



OREGON WATER UTILITIES COUNCIL
Pacific Northwest Section, American Water Works Association
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Report from Oregon Water Utility Council 2018 PNWS-AWWA Winter Trustees Report

Chair: Sara Petrocine, City of Portland
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Past Chair: Suzanne DeLorenzo, Clackamas River Water
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The Oregon Water Utility Council continues to monitor legislation, regulations, and court actions that could impact the water industry, giving members the ability to help shape these kinds of issues. In addition, it provides its members with the ability to network with other water utilities of all sizes across the state to share information, discuss issues of importance to drinking water providers, and to engage in solutions to issues. The legislative activities are closely coordinated with policies of the AWWA when applicable.

Review of Activities and Accomplishments

Rulemaking

Division 61 – Seismic Risk Assessment and Reporting of Special Samples

In October, OWUC worked closely with League of Oregon Cities, Special Districts Association of Oregon, and Oregon Association of Water Utilities on comments to the Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Services (DWS) rulemaking for Division 61. Specifically, water providers furnished comments regarding the requirements included for seismic risk assessment and mitigation plans, and for the reporting of special samples. OWUC and others met with staff from DWS to outline its suggestions and concerns.

In December, DWS notified OWUC and others that it intended to adopt the suggested changes to both the seismic risk assessment and the reporting of special samples sections of the rulemaking.

Cleaner Air Oregon

In January, OWUC submitted a joint comment letter with League of Oregon Cities and Special Districts Association to the Department of Environmental Quality regarding the proposed Cleaner Air Oregon rules. Members were supportive of the overall goals of the Cleaner Air Oregon rules, but had some concerns about potential unintended consequences for water providers. The letter outlined these concerns and made recommendations to improve implementation of the proposed rules.



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Other Rulemakings

OWUC also reviewed and provided information to its members on other rulemakings, including rules from the Department of Education on lead testing in water for child care facilities and rules from the Bureau of Labor and Industries around the implementation of HB 3203, a least cost contracting bill passed in the 2017 legislative session.

Subcommittee Business

Willamette Basin Reallocation Study

In December, OWUC, through its Willamette Basin Reallocation Subcommittee, along with the League of Oregon Cities, and Special Districts Association, submitted comments to the Army Corps of Engineers on its Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for the Willamette Basin Review Feasibility Study. That, which includes more information on the current state of the project, is attached.

Ozone Coalition

The Ozone Coalition was formed as an OWUC Subcommittee in April 2015 with the intent of pursuing a rule change through OHA to allow disinfection (CT) credits for pre- or intermediate ozone disinfection. Ozone disinfection credit is currently allowed by EPA and most western states, but not by Oregon. A rule change petition was submitted to OHA in May 2016, and formally denied in April 2017, with OHA citing an existing case-by-case waiver process as an adequate substitute approach. OHA did hold open the potential for a future rule change depending on the number of waiver applications received. Since April, the coalition has been coordinating with OHA and the Drinking Water Advisory Committee (DWAC) to clarify the expected scope and content of waiver submittal applications. The City of Wilsonville and the new Lake Oswego-Tigard treatment plant intend to apply for waivers as operating facilities by the spring of 2017, with the City of Grants Pass and possibly others intending to apply for new facility pre-design stage waivers in 2018 or 2019.

Other OWUC Business

Integrated Water Resources Strategy

In November, the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) released the final draft of its 2017 update to the Integrated Water Resources Strategy. OWUC had submitted a public comment letter in July during the comment period that expressed concern about language around lead in public drinking water that was included as part of the draft document. The November final draft of the strategy contained changes to the section in question, but the changes increased, rather than decreased, OWUC's concerns. Working with other partners, including the League of Oregon Cities and the Special Districts Association, OWUC reached out to staff at WRD to correct inaccuracies found in the draft. OWUC proposed amended language,



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and in December, Sara Petrocine testified at the Water Resources Commission meeting on behalf of OWUC, where the Commission was set to adopt the strategy as final, in support of the proposed amendments to the strategy. The Commission voted unanimously to adopt the amended language.

Regular meetings and Tri-WUC meeting

OWUC continued to hold its regular monthly meetings, holding the August meeting in Medford, the September meeting in Bend, the October meeting in Eugene, and the November Tri-WUC meeting in Seattle.

OWUC worked with WWUC on the agenda for the Tri-WUC meeting, which included a keynote speech from Tommy Holmes, Legislative Affairs Director at AWWA. The meeting provided a good opportunity for WUCs from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho to share ideas and experiences and to identify emerging issues.