

## HARTT Laura A \* WRD

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**From:** Marc Liverman <marcpdx@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, June 14, 2024 8:00 AM  
**To:** WRD\_DL\_rule-coordinator; LANE Mindy J \* WRD  
**Subject:** Proposed Revisions to Groundwater Allocation Rules

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Dear Ms. Hartt, Chair Quaempts, and members of the Water Resources Commission:

I am writing today as a private citizen and long-term resident of Oregon to encourage your support for proposed revisions to the Water Resource Department's groundwater permit allocation process.

It is long past time for the Department to:

- Stop over-issuing groundwater pumping rights,
- better account for impacts on surface water, and
- stop defaulting in favor of issuing new groundwater rights when data are unavailable to determine whether the resource is already over-appropriated or if the proposed new use would be sustainable.

These changes are necessary to prevent further groundwater declines across the state that will harm rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands, and springs that are characterized by the addition of cold, clean groundwater. Declining groundwater levels have also harmed existing surface water rights, including instream water rights, irrigation, and municipal and private water supplies for more than 70 percent of Oregon residents. This will also ensure that available water supplies will be more resilient to the effects of climate change.

Please act now to adopt the proposed revisions to the groundwater permit allocation process, and thus reduce the adverse environmental, economic, and social effects of over-pumping hydraulically connected groundwater.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for your continued work on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Marc Liverman  
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