



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality  
Agency Headquarters  
700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600  
Portland, OR 97232  
(503) 229-5696  
FAX (503) 229-6124  
TTY 711

May 14, 2025

*Electronic Delivery*

Krishna Viswanathan, Interim Director  
Water Division  
US EPA Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, OWW-135  
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Submittal of the amended replacement temperature TMDLs for the Willamette Subbasins

Dear Mr. Viswanathan:

Please find a copy of the final amended Willamette Subbasins TMDLs for temperature. This amendment adds the Willamette River Mainstem and Major Tributaries project area to Willamette Subbasins temperature TMDLs that were originally adopted by the Environmental Quality Commission into rule on Aug. 6, 2024, and approved by EPA on Sept. 12, 2024.

The amended TMDL was adopted by reference into Oregon Administrative Rule 340-042-0090(3) on May 8, 2025, by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission. The TMDL, including amendments, replace the temperature TMDLs included in the Willamette Basin TMDL and the Molalla-Pudding Subbasin TMDL approved by EPA on Sept. 29, 2006, and Dec. 31, 2008, respectively. The TMDLs were updated and replaced, as required by federal court order, to be consistent with current temperature standards. The court order identifies June 28, 2025, as the date for EPA approval or disapproval of the replacement TMDL for the Willamette River Mainstem and Major Tributaries.

This TMDL was developed under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and is submitted by this transmittal to the EPA for review and approval. To assist EPA's review, also attached are copies of DEQ's Willamette Subbasins amended temperature TMDL Water Quality Management Plan, also adopted by reference into OAR 340-042-0090(3) by the EQC on May 8, 2025, the TMDL Technical Support Document, and the Rulemaking Action Staff Report prepared for EQC, which includes a summary of public comments received and DEQ's responses.

The amended TMDL addresses all waters located in ten 8-digit hydrologic unit code (HUC) subbasins within the Willamette Basin (HUC 170900), including the Middle Fork Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090001), Coast Fork Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090002), Upper Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090003), McKenzie Subbasin (HUC 17090004), North Santiam Subbasin (HUC 17090005), South Santiam Subbasin (HUC 17090006), Middle Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090007), Molalla-Pudding Subbasin (HUC 17090009), Clackamas Subbasin (HUC 17090011), and Lower Willamette Subbasin (HUC 17090012).

DEQ developed this watershed TMDL to address all Category 5 listed assessment units on Oregon's 2022 303(d) list and any assessment units found to be impaired in the future, as applicable. In total, the TMDL applies to 958 assessment units, of which 257 are Category 5 temperature impaired. Some of these assessment units have both year-round and spawning use designations impaired. If both use designations are impaired, it is counted as two 303(d) listings. Therefore, this TMDL addresses a total of 329 Category 5 temperature listings identified on the 2022 Integrated Report.

DEQ conducted a public participation process, per OAR 340-042-0050 and state rulemaking procedures. The public process, comments received, and DEQ's responses are summarized in the attached documents. The final TMDL and WQMP rule, and technical support documentation were revised in response to public comments.

Please direct questions regarding this TMDL to DEQ Water Quality Manager, Steve Mrazik, [Steve.MRAZIK@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Steve.MRAZIK@deq.oregon.gov) or 971-563-8035.

We look forward to EPA's review and approval of the TMDL and acceptance of the protection plan.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Wigal  
Water Quality Division Administrator

Cc: Jennifer Wu, EPA Region 10  
Rebecca Veiga Nascimento, EPA Region 10

Steve Mrazik, DEQ Watershed Management  
Ryan Michie, DEQ Watershed Management  
Michele Martin, DEQ Headquarters

Attachments: Willamette Subbasins TMDL, *amended May 8, 2025*

Willamette Subbasins TMDL Water Quality Management Plan, *amended May 8, 2025*

Willamette Subbasins TMDL Technical Support Document and appendices, *amended May 8, 2025*

Oregon Environmental Quality Commission Staff Report, *May 8, 2025*

Response to Public Comments, *May 8, 2025*

Original Comments received, *May 8, 2025*