

MEMORANDUM

TO: Water Resources Commission

FROM: Phil Ward, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item III, November 21, 2003
Water Resources Commission Work Session

Water Resources Department Sustainability Plan

I. Issue Statement

Sustainability is an integral part of Governor Kulongoski's efforts to revitalize Oregon's economy and improve state government efficiency and effectiveness. To achieve a sustainable Oregon for the 21st century, the Governor issued Executive Order 03-03, instructing the Water Resources Department and 19 other agencies to undertake sustainability programs. This report describes the draft sustainability plan developed by the Department. *This is an informational report; no Commission action is required.*

II. Background

Sustainability is doing business with an eye to the triple bottom line – economy, community and environment. It balances resources used and regenerated, and promotes and preserves resources for use by future generations.

The Governor has charged state government with identifying goals and strategies to move us closer to being a “sustainable” state. Executive Order 03-03 lays out the Governor's strategy for achieving a sustainable Oregon and is provided as Attachment 1.

In response to the Governor's directive, the Department has developed a draft Sustainability Plan that focuses on four broad categories: facilities and operations; resource management; education and outreach; and customer service. The draft Sustainability Plan is provided in Attachment 2. The final plan must be submitted to the Oregon Sustainability Board (OSB) in January 2004 for approval. Over the next few months, the Department will be refining its plan for submission to the OSB and developing implementation timelines, targets for measuring progress on its sustainability actions, and long-term objectives.

In conjunction with the development of a Sustainability Plan, the Department has initiated a series of events to raise awareness internally about sustainability goals and practices. Events have included guest speakers at All-Staff Meetings such as the Secretary of State and the architect of our “sustainable” headquarters building. Our management team has also received training from the Oregon Natural Step Network, an organization founded on the principle that organizations can reduce their impact on the environment while enhancing their overall efficiency and effectiveness. These and other educational events will help establish a culture of sustainability that will be key to achieving the goals of the Department’s Sustainability Plan.

III. Recommendation

No action is required; this is an informational report only. However, the Department welcomes the Commission’s comments on the draft *Sustainability Plan*.

Attachments:

1. Executive Order 03-03
2. Water Resources Department Draft Sustainability Plan

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