



## Oregon Water Resources Congress

437 Union St. NE | Salem, OR 97301 | Phone: 503-363-0121 | Fax: 503-371-4926 | [www.owrc.org](http://www.owrc.org)

February 11, 2015

Avis Newell  
Tualatin Basin Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Quality  
2020 SW 4th Ave, Suite 400  
Portland, OR 97201

Re: Letter of Support for Clean Water Services' Water Reuse Pilot Project

Dear Ms. Newell:

On behalf of the Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC), I am writing to express our support for the Clean Water Services' request to pilot the limited reuse of recycled water to brew beer and strongly encourage the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to approve this innovative reuse.

As a nonprofit association representing irrigation districts, water control districts, improvement districts, drainage districts and other local government entities delivering agricultural water supplies, OWRC has a strong interest in water conservation, supply and innovation. The water stewards we represent operate complex water management systems, including water supply reservoirs, canals, and pipelines, delivering water to roughly 1/3 of all irrigated land in Oregon. These entities and the thousands of water users they supply embody the associations founding principles to promote the development, control, conservation, preservation and utilization of land and water resources of the State of Oregon.

We applaud Clean Water Services' highly effective efforts to raise awareness about the potential for recycled water to help meet Oregon's long-term water needs and OWRC is very supportive of innovative projects like the one Clean Water Services' has proposed here. Increasingly severe droughts and population growth present challenges that cannot be solved by conservation alone. While beer is a good way to get people talking about precious water resources, the real point is that Clean Water Services has a dependable supply of water that can be cleaned to any desired level. Today's water treatment and monitoring technologies make recycled water a viable water supply that could bridge demands for irrigation, manufacturing, and other uses; in fact, OWRC member districts are exploring projects that would use recycled water for irrigation. We ask that DEQ approve Clean Water Services' request for this pilot project so that Oregon's regulations will allow access to all of our water resources.

Sincerely,  
April Snell  
Executive Director

***The mission of the Oregon Water Resources Congress is to promote the protection and use of water rights and the wise stewardship of water resources.***