



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EO 05-04

WATER REUSE AS AN INTEGRAL COMPONENT OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WATER CONSERVATION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN OREGON.

Pursuant to my authority as Governor of the State of Oregon, I find that:

WHEREAS the people of the State of Oregon have a long history of finding innovative solutions to challenging and complex problems;

WHEREAS the State of Oregon's strategic plan, Oregon Shines, reflects a balance of the community, environmental and economic values that we hold for our state;

WHEREAS analysis of current trends described by the Oregon Benchmarks and by the Oregon State of the Environment Report documents certain threats to our quality of life and the state's environmental and economic sustainability;

WHEREAS, for purposes of the Executive Order, water reuse is defined as the beneficial use of reclaimed water (treated wastewater) for such planned uses as landscape and golf course irrigation; agricultural irrigation; industrial and commercial uses; recreation; groundwater recharge; environmental enhancement; and other uses permitted under Oregon law;

WHEREAS water reuse provides an environmentally-sound method for managing wastewater, while conserving water and replenishing valuable water supplies;

WHEREAS water reuse can be a source of water to communities during drought conditions;

WHEREAS the Environmental Protection Agency, a federal agency, encourages water reuse as a means for managing wastewater under the provisions of the Clean Water Act, 33 USC §§ 1251 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS Oregon statutes and regulations protect public health and environmental quality, and require a specific level of water quality and treatment corresponding to each beneficial use of reclaimed water; and

WHEREAS the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission encourages water reuse for beneficial purposes using methods that assure that public health and environmental quality of the state are protected;



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 05-04
PAGE TWO

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED AND DIRECTED:

1. The State of Oregon shall promote policies and programs to encourage and support water reuse, to work together to overcome institutional and regulatory barriers and funding constraints, to ensure protection of public health and environmental quality, to encourage public acceptance of water reuse, and to help this state meet its overall water needs.
2. The State of Oregon shall improve its policies and internal operations to encourage more water reuse by:
 - a. State agencies that participated in the Urban Reuse Task Force that was created subsequent to the passage of Senate Bill 820 by the Seventy-second Oregon Legislative Assembly, Chapter 788, Oregon Laws 2003, shall review agency policies and rules, as they are revised, and make appropriate revisions to those policies to remove potential regulatory barriers and to encourage water reuse in Oregon. Within one year of the effective date of this Executive Order, such agencies shall report in writing to the Governor's Office regarding their progress under this Executive Order. Within 18 months of the effective date of this Executive Order, the Governor's Office will coordinate with the relevant agencies to review their actions and to identify possible next steps.
 - b. The Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for leading the coordination among state agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations, local governments and other citizens in the development of guidance describing the regulatory and permitting requirements for water reuse projects.
 - c. The Office of Regulatory Streamlining is responsible for negotiating and executing a Memorandum of Understanding among the relevant state agencies that expressly sets forth each agency's responsibilities as they pertain to the approval of water reuse projects.
 - d. The Water Resources Department, Department of Human Services, and Department of Environmental Quality shall coordinate outreach activities that encourage water reuse and shall meet annually to determine whether agency procedures and permitting activities are consistent with this Executive Order.



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 05-04
PAGE THREE

- e. The Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Human Services, Water Resources Department, and the Department of Consumer and Business Services shall collaborate, consistent with each agency's existing authority, to allow water reuse pilot projects that are protective of public health and the environment, and shall work to resolve issues with other relevant state agencies regarding water reuse.

Done at Salem, Oregon this 21st day of March, 2005.

GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

SECRETARY OF STATE