

Water regulators propose third transaction fee hike

Bill would increase fee rates by 15.88 percent over four years

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Bureau

Oregon water regulators want to raise fees for water rights transactions by nearly 16 percent over four years to avoid processing slowdowns for irrigators.

The Oregon Water Resource Department's request to state lawmakers, House Bill 2295, would mark the third such increase since 2009.

Some groups representing irrigators are uneasy about the proposal, particularly in light of another bill that would impose a new \$100 management fee on every water right in Oregon.

Under H.B. 2295, a transaction fee increase of 15.88 percent would be phased in over four years and a sunset on previous hikes — set to expire this year — would be eliminated.

If the fee schedule reverted back to 2009 levels, OWRD would have to cut 5.5 full-time positions, effectively extending the time that irrigators must wait to develop or transfer water rights, said Tom Byler, the agency's director.

The increase is also necessary to maintain OWRD's dam inspection program, which oversees roughly 900 large structures, he said. "These are all very important functions for the agency."

Fees must be raised just to

keep these services at current levels due to climbing expenses for salaries, benefits and retirement plans for state employees, Byler said at a Feb. 13 hearing of the House Committee on Energy and the Environment.

The Oregon Water Resources Congress, an irrigator group, wishes that fee increases wouldn't occur so frequently but nonetheless supports HB 2295, said April Snell, its executive director.

The Oregon Association of Nurseries also testified in favor of the bill.

"Water transfers are a big part of how we do business," said Jeff Stone, executive director of OAN. Nurseries typically rely on water rights transfers when they expand production onto newly bought or leased property.

Water for Life, an irrigator group, is concerned about the rate at which costs are growing, said Richard Kosesan, its lobbyist. "Water for Life is not enamored with the fee increases."

The Oregon Farm Bureau is neutral regarding HB 2295 and won't oppose the hike as long as another piece of legislation — House Bill 2706, which imposes the \$100 management fee on water rights — isn't passed, said Mary Anne Nash, public policy counsel for the group.

The cost of processing water rights transactions is currently split evenly between water users and OWRD. The Farm Bureau wants the agency to continue shouldering half the expense instead of shifting more of the burden on irrigators, Nash said.

BRIEFLY

2.9 magnitude earthquake recorded near Adams

ADAMS — An earthquake has been recorded in Umatilla County. The U.S. Geological Survey says the 2.9 magnitude earthquake hit Wednesday at 1:55 p.m. It struck about 14 miles northeast of Pendleton, between Adams and Athena. There were no reports of damage, and several people who noticed the rumble compared it to a passing truck.

The USGS says the quake occurred at a depth of just under three miles. A 2.9 earthquake is described as minor. Generally, it is felt by people near the epicenter but rarely causes damage. Shaking of indoor objects can be noticeable. About 100,000 such quakes occur worldwide each year.

Woman killed on Valentine's Day; husband arrested

LEBANON (AP) — An Oregon man has been arrested in the shooting death of his wife.

The Lebanon Police Department says 33-year-old Jason Garlinghouse called 911 to report the shooting on Valentine's Day, telling a dispatcher his wife had attacked him.

Police found the body of Sparki Sue Garlinghouse and obtained a warrant to search the home. The agency says it recovered the firearm allegedly used in the shooting and charged the husband with murder at one minute before midnight.

The Albany Democrat-Herald reports two children lived at the house, but were not home when the shooting occurred. They have been placed with relatives.

Garlinghouse was booked into the Linn County Jail.

Bend seeks more funds to clear snow roads

BEND (AP) — The central Oregon city of Bend may have to dip into a reserve fund to get its roads cleared in the event of another snowstorm this winter.

The Bend Bulletin reported the head of the city's streets department, David Abbas, plans to ask the City Council on Wednesday for \$120,000 to pay private companies to plow snow from Bend's roads. He's also seeking \$185,000 for plowing at the Bend Municipal Airport and in city parking lots if needed.

The city has already paid private companies \$672,000 to plow roads for December and January. That's about a half million dollars more than initially budgeted for the winter.

Last winter, the city paid only \$130,000 for the work.

Republican spearheaded naturalization ceremony on House floor

By **PARIS ACHEN**
Capital Bureau

SALEM — While many Oregon politicians hail former Republican Gov. Tom McCall as their role model, Republican Rep. Julie Parrish idolizes former Gov. Victor Atiyeh, the nation's first Arab-American governor.

"Oregon had rich history ... of welcoming immigrants," Parrish said.

The off-rogue Republican from West Linn wanted to remind legislators and Oregonians of that important history when she suggested hosting a naturalization ceremony on the floor of the House of Representatives.

The ceremony was held in conjunction with Oregon's birthday and Valentine's Day Tuesday on the House floor.

Parrish was an infant when her Lebanese father was naturalized as a U.S. citizen. In 2011, she became the first known Arab-American woman to be elected to the state Legislature.

"I had never been to a naturalization ceremony before," she said. (Parrish was three months old when her father took the oath of allegiance to the United States.)

In January, she attended a naturalization ceremony at a U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services office in Portland, where Republican Dennis Richardson spoke as part of his first official event as newly elected secretary of state. Parrish ran



Courtesy Speaker Tina Kotek

Michael Hickman, Portland field office director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, conducts the oath of allegiance during a naturalization ceremony Tuesday in the Oregon House of Representatives.

Richardson's campaign against Democrat Brad Avakian, who was seen as the likely victor.

"It's pretty impressive, pretty powerful," Parrish said of the naturalization ceremony. "At a time when the conversation around immigration is not very positive, this was an important opportunity to remind folks that we are a nation of immigrants."

"I thought legislators should see that and experience that."

Naturalization ceremonies had been hosted at the state

Capitol in the past but were booked in the basement, far from the public eye. Parrish and one of Richardson's staff members approached House Speaker Tina Kotek to get permission to hold the ceremony on the House floor. Kotek, D-Portland, agreed to host the ceremony to mark Oregon's 158th birthday, which coincides with Valentine's Day.

"That's the first time we have done one on the House floor," Kotek said. "We think it's a really important symbolic

way of saying that everyone is welcome here in the state of Oregon."

Fifteen people were naturalized as U.S. citizens during the ceremony. They come from four countries: Mexico, China, the Philippines and Denmark, said Lindsey O'Brien, Kotek's spokeswoman.

Michael Hickman, Portland field office director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service, conducted the oath of allegiance during the ceremony.

Corrections

The *East Oregonian* works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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541-966-0827 • cmcclellan@eastoregonian.com

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COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Production Manager: Mike Jensen
541-215-0824 • mjensen@eastoregonian.com

AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Cloudy with a couple of showers	Chilly with clouds and sun	Cloudy, a bit of snow and rain	Mostly cloudy with a little rain	An afternoon shower

PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

50°	34°	44°	30°	37°	31°	46°	33°	47°	34°
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HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST

43°	32°	44°	34°	39°	31°	47°	32°	48°	32°
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ALMANAC

PENDLETON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	33°	25°
Normals	47°	29°
Records	66° (1982)	-5° (1923)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.16"
Month to date 0.50"
Normal month to date 0.62"
Year to date 2.15"
Last year to date 2.17"
Normal year to date 2.00"

HERMISTON
through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	32°	27°
Normals	48°	29°
Records	63° (2016)	-8° (1936)

PRECIPITATION
24 hours ending 3 p.m. 0.22"
Month to date 0.44"
Normal month to date 0.52"
Year to date 2.13"
Last year to date 1.34"
Normal year to date 1.80"

REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Showers today; cooler in central parts.	Eastern Washington: Rain today; steady during the morning.
Eastern and Central Oregon: Cloudy today with a couple of showers.	Cascades: Rain and snow showers today; snow levels will fall to 3,000 feet tonight.
Western Washington: Mostly cloudy today with some showers around; most extensive in the morning.	Northern California: Periods of rain today.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	51	40	sh	51	37	pc
Baker City	41	24	sh	39	26	pc
Bend	45	30	sh	42	30	c
Brookings	52	43	r	55	43	r
Burns	42	23	sh	38	26	c
Enterprise	42	29	r	42	29	pc
Eugene	52	38	sh	52	39	c
Heppner	45	31	sh	45	31	c
Hermiston	43	32	sh	44	34	pc
John Day	46	30	r	42	30	pc
Klamath Falls	47	32	sh	45	31	r
La Grande	47	31	r	42	30	pc
Meacham	43	30	r	42	29	c
Medford	55	37	sh	56	40	r
Newport	52	41	sh	53	40	c
North Bend	54	44	sh	55	43	c
Ontario	40	29	sh	40	32	c
Pasco	42	32	r	43	31	pc
Pendleton	50	34	sh	44	30	pc
Portland	51	37	sh	52	38	c
Redmond	51	31	sh	45	30	c
Salem	53	39	sh	53	38	c
Spokane	45	30	r	43	27	pc
Ukiah	45	30	r	43	29	c
Vancouver	51	36	sh	52	37	c
Walla Walla	50	35	r	45	32	pc
Yakima	40	28	c	43	31	c

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	48	23	c	43	22	s
Hong Kong	71	61	s	73	63	pc
Jerusalem	42	30	r	46	33	c
London	52	41	pc	53	40	c
Mexico City	71	46	pc	72	42	pc
Moscow	25	18	c	31	29	sn
Paris	54	39	c	51	37	pc
Rome	58	40	s	59	49	pc
Seoul	52	27	pc	37	21	pc
Sydney	89	73	s	92	73	t
Tokyo	56	46	s	65	42	pc

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	SW 3-6	NE 3-6
Pendleton	S 4-8	NE 3-6

UV INDEX TODAY

0 1 1 1 0 0

8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.

0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.

National Summary: A snowstorm will wind down over Maine, while blustery and cold conditions linger over the Northeast with areas of lake-effect snow today. Heavy rain will spread southward along the Pacific coast.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 87° in Fort Pierce, Fla. Low -12° in Presque Isle, Maine

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	58	33	s	61	38	pc	Louisville	53	40	pc	64	46	s
Atlanta	58	39	s	68	48	s	Memphis	62	43	s	68	52	s
Atlanta City	46	26	pc	46	31	s	Miami	80	58	c	79	64	pc
Baltimore	41	24	pc	47	32	pc	Millwaukee	37	33	c	46	41	s
Billingham	59	37	pc	54	29	pc	Minneapolis	46	33	c	56	35	s
Birmingham	59	39	s	68	48	s	Nashville	57	38	s	66	47	s
Boise	49	33	c	48	39	c	New Orleans	63	47	pc	68	55	c
Boston	36	24	sn	37	24	s	New York City	37	27	pc	42	32	s
Charleston, SC	60	40	s	70	46	s	Oklahoma City	67	40	s	69	45	s
Charleston, WV	41	30	pc	59	40	pc	Omaha	64	38	s	68	35	s
Chicago	43	30	c	57	42	s	Philadelphia	69	26	pc	44	33	pc
Cleveland	31	24	c	51	41	pc	Phoenix	75	55	s	76	59	pc
Dallas	68	47	s	72	57	pc	Portland, ME	32	19	sn	35	15	s
Denver	71	38	s	63	32	pc	Providence	36	21	pc	37	23	s
Detroit	34	26	pc	45	36	pc	Raleigh	52	32	s	63	39	s
El Paso	63	43	s	67	47	pc	Rapid City	64	37	s	57	33	pc
Fairbanks													