Oregon
Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Water Resources Department
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You are being notified because the Water Resources Department received a water well report for a well that was recently constructed on your property. This letter is meant to help you determine whether this well qualifies as an exempt-use or whether it requires a water right permit.

Exempt Use Wells: The following uses do not require a water right permit to use groundwater:

- Group and single family domestic use up to 15,000 gallons per day;
- Commercial or industrial use up to 5,000 gallons per day;
- Livestock watering;
- Watering any lawn and or non-commercial garden totaling less than ½ acre in area;
- Down hole heat exchangers; and
- Irrigation of up to 10 acres of school grounds within established critical ground water areas.

These exempt uses of groundwater require submittal of a $300 exempt well recording fee and a map of the exact well location. These requirements are based on legislation that recently passed to improve the management of groundwater throughout the state. The new law provides for better ground water data in two ways. One is the requirement to include a map showing the location of the well. This is extremely valuable to the Department in identifying the supply and availability of groundwater. The second is a fee that is intended to support additional study and monitoring of groundwater.

An invoice for the exempt well recording fee is enclosed for your use. Please return one copy of the invoice with your payment and map. Additional information about the fee and map is also available on our website at www.wrd.state.or.us/*exempt_use_788_info.shtml* or by contacting the Exempt Use Well Program Coordinator at 503 986-0861.

Permitted Use: If you intend to use groundwater for any other purpose, a water right permit is required. A permit must be obtained before the well is drilled (ORS 537.535). If you are going to make application for a water right permit, restrictions may apply based on the location and construction of your water well. There are areas in the state in which a water right permit may not be issued or may be issued for a limited purpose or time. You should contact your local watermaster if you have questions about applying for a water right permit. A list of watermasters is enclosed for your convenience.