



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Water Resources Department

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September 3, 2008

Bill Burke
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
billburke@ctuir.com

Letter via Email

Subject: Umatilla Basin Critical Area Recharge Investigation
Comments on Task 1.D-Estimate Water Needs, July 24, 2008

Dear Mr. Burke:

Thank you for your comments regarding the IRZ technical memo (Task 1.D). You and your staff continue to exhibit a spirit of cooperation between the CTUIR and State of Oregon that is needed for successful conclusion to the critical area study.

Our management team is sensitive to the issue you raise about development of new land and/or increasing supply above what is needed as replacement water. Our consultant is charged with assessing the potential within the critical areas for treating and storing surface water below ground. The benefits we can expect from this endeavor will be addressed by our consultant, and they will include water quality improvement, replacement water for various uses, and return flow to surface water bodies. We agree the priority for any project development should be considered as it relates to finding replacement of lost native ground water and the benefits that might be realized for in-stream flow.

In their investigation of existing infrastructure and the potential for supply and distribution of Columbia River water to critical areas, IRZ Consulting will provide a comprehensive review, including all Bureau of Reclamation facilities.

Regards,

Barry F. Norris, State Engineer
Oregon Water Resources Department

c: Kate Ely, CTUIR Water Resources Program
Aaron Skirvin, CTUIR Water Resources Program
Rick George, CTUIR Environmental Planning/Rights Protection
Said Amali, IRZ Consulting

