



# MEMORANDUM

EUGENE WATER & ELECTRIC BOARD

*Rely on us.*

TO: Commissioners Brown, Carlson, Barofsky, McRae, and Schlossberg  
FROM: Jason Heuser, Public Policy and Government Affairs Program Manager  
DATE: March 18, 2022  
SUBJECT: 2022 State Legislative Session Summary

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## **Issue**

The 2022 State Legislative Session convened January 31<sup>st</sup> and adjourned on March 4<sup>th</sup>. This memo is to apprise the Board of the final status of issues key to EWEB's adopted 2022 legislative agenda or principles.

## **Background**

Prior to the start of each legislative session, the Board adopts general policy directives for advocacy at the Capitol, which guide the work of EWEB's lobbying activities. When political considerations test the applicability of those directives, the General Manager decides as to whether a fundamental shift in direction is required. The Board may be asked to reaffirm its policy or direct staff to make necessary adjustments.

## **Discussion**

### EWEB Water Resiliency Funding Request – SUPPORT – PARTIALLY FUNDED -- \$375,000

In the omnibus budget bill, HB 5002, the legislature approved \$375,000 was EWEB's Powder Activated Carbon Treatment Project that will improve EWEB's ability to treat water for taste and odor issues resulting from ongoing impacts from the September 2020 Holiday Farm Fire. EWEB submitted a request for \$22.5 million in state matching funds to support the construction of a new EWEB water treatment plant on the Willamette River as well package of smaller water transmission and resiliency projects, including the Powder Activated Carbon Treatment Project. The request to the Joint Ways and Means Committee was sponsored by local Senator James Manning and EWEB staff completed project applications that were submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Office tasked with processing funding requests. EWEB staff testified twice in support of our request at the Senate Veterans and Emergency Preparedness Committee as well as the Capital Construction Subcommittee of the Joint Ways and Means Committee.

### SB 1536/HB 4058 – Emergency Cooling – SUPPORT – PASSED

This bill will direct \$5 million to the Oregon Health Authority to create an emergency distribution program that would deliver air conditioners and air filters to homes in need during extreme heat events like the 2021 June "Heat Dome" in which 100 Oregonians perished from heat-related causes. The bill will also allocate \$10 million to the Oregon Department of Energy to create an incentive program to make it easier for vulnerable households to purchase energy-efficient heat pump cooling systems. This program will be available to EWEB customers and complement existing EWEB programs. Staff provided written testimony in support of HB 4058 which was approved by the

House Energy Committee and referred to the Joint Ways and Means Committee where it was amended into SB 1536 nearly verbatim.

ALERTWildfire Camera Network Funding – SUPPORT – APPROVED \$4.5 million

ALERTWildfire is a proven system of high quality, directional cameras that enables real-time and time-lapse views of the camera feeds to critical service providers like utilities, emergency responders and the public. EWEB provided written testimony in support of a \$4.5 million funding proposal for further buildout of the system. EWEB is working with the Oregon Hazards Lab to install an ALERTWildfire camera on Smith Ridge in the upper McKenzie Valley. This funding request was approved and included in the omnibus budget bill HB 5002.

**Recommendation/Requested Board Action**

No action is recommended. This memo is an informational update on issues identified in EWEB's 2022 State Legislative Agenda or principles.