

Agenda Item Summary

BACKGROUND

Since 2009, the Department has been involved in a proposed water exchange with the City of Cascade Locks and Nestle Waters North America. The Department holds water rights totaling 10 cubic feet per second (CFS) at Oxbow Springs which is the water source for Oxbow Hatchery. The proposed water exchange is for 0.5 CFS from the Department's spring water for 0.5 CFS from the city's groundwater well. This exchange will provide several benefits to the Department's hatchery operation and will not have any negative ecological effects on the watershed. Benefits to the hatchery operation include; delivery of the full annual allocation of ground water during the low flow months of July-December when the hatchery production is limited by low flows; and redundancy in our water delivery system through the infrastructure to provide ground water to the hatchery. A full description of the project to date is included in Attachment 2.

At the request of the Commission, this informational item was developed to provide the Commission a full understanding of the project to date. Testimony at the Commission meeting on September 6 will be by invitation only and will include project opponents, proponents, local government, and Water Resources Department staff.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Department staff has participated in public meetings in Cascade Locks regarding the proposal and had numerous discussions with fish related constituent groups and legislators. Public involvement regarding the proposed exchange is occurring through the Oregon Water Resources Commission process.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Informational

DRAFT MOTION Not Applicable

EFFECTIVE DATE