

To develop a Long-Term Water Supply Strategy we must:

(1) Secure Existing Water Rights

Certification is the only way to obtain conclusive evidence of the priority and extent of the appropriation (ORS 537.270) of a water right. To fully certificate a water use permit, the user must demonstrate that they are able to put the water to beneficial use within a reasonable time frame.

Partial certification is the minimum level of certification that is allowed while still preserving ability to fully certificate remaining quantity of water under the permit with the original priority date at a future date. Partial certification requires the user to demonstrate they have the ability to put 25% of the permit quantity to use (see ORS 537.260 for further information).

Projected water usage for the City of Eugene requires accessing only a small portion of the third water right through 2050. As a regional water supplier, the increased level of use would allow EWEB to achieve partial certification sooner. The longer the water right goes without certification, the more risk this permit is under relative to its future use. Therefore, to ensure water availability for City residents, it is within the City of Eugene's interests to achieve partial certification.

