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Grant Soil and Water Conservation District  
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**PUBLIC STATEMENT  
LARSON IRRIGATION CONSOLIDATION PROJECT  
APRIL 13, 2018**

Berry Creek Ranch (Gordon and Julie Larson) is currently cooperating in an ongoing voluntary conservation Project with Grant Soil and Water Conservation District (District) and several conservation partners to improve fish habitat conditions within Berry and Canyon Creeks, along with increasing the efficiency of the associated irrigation system. The Project objective is to consolidate four existing irrigation diversion sites into one pump station location and replace the open ditch irrigation system with a more efficient buried irrigation pipe and water distribution devices.

The cooperator approached the District over eight years ago seeking assistance opportunities to improve their irrigation system efficiency and lessen its ecological impacts to the associated stream sources. Technical resources were then obtained by the District in 2013 from the Bureau of Reclamation, which allowed its staff to evaluate irrigation system alternatives in consultation with the cooperator, natural resource permitting officials, and anticipated project sponsors. Selected in 2015, the final Project design was mutually determined by the District, cooperator, and consultation partners to be advantageous for financial support through Bonneville Power Administration's Fish and Wildlife Mitigation Program, administered by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (Tribes). The Tribes awarded financial resources to the District in 2016 to support the installation of the Project.

The District provided lead Project management and construction supervision throughout the implementation of the Project's infrastructure in 2016 and 2017. All Project construction costs and payments were administered by the District in accordance with Federal and State Public Contracting Laws. At no time was a Project payment made to the cooperator.

The District has also been responsible for obtaining the applicable permits and clearances necessary to authorize the Project's construction and resulting operation. Permits governing the installation of the Project's infrastructure were issued prior to the start of construction work in 2016. Working in consultation with Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD), the District submitted to them the water right transfer application in July 2017 to obtain authorization to divert water at the new pump station location. Confirmation of this water right transfer is anticipated to be issued by OWRD within the next 60 days. Conclusion of the water right transfer will permanently vacate the use of the four existing diversion sites and consolidate all of the cooperator's water rights to be served exclusively by the new pump system, completing the Project.

Respectfully,

Patrick Voigt  
Board Chair