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From: sumgj@charter.net
Sent: Tuesday, May 21, 2024 3:09 PM
To: WRD_DL_rule-coordinator
Subject: Submittal for 2024 Groundwater Rulemaking

WRITTEN SUBMITTAL FOR THE 2024 GROUNDWATER RULEMAKING ADMINISTERED BY THE OWRD

Disclaimer: My written submittal here is strictly as a water user, and I profess not to imply I'm an expert on anything I'm about to say!

I recently attended the OWRD public hearing in Central Point, OR on 5-16-24. I was there primarily to learn more about the state's groundwater issues. I did not testify. I live in Jackson County and my statements are mainly about the Rogue Water Basin, but they are equally applicable to the state's other 18 water basins.

Back when I was in 8TH grade, I got the privilege for "Job Day" to attend and learn about the inner workings of the Los Angeles Metropolitan Department of Water and Power. My primary thought and concern then was – I wonder where we are going for lunch! I can now only blame the "Teenager Syndrome" for my indifference back then.

LA's main water sources then and now still come from ground water, California state's interconnected water projects, and primarily the Colorado River Aqueduct. Back then they were serving a population of 9 million, now, 60 years later – the serviced population is 19 million. Unfortunately, I'm sure a large portion of its citizenry takes it for granted.

Today, I now have started to suffer from "The Old Man Syndrome" with justifiable concerns of the wellbeing of one of our most important natural resources - the Rogue Water Basin. At some point, will our growing population's demand for water exceed the available natural water sources for the Rogue Basin? Thankfully, the recent awarding of \$97 million dollars to the Medford Water Commission's Water Supply Resiliency Program will help to potentially mitigate water issues for years to come.

However, in addition to all the great work of various Water Conservation groups in the Rogue Valley and those in the profession of water management to include the Medford Water Commission, in the Rogue Basin; we all - as individuals, also need to serve as gate keepers of this precious resource. This primarily means that all of those that serve on various county and city commissions/committees in the Rogue Basin have the shared responsibility to help protect and insure the future viability of our water sources.

We have been so fortunate to inherit an exceptional water system due mainly in part to the foresightedness of our forefathers. Please keep their earlier efforts in mind when evaluating any newly proposed developments; for our water sources have become more precious than ever lately because of the several years of the ongoing drought and hotter summers.

We all need to be shepherds of our available water sources and I only ask for everyone to be conscientious stewards and carry forward due diligence on this matter. It ultimately affects every one of

our lives and the variety of wildlife species and plant life around us. I only wish I could come back here in another 60 years to find out that all is well in the Rogue Water Basin.

I am in full support of OWRD's proposal to issue fewer water right applications when the available groundwater resources are in question.

Sincerely – Gary Sumrak, 2485 Pinebrook Circle, Medford, OR 97504, Home Ph: 541-772-7279