Interagency Memorandum of Understanding on Water Reuse

I. Introduction

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is hereby entered into by the Department of Agriculture (hereafter called “ODA”), the Department of Consumer and Business Services (hereafter called “DCBS”), the Department of Environmental Quality (hereafter called “DEQ”), the Department of Human Services (hereafter called “DHS”), the Department of Land Conservation and Development (hereafter called “DLCD”), and the Water Resources Department (hereafter called “WRD”). These agencies are hereafter referred to collectively as “Participating Agencies.”

II. Background

On March 21, 2005, Governor Kulongoski issued Executive Order No. EO 05-04, which recognized water reuse as a method to meet the state’s water needs and directed the state to promote policies and programs to encourage and support water reuse. The Executive Order further ordered the identified state agencies to work together to overcome barriers to reuse while ensuring protection of public health and environmental quality.

III. Purpose of Agreement

This MOU is intended to set forth each Participating Agency’s responsibilities as they pertain to the approval of water reuse projects, and to describe other actions to be taken by Participating Agencies to promote water reuse.

IV. Scope and Nature of Agreement

This MOU is a voluntary, non-binding agreement between the Participating Agencies. It is not intended to be an exhaustive inventory of all activities related to water reuse.

V. General Provisions

A. Definitions

For purposes of this MOU, the following definitions apply:

“Project” is defined as any Water Reuse proposal that is subject to the regulatory requirements contained in OAR 340-055. In addition, projects may include proposals associated with gray water recycling following the development of a regulatory process that is different than the process in place on the effective date of this MOU.
“Reclaimed Water” means treated effluent from a sewage treatment system that, as a result of treatment, is suitable for a direct beneficial purpose or a controlled use that could not otherwise occur, except as provided in OAR 340-055.

“Water Reuse” means the use of Reclaimed Water.

B. Responsibilities of Participating Agencies

1. Participating Agencies agree to contribute material to a Water Reuse Guide. The purpose of this guide is to provide consolidated information for project proponents about approvals required for water reuse projects. DEQ will produce the guide no later than one year after the completion of revisions to OAR 340-055. The Water Reuse Guide may include or be entirely contained in DEQ’s rulemaking implementation plan or in guidance developed through DEQ’s water reuse rulemaking process.

2. Participating Agencies will identify one or more staff contacts for water reuse projects. DEQ will be responsible for alerting those contacts when a water reuse project requires significant multi-agency coordination.

C. Responsibilities of DCBS

1. Examination of National Water Reuse Standards

DCBS, through its Building Codes Division, will review national water reuse standards, and assess whether it would be appropriate to propose their inclusion in the Oregon Plumbing Code. DCBS will report the results of this review to Participating Agencies during the plumbing code adoption period scheduled to begin on April 1, 2008.

2. LUCS Modification

DCBS, through its Office of Regulatory Streamlining, will develop a proposed standardized Land Use Compatibility Statement section for water reuse projects no later than December 31, 2006.

VI. Administration

A. Fiscal Limitations

This MOU imposes no fiscal obligations on any party. All Participating Agencies understand that all fiscal impacts will depend on the availability of funds and budget constraints.
B. List of Contacts

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The Water Resources Department
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C. Authority

Each Participating Agency represents that the person who executes this MOU on its behalf has the authority to enter into this MOU on behalf of that Participating Agency.

D. Modification and Termination

This MOU may be modified at any time by the mutual written agreement of the Participating Agencies. Each Participating Agency may terminate its involvement in the MOU upon thirty days written notice to the other Participating Agencies.

This MOU will be effective as of the last date signed below.
Department of Agriculture

[signed by Katy Coba on Dec. 4, 2006]
Katy Coba          Date

Dept of Consumer & Business Services

[signed by Cory Streisinger on Dec. 14, 2006]
Cory Streisinger  Date

Department of Environmental Quality

[signed by Stephanie Hallock on Oct. 3, 2006]
Stephanie Hallock  Date

Department of Human Services

[signed by Dr. Bruce Goldberg on Oct. 3, 2006]
Dr. Bruce Goldberg   Date

Dept of Land Conservation & Dev.

[signed by Lane Shetterly on Oct. 17, 2006]
Lane Shetterly    Date

Department of Water Resources

[signed by Phillip Ward]
Phil Ward        Date