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## Water Resources Director Tom Byler Set to Retire, Doug Woodcock Appointed Interim Director

(Salem, OR) – After more than 27 years working for the State of Oregon, Oregon Water Resources Director Tom Byler is retiring from state service. His last day with the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is September 13. Byler plans to continue working on water and natural resources issues in the next chapter of his career.

“It’s been an honor to work alongside the outstanding staff at the Department,” said Byler. “As I look to the future of water resources in Oregon, I anticipate that water issues will continue to become more and more complex and challenging, and I am excited about the Department’s increasing capabilities to help communities address those issues.”

During his tenure as director, the Department made significant progress toward modernizing its programs and services to meet the water needs of Oregonians today and into the future. This includes efforts to rebuild OWRD’s water planning programs and making substantial updates to its dam safety and well construction programs. In addition, OWRD significantly increased its capacity to collect and analyze data for surface and groundwater resources and manage the distribution of water rights across the state.

While a new director will be appointed by the next governor, Governor Brown has appointed current deputy director of water management, Doug Woodcock, to serve as acting director for the remainder of her term.

The Oregon Water Resources Department is the state agency charged with studying, allocating, and distributing water in Oregon. Visit [www.oregon.gov/owrd](http://www.oregon.gov/owrd).

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Tom Byler, director of  
Oregon Water  
Resources Department