



March 18, 2022

Dear Adam Denlinger and the Mid-Coast Water Planning Partnership,

First, we want to congratulate you on the completion of a draft Place-Based Integrated Water Resources Plan. It is a big accomplishment that required a significant level of effort during five years of planning. We commend the group's willingness to initiate and lead a planning effort in partnership with the state during the pilot phase of place-based water planning. We share in a commitment to understanding the Mid-Coast's water resources and managing those resources in a balanced and integrated way that addresses instream and out-of-stream water needs for a more secure and sustainable water future.

The Plan Review Team identified many strengths of the Draft Plan and some required improvements to receive a recommendation for state recognition. The review team does not take requiring revisions lightly. We understand the group wants to move from the plan development stage to plan implementation after a long planning process. The required changes identified in this letter and attachments are necessary to demonstrate that the plan and planning process followed the 2015 Draft Planning Guidelines and principles of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS), the minimum standard for state recognition. These changes will also greatly improve the plan, making it more accessible and favorable to funders, and to help facilitate implementation of the plan.

The Plan Review Team consists of staff from five state agencies: the Water Resources Department, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Agriculture, and Watershed Enhancement Board. Since your submittal of an adopted Draft Plan for formal agency review on December 15, 2021, the Plan Review Team worked with local field and technical staff to determine if the Draft Plan demonstrates that the planning and the plan followed the 2015 Draft Planning Guidelines and principles of Oregon's IWRS. The *Draft Step 5 Guidance* published in 2019 includes a description of required plan contents and associated criteria, which the Plan Review Team used as a review tool.

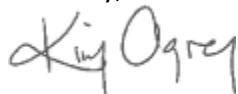
The review team considered the Draft Plan with three categories of comments in mind: strengths, required improvements, and considerations for implementation. Based on its review of the Draft Plan, the review team identified a number of strengths as well as parts of the Draft Plan that require attention and/or revision for the review team to recommend that the Final Plan receive state recognition. Attachment 1 lists some of the strengths of the plan. Attachment 2 describes the required items that must be addressed to receive a recommendation from the review team for state recognition. To collaborate with the planning group in making those changes, the review team has provided proposed solutions to the issues identified in the plan review. These proposed solutions represent one way to address the required improvement and the review team is willing to work with the partnership to identify an approach mutually acceptable to the partnership and the state. Attachment 3 describes some considerations for implementation.

The Plan Review Team is willing to discuss its review, the required changes and/or considerations for implementation, in the spirit of looking to the future for the state and planning group to continue to build a partnership as the plan is implemented. Please let me know if this is of interest to you.

Once again, congratulations on reaching this significant milestone. With some attention to the issues identified by the review team and revisions to the plan to remedy those issues, the state agency plan review team will recommend the Final Plan for state recognition by the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at Kim.L.Ogren@water.oregon.gov or 503-509-7980 or Steve Parrett at Steve.W.Parrett@water.oregon.gov or 503-586-6287.

Sincerely,



Kim Fritz-Ogren
Planning, Collaboration, and Investments Section Manager
on behalf of the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Plan Review Team

Attachments:

1. Strengths of plan
2. Required changes to receive recommendation for state recognition
3. Considerations for implementation