

Water Resources Department

2009 - 2011 Biennium

Agency Number:

69000

Detail of 30% Reduction to 2009-11 Essential Budget Level

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Priority (ranked with lowest priority first)	Dept. Initials	Prgm. or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Impact of Reduction on Services and Outcomes	
1	WRD	TSD	Ground Water Studies	125,000						\$ 125,000	-	0.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate funding for continued scientific study of Oregon's ground water resources, including the quantity and location of available ground water. At one time the Department's budget for this activity was \$800,000 per biennium, and the state used these funds to leverage Federal dollars in a one-to-one cost share. Reduction included in Governor's Recommended Budget. 	
2	WRD	FSD	Real-time Water Measurement Equipment	100,000						\$ 100,000	-	0.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the Department's General Fund budget for the maintenance, replacement, and addition of stream gage monitoring equipment. This will likely result in the loss of data because of equipment failures, as well as a reduction in our ability to share data with partners and stakeholders. 	
3	WRD	FSD	Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Activities	561,332						\$ 561,332	3	3.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the agency's participation in Oregon Plan activities. These activities include instream water right transfers, mapping water rights, and collecting streamflow data in support of Oregon Plan efforts. Reduction included in Governor's Recommended Budget. 	
4	WRD	DO	Attorney General	50,000						\$ 50,000	-	0.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling of Attorney General services would be deferred until next biennium causing customer delays in resolution of issues. Reduction included in Governor's Recommended Budget. 	
5	WRD	TSD	Information Technician (IT) Application Development	218,547						\$ 218,547	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department relies heavily on IT applications in order to enforce water rights, evaluate new applications, coordinate decision-making with other agencies, and then make these data and decisions available to the public. This would reduce the Department's ability to develop and maintain the tools, databases, and applications necessary to accomplish these tasks. 	
6	WRD	FSD	Water Measurement Technician – Field Based	149,494						\$ 149,494	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the field hydrographic capabilities for the North West Region of the state. This position is responsible for collecting streamflow data, which the Department uses in its day-to-day management decisions to enforce water law and protect water rights. Reduction included in Governor's Recommended Budget. 	
7	WRD	TSD	Water Use Reporting	135,882						\$ 135,882	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the water use reporting staff. All public entities are required to measure and report their water use and some private water users have, as a condition of their water right permit, a requirement to measure and report their water use. Eliminating this position prevents the Department from processing or reviewing the submitted data, or providing assistance to new permit holders. Reduction included in Governor's Recommended Budget. 	
8	WRD	TSD	Water Measurement Technician – Salem Based	121,424						\$ 121,424	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the Department's ability to provide the real-time streamflow records for Watermasters to use in day-to-day management decisions. Other agencies and the public also rely on this water data to make timely decisions. Remaining staff would continue to collect data, but the workload would result in a processing backlog that could cause financial loss to water users from delayed management decisions. 	
9	WRD	FSD	Water Management and Conservation Plan Processor	160,865						\$ 160,865	-	0.88	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the general funded Water Management and Conservation Plan (WMCP) staff. Some water users have, as a condition of their water right permit or permit extension, a requirement to submit a WMCP. Eliminating this position would drastically slow the rate at which the Department can review WMCPs and could therefore significantly delay permit holders, like cities, from accessing "green light" water under these permits. Reduction included in Governor's Recommended Budget. 	
10	WRD	WRAD	Water Right Application Processor	119,864						\$ 119,864	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate one water right application processor, significantly slowing review times, which impairs the Department's ability to meet statutory timeframes. The process is designed by law to take seven months for each application, and we are not meeting this timeframe in most instances. Such a staffing reduction could literally add months to the process. 	
11	WRD	FSD	Regional Transfer Applications	453,186						\$ 453,186	3	3.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This eliminates all field-based transfer application processors. Work transferred to the Salem staff would result in increased processing times, workload, and backlog. Currently the backlog for completing a transfer application is more than two years. 	

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12	WRD	TSD	Water Availability Modeler	201,907						\$ 201,907	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the Department's only water availability modeler, who provides the scientific data needed to make decisions that protect instream flows and to evaluate water right applications, permits, and transfers. 	
13	WRD	ASD	Contracts Officer / Loan Specialist	177,120						\$ 177,120	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination of this position jeopardizes the Department's ability to correctly interpret and follow administrative rules relating to contracts, grants and the Water Development Loan Fund. This position provides Department wide support for the processing of public purchases, contracts, grant, and loan documents. These processes would be delayed significantly (60-90 days) beyond current turn-around times and delay provision of services by department staff. Requires Fund Shift 	
14	WRD	ASD	Salem Central Office Receptionist	61,449						\$ 61,449	1	0.63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate one part time receptionist position that is the public's first point of contact when they enter the Department's main offices in Salem. Customers would be required to wait prior to be directed to services that meet their needs. The Department provides direct person to person telephone contact through this person. Customers would experience wait times of 10-15 minutes during peak call periods if this position were eliminated. This position processes and delivers mail, purchases supplies, and assists with large mailings. Elimination of the position will put these responsibilities on higher paid staff and reduce the effectiveness of those staff to provide core services. Requires Fund Shift 	
15	WRD	WRAD	Water Right Certificate Issuance Support	103,226						\$ 103,226	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the position that supports the certificate issuance activity. Water Rights Certificates are the final step in the process of obtaining a water right. A certificate is necessary before a water right holder can transfer a water right on a temporary or permanent basis. The Department has approximately 4,000 claims of beneficial use pending; these claims are awaiting final certification. The Department receives approximately 200 claims each year and can process about 600 per year with existing staff. As a result, the Department has a backlog of approximately 10 years in its certificate program. The Department would spread these duties amongst other support and technical staff in the work unit, causing inefficiencies in the certificate section and other work areas. Requires Fund Shift 	
16	WRD	TSD	Geographic Information Systems Position	150,263						\$ 150,263	1	0.79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position is responsible for assisting other staff and the public with projects that include data analysis and data presentation using charts, graphs, and maps. This position is also responsible for updating data in our Geographic Information databases, correcting errors and assisting in acquiring new data sets to be utilized in business processes throughout the Department. The loss of this position will significantly reduce the Department's ability to communicate with the public and stakeholders and will eliminate the ability of the Department to update and correct geographic information data sets. The loss of the ability to acquire more and better data sets will reduce the Department's ability to improve its decision making processes and timelines. 	
17	WRD	FSD	Regional Customer Service and Office Support	86,560						\$ 86,560	-	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would reduce the regional support staff from 2.0 FTE to two .5 FTE positions. These positions assist the public on the phone and walk-ins and is many times the only staff in the office during the summer months, as other staff members are in the field responding to water user requests. This will lead to reduced hours that the office will be open to the public during the regulation season, when people need a lot of assistance. The Department's ability to respond to requests in a timely manner will be severely curtailed. Reducing the hours for these positions would dramatically slow the Department's ability to provide timely customer service. Potential land sales could also be hampered by the lack of response from the Department, related to ground water wells or water rights issues. This position is responsible for purchasing, accounting, the mail room, filing, travel arrangements, meeting agendas, and other office functions. These duties are ongoing and necessary, and will be shifted to more senior staff. Some of the purchasing could be shifted to Salem staff members, which will increase their workload. 	

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18	WRD	DO	Tribal Water Rights / Rules / Public Records Coordinator	179,167						\$ 179,167	-	0.89	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the Department's only staff person working directly with Indian Tribes on water right issues. This position receives inquiries from Tribes, related to water use, obtaining water rights, and protection of senior water rights. The coordinator provides timely responses to the Tribal representatives. Eliminating this position will greatly reduce the Department's ability to interact with Tribes on water right issues. Government-to-Government discussions between Tribes and the Department will not occur on a regular basis. This position also responds to "public records requests" from water right holders, realtors, attorneys, well constructors, and other members of the public, ensuring timely, complete, and accurate responses. The resulting information is used in court actions, property sales, and other proceedings. With the elimination of this position, public information requests will take longer to process. This position also manages rule-making for the Department, ensuring that administrative rules are adopted and maintained consistent with state law. Finally, this position serves as the Department's primary point of contact for environmental justice issues, sustainability, and regulatory streamlining. 	
19	WRD	WRAD	Klamath Adjudication	600,000						\$ 600,000	-	0.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the Department of Justice and Oregon Administrative Hearings portions of the adjudication budget by \$600,000 during the 09-11 budget period will push the delivery of the Department's Order of Determination completion and its submittal to the Klamath County Circuit Court into the 2013-15 biennia. Water Resources Adjudication staff will continue to prepare the Order of Determination but will have little to no legal support until, hopefully, the 2011-13 biennia when this funding would need to be reinstated. Additionally, the Hearings activity at the OAH will take a two year hiatus until funding is restored. 	
20	WRD	FSD	Microcomputer and Network Support	143,892						\$ 143,892	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the only computer and technology support for the Department's Central and Eastern Oregon field offices (technical support for more than 40 staff members). Elimination of this position would significantly reduce the staff's ability to use computers, conduct regular computer training and keep software systems operational for internal and public use. This will have a resulting negative effect on the staff members' ability to complete their work. 	
21	WRD	WRAD	Water Right Extensions	153,284						\$ 153,284	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This staff position is the sole person responsible for processing requests for extensions of time to develop water right permits, including those from municipal water suppliers. The timely processing of extensions allows permit holders to make safe economic development decisions regarding investments needed to develop the permit. Work would be transferred to the water right application review staff members, which would greatly increase the time they take to process water right applications (by statute, this work is supposed to take only seven months). 	
22	WRD	WRAD	Water Right and Limited License Processor	179,618						\$ 179,618	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the one staff member who processes applications for limited license requests. These are often short-term water-use requests, designed to establish crops or pilot-test new projects. Due to the short term nature of this type of water use (example: Construction), applications must be processed quickly. This position also processes assignments of permits (name changes), voluntary cancellation of permits and provides customer service assistance to the public. Remaining water right staff would shoulder these responsibilities, leaving less time to process new water right applications and leading to development of a probable backlog. 	
23	WRD	FSD	Eastern Regional Hydrographic Water Measurement Technician	139,491						\$ 139,491	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 17 stream gaging stations, and providing assistance for 15 others, processing and archiving data, and producing provisional water-year records for each site. Eliminating this position would result in the abandonment and decommissioning of these gaging stations, and would severely limit historical and real-time data availability to water users. This position works with other local, state, federal agencies, and non-profit groups, to assist in surface water discharge measurement data and training needs. Surface water discharge measurements are integral for managing the water needs of irrigators, power generation facilities, municipalities, and instream users to ensure the greatest beneficial use for each stream. 	

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														<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminating this position would also shift the groundwater measurement program to other regulatory staff positions. Eliminating this position would do away with this type of outreach to our customers which is very important to building good working relationships locally A local group is evaluating above ground storage to address the potential impacts of climate change. Eliminating this position would severely limit the gathering of basin yield data for future storage projects.
24	WRD	FSD	Southwest Regional Hydrographic Water Measurement Technician	116,600						\$ 116,600	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the only hydrotech in the Southwest Region, limiting the Department's ability to collect data in a timely manner and possibly leading to a loss of information necessary to make decisions about future uses and climate change adaptation. This has been the only position to make miscellaneous measurements on instream water rights, to the benefit of fisheries. This position assists the Department of Environmental Quality with streamflow measurements related to Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDPs) in the Southwest Coastal streams; this position also helps local Watershed Councils collecting data for streamflow enhancement projects. 	
25	WRD	FSD	South Central Regional Hydrographic Water Measurement Technician	107,681						\$ 107,681	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the only hydrotech in the South Central Region, who has responsibility for more than 50 gaging stations, collecting critical data for distribution of water among water right holders in the region. Eliminating this position would severely hamper the Department's ability to collect, process, and use data in a timely manner for the protection of senior water rights. Elimination of this position would increase the time required to respond to data requests from other agencies, Watershed Councils and other resource organizations, slowing their efforts to restore basin habitat 	
26	WRD	FSD	North Central Regional Hydrographic Water Measurement Technician	144,491						\$ 144,491	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate the field processing of data for nearly 50 gaging stations in the North Central Region. WRD operates three of these stations under contract with other agencies/organizations. Eliminating this position would seriously jeopardize, if not eliminate, the Department's ability to process gaging station data from 23 key stations in the Umatilla Basin. These data are to necessary distribute McKay Reservoir releases for downstream water users and fisheries. It would seriously impact the Department's ability to accurately manage and regulate the Umatilla Basin Exchange Project. Poorly substantiated water management decisions increase the probability of tension among water users, as well as increased litigation and liability for the Department. 	
27	WRD	FSD	Southwest Regional Hydrogeologist	155,784						\$ 155,784	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the past, this position has provided technical assistance to communities trying to resolve water issues such as Indian Point, City of Brookings, Shady Cove, Curry County and numerous others. These communities would be left with no local assistance with their ground water issues. 	
28	WRD	TSD	Ground Water Hydrogeologist / Ground Water Advisory Committee (GWAC)	207,907						\$ 207,907	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This eliminates a senior ground water scientist position responsible for ground water studies and review of new water right and transfer applications. Ground water studies are critical to understanding aquifers to make sound scientific decisions on the development potential and limitations on the use of ground water. Elimination of this position could have serious economic impact with delays in the development of needed new water supplies at a time when counties, cities, and individuals are seeking detailed and timely information. Hydrogeologists review new ground water applications for water rights to insure that water is available and will not have a significant impact on existing users. The Department is currently unable to meet statutory timelines for review. The loss of this position will further increase this backlog and delay permitting decisions. This position provides technical support to the Ground Water Advisory Committee (GWAC). GWAC is required by statute to meet 4 times yearly. Committee members are volunteers, however travel expenses and supplies are paid by the Department. Approximately 2 months of staff time is needed annually for the required meetings to prepare agendas, attend, and draft minutes. Staff support of GWAC activities would be a low priority activity with reduced staffing levels in the Groundwater Section. ORS 536.090. 	

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29	WRD	TSD	Well Construction and Compliance Manager	183,827						\$ 183,827	-	0.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would result in a delay or elimination of formal enforcement actions for unauthorized water use or mis-constructed wells. Timely enforcement of unauthorized water use is critical to protect senior water rights, including those for instream flow. Mis-constructed wells can result in aquifer contamination that could cross property boundaries. The current high level of voluntary compliance with water delivery decisions by field staff could be reduced with less formal enforcement support. This would have an economic impact on users not getting water to which they are entitled when needed. This would eliminate the Department's manager overseeing well construction, contested cases, and enforcement. 	
30	WRD	WRAD	Water Rights Program Manager	185,982						\$ 185,982	-	0.90	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position provides day to day supervision and programmatic guidance to 10 staff in the water rights application and customer service program. This position works with staff on complicated water right applications, by providing policy interpretation and development and has direct contact with applicants, consultants, lawyers and surveyors on a daily basis. This position is charged with developing and implementing new process efficiencies in order to improve service delivery and timeliness associated with processing water rights. This ultimately provides the ability to address the growing complexity of the work with existing staff and meet timeliness goals for water right requests. This eliminates all regional support staff (see item 17) 	
31	WRD	FSD	Regional Customer Service and Office Support	141,160						\$ 141,160	2	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position assists the public on the phone and walk-ins and is many times the only staff in the office during the summer months, as other staff members are in the field responding to water user requests. This will lead to reduced hours that the office will be open to the public during the regulation season, when people need a lot of assistance. The Department's ability to respond to requests in a timely manner will be severely curtailed. Completely eliminating these two positions would dramatically slow the Department's ability to provide timely customer service. Potential land sales could also be hampered by the lack of response from the Department, related to ground water wells or water rights issues. These positions are responsible for purchasing, accounting, the mail room, filing, travel arrangements, meeting agendas, and other office functions. These duties are ongoing and necessary, and will be shifted to more senior staff. Some of the purchasing could be shifted to Salem staff members, which will increase their workload. 	
32	WRD	WRAD	Customer Service / Information	114,100						\$ 114,100	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is the only position in the Department who's primary responsibility is to provide general customer service to the public in person, by phone or by email. This position is also responsible for reviewing new water right applications when they are first received to see if they meet the minimum completeness test. Other staff who have water right processing responsibilities will be assigned to cover the duties of this position which reduces the time they are able to spend on their primary responsibilities. Requires Fund Shift 	
33	WRD	WRAD	Water Right Certificate Issuance	159,430						\$ 159,430	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position is one of two technical experts in the certificate section. This position reviews Claims of Beneficial Use and, as appropriate, prepares water right certificates. Certificates confirm the extent to which water was developed in accordance with a previously issued permit. Certificates are an asset to water users because you have to have one in order to change the use from one use type to another. The loss of this position will cause delays in issuance water right certificates and may cause more water users to use the Department's Reimbursement Authority program in order to obtain a timely certificate. WRD currently has an approximately seven year backlog in this area. 	
34	WRD	WRAD	Water Right Application Processor	159,430						\$ 159,430	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This would eliminate one water right application processor, significantly slowing review times, which impairs the Department's ability to meet statutory timeframes. The process is designed by law to take seven months for each application, and we are not meeting this timeframe in most instances. Such a staffing reduction could literally add months to the process. 	
35	WRD	FSD	Regional Transfer Applications	158,490						\$ 158,490	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This eliminates all field-based transfer application processors. Work transferred to the Salem staff would result in increased processing times, workload, and backlog. Currently the backlog for completing a transfer application is more than two years. 	

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36	WRD	TSD	Water Rights Data Entry Technician	109,241						\$ 109,241	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This eliminates a Data Entry Specialist. • The loss of the position would delay data entry and cause a backlog of information not available to the public. • The Department online databases would over time become outdated. 	
37	WRD	TSD	Well Construction and Compliance Administrative Support	97,451						\$ 97,451	-	0.80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This eliminates an Administrative Support position within the Well Construction and Compliance Section. • The position is responsible for reviewing and filing Geotechnical Hole reports. • The position also provides support for water right cancellation and formal enforcement activities. 	
38	WRD	TSD	Groundwater Hydrogeologist	125,983						\$ 125,983	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This eliminates a second groundwater scientist position responsible for review of new water right and transfer applications and groundwater level data collection. • Hydrogeologists review new groundwater applications to insure that water is available and will not have a significant impact on existing users. The Department is currently unable to meet statutory timelines for review. The loss of this position will further increase this backlog and delay permitting decisions. • Hydrogeologists collect and analyze groundwater level readings to determine the stability of aquifers. Loss of the position would lead to fewer measurements being made and irretrievable loss of key information. • Requires Fund Shift 	
39	WRD	FSD	Water Rights Transfer	150,784						\$ 150,784	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is the Department's only staff person handling transfer protests, voluntary cancellations and working with irrigation districts on district remapping (3111). This senior position requires in-depth knowledge and a good understanding of Oregon Water Law and rules. These attributes come into play when resolving 3111 issues and are essential for resolving transfer protest issues which at times can be controversial. • Eliminating this position will result in increased response time and decreased customer service. • Elimination of this position will require shifting these duties to other staff resulting in increased work load for the section. 	
40	WRD	ASD	Fiscal Manager	218,927						\$ 218,927	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is a management position that is responsible for the oversight of the fiscal section, assures compliance with financial and administrative rules, and provides internal fiscal reporting. • This position provides analysis for fiscal impact statements and budget development. • Internal controls that safeguard state assets and the integrity of financial transactions are the responsibility of this position. • Loss of this position removes the ability to provide timely fiscal and budgetary data, oversight of fiscal controls and backup functionality for accounting processes. 	
41	WRD	WRAD	Water Rights Division Support	106,593						\$ 106,593	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This position provides support to the Water Rights and Adjudication Division, the Division Administrator, provides back-up to the main agency receptionist, and purchases supplies for the Division. • This position also is responsible for making sure the Department's weekly public notice, which provides public notice of many of the Department's water right related actions, is processed each week. • This position is senior support staff out of four support staff in the division and provides back-up assistance when any of the other support positions is out of the office or needs help. 	
42	WRD	FSD	Watermaster District 14	159,369						\$ 159,369	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Duties of this position will be shifted to the Southwest Sub-Region Deputy Manager. To partially address the significant workload increase on the Southwest Sub-Region Deputy Manager, a Region Assistant Watermaster will remain in the Southwest Sub-Region office. • The shift in duties will impact our customer service capabilities by increasing response time to inquiries and complaints within District 14 and will limit the availability of the Deputy Manager to Southwest sub-region staff and issues. • The shift in duties will also limit the availability of the Deputy Manager to the Region Manager in responding to regional issues. 	

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43	WRD	TSD	Information Technician (IT) Application Support	171,930						\$ 171,930	1	1.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This position provides data querying, aggregation, reporting and analysis in support of special projects, research studies, complaint/conflict resolution, and policy development. This position writes applications to assist staff in daily duties and works to streamline processes and improve decision making. This position is responsible for updating data in various databases, correcting errors and assisting in acquiring new data sets to be utilized in business processes throughout the Department. The loss of this position will eliminate the Department's ability to support other government agencies, customers, and internal staff to complete projects, resolve complaints and conflicts and to communicate clearly about the water resources of the state. Policy makers will be left without sufficient data and information resources to support their efforts in establishing strategies and policies. The loss of this position will also reduce the public's ability to access the Department's information that they need to make informed decisions. 	
44	WRD	FSD	Regional Assistant Watermasters	288,749						\$ 288,749	2	2.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This will reduce the regional assistant Watermasters from 5.0 FTE to 3.0 FTE. The three remaining FTE will be stationed in the Southwest, North Central, and South Central Regions Duties these positions perform include dam inspections, regulation of water users, answering water right and water use questions and other customer services. These positions were funded in 2007 to restore field capabilities lost over the years when local governments had to eliminate funding local assistant Watermasters due to increased costs and reduced revenues. The loss of these positions will greatly impact our customer service capabilities by increasing response time to inquiries and complaints and will increase the workload on our Watermasters. These positions were planned to pick up the measurement/gaging station field work that will not be accomplished with the elimination of the region Hydrotechs in the 20% reduction. Elimination of these positions will require the Watermasters to pick up the hydrographic work when possible. Due to Watermaster priorities measurement/gaging station field work will be impacted and likely result in loss of hydrographic data that cannot be recovered. 	
				7,635,480	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 7,635,480	40	44.57		