

ON THE QUESTION OF)
DETERMINATION OF)
CRITICAL GROUND WATER)
AREAS IN THE ORDNANCE)
AREA IN MORROW AND)
UMATILLA COUNTIES, OREGON)

N O T I C E
of
H E A R I N G

Notice is hereby given that a hearing will be held by the State Water Resources Department on Tuesday, June 28, 1977 in Thompson Hall at the County Fairgrounds in Hermiston, Oregon. (The scheduled hearing is to insure that all legal notices and procedures have been followed in the determination of critical ground water areas in the Ordnance area of Morrow and Umatilla Counties. A hearing was held and evidence received in the same matter on February 18, 1976 followed by an Order dated April 2, 1976. Subsequent appeal of a similar order resulted in the Court of Appeals remanding that Order because the Court was concerned that non-participants may not have been properly notified. This notice and opportunity to present evidence at the hearing may be duplication of the former proceedings, but is to insure the legality of the critical ground water determination. At the hearing the Director intends to receive in evidence the record of the hearing on February 18, 1976).

The Ordnance hearing will commence at 9:00 a.m. on the question of determination of critical ground water areas in the Ordnance area in Morrow and Umatilla Counties, Oregon. The two major aquifer systems are located near the Ordnance Depot and identified as the Ordnance gravel aquifer covering 82 square miles and the Ordnance basalt aquifers covering 175 square miles.

The Ordnance Gravel Aquifer is located within Sections 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of Township 3 North, Range 26 East, W. M.; Sections 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36 of Township 4 North, Range 26 East, W. M.; the north one-half of Township 3 North, Range 27 East, W. M.; Sections 7 through 36 of Township 4 North, Range 27 East, W. M.; Sections 6, 7, and 18 of Township 3 North, Range 28 East, W. M.; Sections 7, 18, 31, and those parts of Sections 8, 9, 16, 17, 19, 20, and 30 of Township 4 North, Range 28 East, W. M., lying west of the Umatilla River.

The deep basalt aquifers are located in Township 3 North, Range 26 East; all of Township 3 North, Range 27 East, W. M., except that part draining to Butter Creek; Townships 4 North, Ranges 26 and 27 East, W. M.; and that part of Townships 5 North, Range 26 and 27 East, W. M., lying south of the Columbia River.

Ground Water Report No. 23 entitled "Ground-Water Conditions and Declining Water Levels in the Ordnance Area, Morrow and Umatilla Counties, Oregon" was prepared in October 1975. The report contains conclusions and recommendations for corrective controls. Reduction of ground water withdrawals from the critical area will be proposed and the length of the allowable irrigation season will be considered.

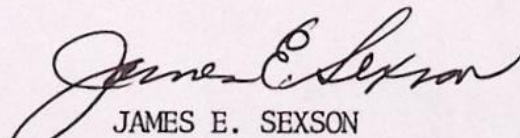
All interested persons are invited to be present at the hearing to present oral or documentary evidence pertaining to the following subjects:

- (a) Whether ground water levels in the areas in question are declining or have declined excessively;
- (b) Whether the wells of two or more ground water claimants or appropriators within the areas in question interfere substantially with one another;
- (c) Whether the available ground water supply in the areas in question is being or is about to be overdrawn;
- (d) Whether the purity of the ground water supply in the areas in question has been or reasonably may be expected to become polluted to an extent contrary to the public welfare, health and safety.

The Director of the Water Resources Department will receive any pertinent evidence in favor of or opposed to the determination of a critical ground water area as provided in ORS 537.730, 537.735, and 537.740.

Following the hearing, the Director will issue his Order of determination on the proposed critical ground water areas.

Dated at Salem, Oregon this 9th day of May, 1977.


JAMES E. SEXSON
Director