongly support HB 3116, which will provide critical support for Place-Based Water Planning in Oregon's Central Coast and other communities throughout the state.

At this pivotal stage in our planning process, HB 3116 will provide much-needed certainty regarding the base level of resources available for the implementation and execution of projects identified in the MCWPP regional water plan. This plan has already engaged over 300 coastal residents and secured commitments from more than 75 signed partners, representing a wide range of stakeholder groups.

Comprehensive, publicly-vetted water planning is essential for addressing the challenges posed by climate change, infrastructure needs, conservation efforts, and development in the Central Oregon Coast region. The MCWPP is committed to understanding and balancing both instream and out-of-stream water needs for our communities, environments, and local economies. Rooted in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, the Place-Based Planning approach provides a unique opportunity for communities to collaborate with agency partners to identify their water resource challenges, needs, and potential solutions. This proactive approach helps prevent future conflicts and litigation, creating tangible value for Oregon's communities and water resources.

Over the past seven years, support from the Oregon Water Resources Department has allowed the MCWPP to build a diverse, community-based collaborative, establish effective governance structures, create a comprehensive communication and outreach plan, and develop critical water quantity and quality assessments for our planning area. Additionally, we have begun conducting water demand analyses to better understand current and future needs.

While significant progress has been made, additional resources and time are needed to begin the implementation of the prioritized projects outlined in the MCWPP Action Plan. The challenges of water resource planning are complex, and the consensus-based nature of this work requires thoughtful, sustained effort to ensure successful outcomes.

Our partners remain fully committed to this process and are eager to build on the trust and relationships we have cultivated over the years. Legislative support for HB 3116 would send a powerful message to our partners and potential funders that their contributions will be used effectively to create a resilient water future for all Oregonians.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Sincerely,

Tyler Clouse
Executive Director
Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District
Co-Convener, MCWPP

Adam Denlinger
General Manager
Seal Rock Water District
Co-Convener, MCWPP

The MCWPP is a gathering of regional partners who work collaboratively to understand and balance the water needs of Mid-Coast communities, environments and economies.

More information about our ongoing work is online at www.midcoastwaterpartners.com.