

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

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**Date:** Feb. 26, 2013

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item B, Informational and discussion item: Conversation with  
Department of State Lands Director Mary Abrams  
March 20-21, 2013, EQC meeting

**Why this is important** This item will introduce the commissioners to Mary Abrams, the new director of the Oregon Department of State Lands. The commission has expressed an interest in strengthening the connections among state agencies, and has asked DEQ to bring in other state agency directors and state leadership for informational sessions when possible.

**Background** The State Lands Board appointed Director Abrams in early October 2012. Prior to this position, Director Abrams served as Peace Corps director in Africa since 2006. From 2001 to 2006, Abrams was a division administrator and water quality specialist at DEQ. She also held positions as a watershed manager and as the Endangered Species Act coordinator with the City of Portland, and as a research faculty member at the Oregon Graduate Institute.

Abrams holds a Ph.D. and an M.S. in soil science from the University of California, Davis, and graduated from the University of Arizona with a B.S. in agronomy. Abrams grew up in Morrow County, and worked in La Grande for several years as a water quality specialist while with DEQ.

Report prepared by: Stephanie Caldera  
*Information provided by the Oregon Department of State Lands*