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Legislature Passes Landmark Water Package

Oregon will invest over \$530 million in water infrastructure, planning, community support, and more

SALEM, Ore. – Today, the Oregon Legislature approved a massive water and sewer package to improve access to clean water in cities and counties across Oregon.

The package makes \$538.1 million in investments at the state, regional, and local levels. The funding includes a massive investment in drinking water, wastewater, and groundwater infrastructure projects across the state. The package also provides one-time funding to greatly increase access to water data, provide additional water planning support for communities, and expand a system to identify and address local and regional water use needs.

“It is incredibly important that we provide adequate funding to support Oregon’s water resources. This water package makes many key investments that will help to ensure Oregonians have access to clean and reliable water and will set us on a path to better support our water systems into the future,” said Senator Kathleen Taylor (D-Milwaukie), who worked to develop this package as Co-Chair of the Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee.

“This historic, bipartisan water package comes at a critical time,” said Representative Ken Helm (D-Beaverton), Chair of the House Water Committee. “In the face of severe drought and wildfire crises, these investments in infrastructure, planning tools and assistance for local communities will help protect a sustainable water future for all Oregonians.”

The package includes the following investments:

- \$275.7 million in improvements to drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure around Oregon.
- \$135.7 million towards public works funds and financial assistance programs to repair and replace water infrastructure.
- \$46.5 million for regional and basin-specific projects.
- \$39.9 million to increase Oregon's water supply.
- \$11.2 million to modernize the data collection and technology used to monitor Oregon's water supply.
- \$17.7 million for water quality improvements.
- \$6.5 million to make Oregon's water infrastructure safer and more resilient.
- \$5 million to support Oregon's 100-Year Water Vision, equitable water access, and state, local, and regional water planning.

“We have to have clean water,” said Senate President Peter Courtney (D-Salem). “It is the lifeblood of our communities. It is critical for our health, our farms, our manufacturing. Parts of the state are already facing drought. The Legislature is funding water projects across the state. This is a real win for all of Oregon.”

“These landmark investments signal the legislature's commitment to addressing Oregon's long-term need for ample, high-quality water statewide,” said Representative Jeff Reardon (D-Happy Valley), Co-Chair of the Joint Ways & Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources. “The most tangible investments will help several communities expand or replace aging infrastructure. More importantly, I believe, this funding allows for robust community and statewide conversations about how we strategically invest in Oregon's water future in a time of changing climate and increasing demands.”

The package now moves to the Governor's desk for her signature. Additional details on the package can be found [here](#).

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