

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 30, 2026
TO: Mayor/City Council
FROM: Tim Johnson, Interim City Council
SUBJECT: City Manager's Report, April 16 – 30, 2026

Meetings with Council

The following identifies meeting and actions that took place April 16-30

Meeting with Council member John Lyon, April 16, 2026

Meeting with Council President Irving, April 30, 2026

Questions on budget with Councilmembers Koklich and Holden on April 27

Meeting with Mayor, April 22

Meeting with Mayor, April 29 (Tim out)

External Meetings

- Annual Budget Presentations before Budget Committee, April 27 and 28
- Attendance of Parks and Recreation Committee w Mayor on discussion of trails planning
- Meeting on timeline for Scoreboard with consultant structural engineer, Spenser Stuart.

Other Meetings

League of Oregon Cities Conference (Pendleton)

Mayor Odman, Council President Irving, Councilmembers Jensen and Koklich attended.

Other

- The city has released its required Annual Drinking Water Report on the quality of drinking water. The water system did not have any violations this past year and water quality meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements. The report has gone out in the monthly utility bills. It has a digital link to the full report. Also, a copy will be provided at the public counter at City Hall. See attachment.
- Also see attachments on water conservation that the city is providing the software application- "Eye on Water," for users to track their usage.
- Also following up to a Council question on the state's "Declaration of a Drought," attached find further information on the tools for water right holders and what state assistance comes with a declaration.

- Preliminary approval of \$2.5 million grant for electric and power in pursuit of a new transformer.
- Preparation for opening swimming pool. Work will be going on during the first week in May. This work includes emptying, cleaning and filling the pool. Additionally, preparation for replacing valves, gauges and heater operations.
- The city has been hit with a variety of graffiti. Staff is working with property owners to resolve.





Annual Drinking Water Report Calendar Year 2025

City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon
Public Works Department
501 Lamb Street - PO Box 6 - Milton-Freewater, OR 97862

We are pleased to provide you with our Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. It is important to us that we keep you informed about the excellent water quality and services we have provided to you over the past year. Our goal is and has always been to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. Our water source comes from a total of three (3) well fields, which consist of six (6) deep basalt wells.

OUR CITY DRINKING WATER IS SAFE & MEETS FEDERAL AND STATE REQUIREMENTS.

As water travels over the land or underground, it can acquire substances or contaminants such as microbes, inorganic and organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some constituents. It is important to remember that the presence of these constituents does not necessarily pose a health risk.

What We Do:

The City collects at least eight (8) drinking water samples per month from various pre-determined locations throughout town, as well as source water coliform/E.coli and nitrate samples from each well, and additional sampling that is required by our drinking water permit. There were no positive tests for coliform or E.coli.

This past year, we have invested in several capital projects. The largest investments in our infrastructure are listed as follows:

- Completed water meter upgrades, installing new cellular transmitter devices to all water meters. The total cost for this required upgrade was \$496,321, which was done over four years. There are 2,557 cellular endpoints in service currently transmitting usage information. The new cellular transmitters allow you to track your water usage from your cell phone or home through the EyeOnWater® application.
- *Continuation of Engineering for the middle reservoir replacement and new well #10, and acquisition of additional property to allow for the new, larger tank.*
- Implemented Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system upgrades, Phase C for our water and wastewater systems.

Continued on Page 2

Your Health Matters!

Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's) are set at very stringent levels. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink two liters of water every day at the MCL for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are also available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Milton-Freewater is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to two minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available on the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline or website (www.epa.gov/safewater).

What We Do – continued

- Initiated the process of updating our Water System Master Plan document which will include system hydraulic modeling to identify areas of needed improvement for future flow.

These are only a few examples of what your infrastructure fees and water rates fund. Moving forward we strive to continue our focus on water conservation and leak detection in accordance to our Water Conservation and Management Plan. This plan focuses on how to reduce system loss, locating and replacing/repairing leaks, upgrading and testing meters for accuracy and installing flow meters at our wells to accurately measure the amount pumped and sold to customers. We also know that water levels are dropping in our aquifers. Conservation measures help protect those levels. The new cellular water meter transmitter devices also allow you, as the consumer, to monitor your water usage from your cellphone or computer. You can download the EyeOnWater® application on your phone or computer and set alerts for leak detection and high usage. These new transmitters allow for you to have full control over how much water your household uses each month. We have provided conservation tips and the EyeOnWater® application information on the last page of this report.

The City of Milton-Freewater routinely monitors your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The table below shows the results of our monitoring samples for the period of January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

What's in YOUR City water?

JANUARY 1, 2025 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2025
TEST RESULTS

Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Measurement Unit	MCLG	MCL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Inorganic Contaminants						
Fluoride	N	0.240	ppm	4.0	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive, which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	0.000 ND	ppm	10.0	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Barium	N	0.023	ppb	2.0	2.0	Erosion of natural deposits and mining.

Test Result Summary

As you can see by the table above, our water system did not have any violations this past year. We are proud to provide drinking water that meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements. We have learned through our monitoring and sampling that some constituents have been detected. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has determined that OUR CITY WATER IS SAFE at these levels.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or manmade. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals, and radioactive substances. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or you can visit their website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/>.

Abbreviations, Definitions and Notes:

ppb – Parts Per Billion or Micrograms Per Liter – One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TT – Treatment Technique – A treatment technique is a required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The “Goal” (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL) – The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

MCL-Maximum Contaminant Level – The “Maximum Allowed” is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL’s are set as close to the MCLG’s as feasible using the best available treatment technology.



City of Milton-Freewater
Public Works
Department

501 Lamb St / PO Box 6
Milton-Freewater, OR
97862

PH: 541-938-8270,
8274, 8276

F: 541-938-8289
www.mfcity.com

2024 Lead and Copper –Requirement Completed

Inorganic Contaminant Subject to AL	Action Level	MCLG	Your Water ¹	Range of Results	Number of Samples Above AL	Typical Source of Contaminant
Lead						Lead service lines, corrosion of household plumbing including fittings and fixtures; erosion of natural deposits.
Year Sampled: 2022	15	0	0	0-2.0	0	
Copper						Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
Year Sampled: 2022	1.3	1.3	.066	0-0.088	0	

Abbreviations, Definitions and Notes:

Action Level (AL)– The concentration of a contaminant, which if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements, which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The “Goal” (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLG’s allow for a margin of safety.

¹ Ninety (90) percent of the samples collected were at or below the level reported for our water.

The City of Milton-Freewater completed its lead service line inventory in 2024.

This fulfilled the requirements of the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) and

the Oregon Health Authority (OHA). This inventory was conducted using the statistical method outlined by

OHA, and no lead service lines (LSLs), galvanized requiring replacement (GRRs), or lead status unknown

services were found. We remain committed to safeguarding public health and maintaining safe drinking water

for all residents. For more information on the Lead and Copper Rules, including the statistical methods used

by the City, please visit the OHA’s LCRR

website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/DRINKINGWATER/RULES/Pages/LCRR.aspx>

A summary of service line inventories can be found on OHA’s website at:

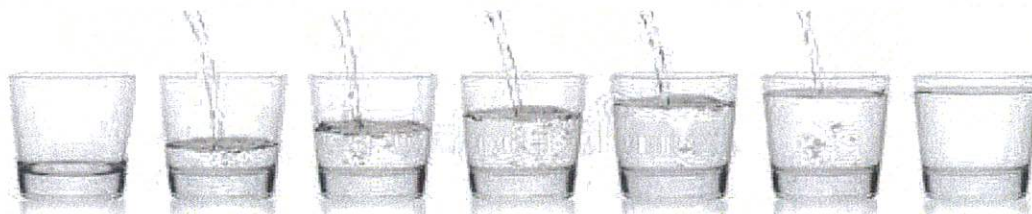
<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/servicelines.php>

Information about lead: Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The City of Milton-Freewater is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family’s risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water, contact the City of Milton-Freewater Public Works Department by phone at 541-938-8270 or 8274. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>

The City of Milton-Freewater works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children’s future.

Este informe está disponible en español en el sitio web de la ciudad en www.mfcity.com en departamentos, agua.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact us. We want you, our valued customer, to be informed about the quality of your water utility.



2024 LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY

Number of Lead Service Lines

0

Number of Service Lines of Unknown Material

0

Total Number of Service Lines

2,443



EyeOnWater®

**SCAN & DOWNLOAD THE
EyeOnWater APP TO
VIEW YOUR LATEST WATER
USAGE.**

UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH WATER YOU USE,
DETECT LEAKS AND DISCOVER TRENDS FOR
WHEN YOU USE THE MOST WATER



Google Play



App Store

DON'T FORGET

IRRIGATION SYSTEM BACKFLOW DEVICES ARE **REQUIRED** TO BE TESTED EVERY 12 MONTHS BY AN OREGON STATE CERTIFIED BACKFLOW ASSEMBLY TESTER.

Reports are required to be submitted every 12 months to the City of Milton-Freewater.

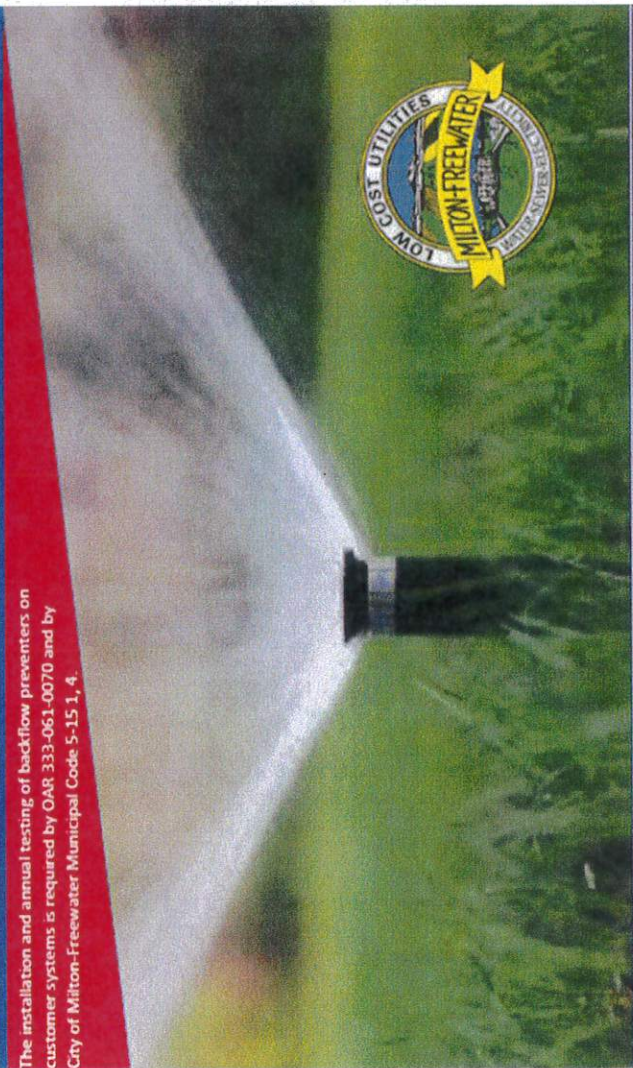
For a current list of certified Backflow Assembly Testers visit:

<https://yourwater.oregon.gov/backflow.php>

More information is available on our website at <https://www.mfcity.com/publicworks/page/cross-connection-backflow-info>

Contact City of Milton-Freewater Public Works at 541-938-8270, 8274 or 8276 for more information.

The installation and annual testing of backflow preventers on customer systems is required by OAR 333-061-0070 and by City of Milton-Freewater Municipal Code 5-15 1, 4.



Lawn Irrigation Systems

Swimming Pools

Fire Sprinkler Systems

Industrial/Commercial Systems

Medical Systems

Heating/Cooling Systems

SAVE WATER, SECURE OUR FUTURE



WATER CONSERVATION TIPS FOR HOMES & BUSINESSES

WHY CONSERVE WATER?

Conserving water helps ensure a reliable water supply; protects the environment, and reduces your monthly utility bills. Every drop counts - join us in making water-wise choices!



FOR HOMES



Shorten Showers

Aim for 5 minutes or less, saving up to 10 gallons per shower.



Upgrade Toilets

Replace older toilets with WaterSense labeled models to save up to 13,000 gallons/year per household.



Fix Leaks

A dripping faucet can waste 3,000+ gallons annually. Download the "Eye on Water" app on your phone to monitor your water use and to be notified of water leaks.



Full Loads Only

Run dishwashers and laundry machines only when full.



Outdoor Tips:

Water lawns early in the morning, late at evening, or at night to reduce evaporation. You can also install a smart, weather-based irrigation controller or use drip irrigation



Choose Native Plants

They require less water and maintenance and still provide color and beauty.



FOR BUSINESSES



Install Low Flow Fixtures

Retrofit restrooms with low-flow faucets, toilets and urinals.



Use Water-Efficient Equipment

Opt for ENERGY STAR appliances in kitchens and laundries.



Monitor Water use

Conduct regular water audits to identify leaks and inefficiencies. Download the "Eye on Water" app on your phone to monitor your water use and to be notified of water leaks.



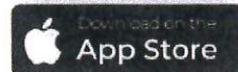
Employee Awareness

Educate staff on daily conservation practices and to report water leaks

DOWNLOAD THE "EYE ON WATER" APP



SCAN ME



SCAN ME



Annual Drinking Water Report Calendar Year 2025

City of Milton-Freewater, Oregon
Public Works Department

NOW AVAILABLE!

¡YA DISPONIBLE!

The 2025 Drinking Water Quality Report is available online in both English and Spanish!
¡El Informe de Calidad del Agua Potable 2025 está disponible en línea tanto en Inglés como en español!

The City of Milton-Freewater is dedicated to providing safe, reliable, high-quality drinking water to our customers. We are proud to report that our water meets all state and federal regulations. Paper copies of this report are available during business hours at City Hall, Public Library, and the Public Works Department, or you can give us a call, and we will gladly mail you a copy.

La ciudad de Milton-Freewater está dedicada a proporcionar agua potable segura, confiable y de alta calidad a nuestros clientes. Estamos orgullosos de informar que nuestra agua cumple con todas las regulaciones estatales y federales. Para recibir una copia impresa de este Informe, están disponibles durante el horario comercial en el Ayuntamiento, laboral en el Ayuntamiento, la Biblioteca Pública y el Departamento de Obras Públicas. O pueden llamarnos y con gusto le enviaremos una copia



https://www.mfcity.com/sites/default/files/fileattachments/public_works/page/1901/2025_annualdrinkingwaterqualityreport.pdf

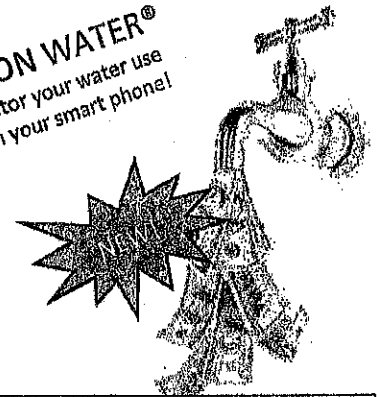
Monitor your water usage and set alerts for possible leaks Download the "Eye on Water®" app

This new real time usage access app is FREE and allows you to review and analyze your water use.

- View hourly, daily, weekly, monthly or annual water usage with easy-to-read graphs.
- Set alerts – including the identification of potential water leaks.

Go to <https://eyeonwater.com> or scan the QR code and it will guide you through the set up. All you will need is your account number (without decimals – located at the very top right of your utility bill as well as just below the remittance stub. (Accounts start with a 1, 2, 3 or 4 and are formatted as 111.2222.33. You will need to enter it as 111222233 when prompted), zip code and a valid E-mail address.

EYE ON WATER®
Monitor your water use
from your smart phone!



REMINDER: Backflow/Cross Connection test reports are required every 12 months from the date of your last test. For a list of Oregon State Certified testers and more information visit us online at <https://www.mfcity.com/publicworks/page/cross-connection-backflow-info> or call us at 541-938-8276. New irrigation system? Check out our web page as well for information. <https://www.mfcity.com/publicworks/page/water-department>



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-05

**DETERMINATION OF A STATE OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY IN BAKER,
DESCHUTES AND UMATILLA COUNTIES.**

At the request of Baker County (by Baker County Board of Commissioners Declaration, dated February 18th, 2026), Deschutes County (by Deschutes Board of County Commissioners Resolution No. 2026-007, dated February 18th, 2026) and Umatilla County (by Board of Commissioners of Umatilla County Order No. BCC2026-011, dated March 4, 2026) and based on the recommendations of the Drought Readiness Council and input from the Water Supply Availability Committee dated March 13, 2026 and pursuant to ORS 536.740, I find that persistent moderate drought conditions in Baker County, persistent abnormally dry and moderate drought conditions in Deschutes County, and persistent moderate and severe drought conditions in Umatilla County, as well as below normal precipitation, above normal temperature, well below normal snowpack, below normal streamflow forecasts and generally drier-than-normal soil moisture conditions in all Counties have caused or will cause natural and economic disaster conditions in Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla Counties.

Forecasts suggest that below normal precipitation and streamflow conditions are likely to continue through summer in all Counties following an extended period with precipitation and temperature conditions that contributed to well below normal snowpack. Therefore, drought conditions are likely to persist or intensify in the Counties. Drought is likely to have a significant economic impact on the agricultural, livestock, natural resource and recreational tourism sectors and increase the risk of wildfire in the Counties.

Conditions continue to be monitored by the State's natural resource and public safety agencies, including the Oregon Water Resources Department, the Oregon Department of Emergency Management, the Oregon Office of the State Fire Marshal, and the Oregon Department of Forestry's Fire Protection Division.

Preparation and resiliency to drought are vital to the health and safety of persons, property, and the economic security of the citizens and businesses of these counties. I, therefore, declare that a severe, continuing drought emergency exists and is likely to continue to exist in the Counties.



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 26-05
PAGE TWO

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

- I. The Oregon Department of Agriculture is directed to coordinate and provide assistance in seeking federal resources to mitigate drought conditions and assist in agricultural recovery in Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla Counties.
- II. The Oregon Water Resources Department and the Water Resources Commission are directed to coordinate and provide assistance to water users in Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla Counties as the Department and Commission determine necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.
- III. The Oregon Water Resources Department is directed to seek information from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to help understand the impacts of water availability on Oregon's fish and wildlife, as necessary and appropriate in accordance with ORS 536.700 to 536.780.
- IV. The Oregon Department of Emergency Management is directed to coordinate and assist as needed with assessment and mitigation activities to address current and projected conditions in Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla Counties.
- V. All other state agencies are directed to coordinate with the above agencies and provide appropriate state resources as needed to assist affected political subdivisions and water users in Baker, Deschutes and Umatilla Counties.
- VI. This Executive Order expires on December 31, 2026.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 26th day of March, 2026.

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE



State Drought Declaration Process and Emergency Tools

State Drought Declaration Process

Drought declarations for an area typically go through a three-part process before securing a state drought declaration from the Governor. First, a county commission submits a request for a state drought declaration to the Office of Emergency Management. Second, the Water Availability Committee, chaired by the Water Resources Department, meets to evaluate information on weather and water supply conditions and subsequently make recommendations to Oregon's Drought Council. Co-chaired by the Water Resources Department and the Office of Emergency Management, the Drought Council assesses the impact of drought conditions and makes recommendations to the Governor's Office on whether to declare drought in an area.

The Governor may then choose to issue an Executive Order declaring a drought emergency. State drought declarations are typically issued at a county scale. The primary benefits of a state drought declaration from the Governor are that it creates greater awareness of drought conditions, facilitates coordination between state agencies, and allows the Water Resources Department to provide existing water right holders with access to emergency water management tools. These tools are outlined below.

The Governor or the Oregon Water Resources Commission can also direct state agencies and political subdivisions to implement a water conservation plan or water curtailment plan.

Oregon Water Resources Department Emergency Drought Tools for Water Right Holders

A state drought declaration allows the Water Resources Department to offer certain tools to water right holders in a drought-declared county. These tools have an expedited review process, reduced fee schedule, and are intended to be short-term emergency authorizations, not permanent solutions to deal with water supply challenges. Water right holders seeking long-term solutions should first contact their watermaster to help identify what options may exist.

Temporary Emergency Water Use Permit

An approved emergency water use drought permit allows a water user to temporarily replace water not available under an existing water right. The most common drought permit allows the use of groundwater as an alternative to an existing surface water right. A well-prepared application generally takes approximately ten business days to process. Emergency water use permits are issued through an expedited process and are valid for one year or the term of the drought declaration, whichever is shorter.

Temporary Transfer

A water user can apply to change the type of use, place of use, or the location of the diversion under an existing water right. A temporary drought transfer takes place under an expedited process and is in effect for the duration of the drought declaration or up to one year, whichever is shorter.

Temporary Instream Lease

Once approved, a water user can convert all or a portion of a water right to an instream use for a period of one year or the term of the drought declaration, whichever is shorter.

Temporary Substitution

Any person holding both a primary right originating from a surface water source and a supplemental right from a groundwater source may apply to temporarily use the supplemental right instead.

Special Option Agreements

A water-right holder can enter into an agreement that authorizes the use of water at locations, from points of diversion, and for uses other than those described in the water right. Typically, the agreement remains in place until terminated by the parties and provides additional water-supply options in times of drought.

Temporary Exchange of Water

The Water Resources Commission can approve a temporary exchange of existing rights, such as using stored-water instead of a direct-flow surface-water right.

Human Consumption or Stock Water Use Preference

The Water Resources Commission has authority to grant a temporary preference to water rights for human consumption and/or stock watering uses. The preference is given over other uses regardless of the priority date (seniority) of water rights associated with the other uses. In order for the preference to go into effect, the Water Resources Commission must approve temporary rules instituting the preference.

For More Information

The Water Resources Department maintains a drought website that provides the status of current water conditions and state drought declarations, as well as information on what you can do to use water wisely. Visit our drought website at: www.oregon.gov/OWRD/programs/climate/droughtwatch

Water Resources Department staff are available to answer questions about emergency applications, the state declaration process, and general water supply conditions.

Emergency Water Use Permits	Corie Lovrien, Sarah Benham	wrd_dl_customerservice@water.oregon.gov , 503-986-0900
Instream Leases	Sarah Henderson	wrd_dl_instreamlease@water.oregon.gov
Transfers, Substitutions & Exchanges	Arla Davis, Scott Grew, Elyse Hennen, Joan Smith	wrd_dl_transfer@water.oregon.gov
Special Options & Preferences	Kim Fritz-Ogren	kim.l.fritz-ogren@water.oregon.gov
Water Availability Committee & Drought Readiness Council	Cameron Greenwood	cameron.a.greenwood@water.oregon.gov
Media Inquiries	Jason Cox	wrd_dl_mediainquires@water.oregon.gov