



Oregon Water Reuse

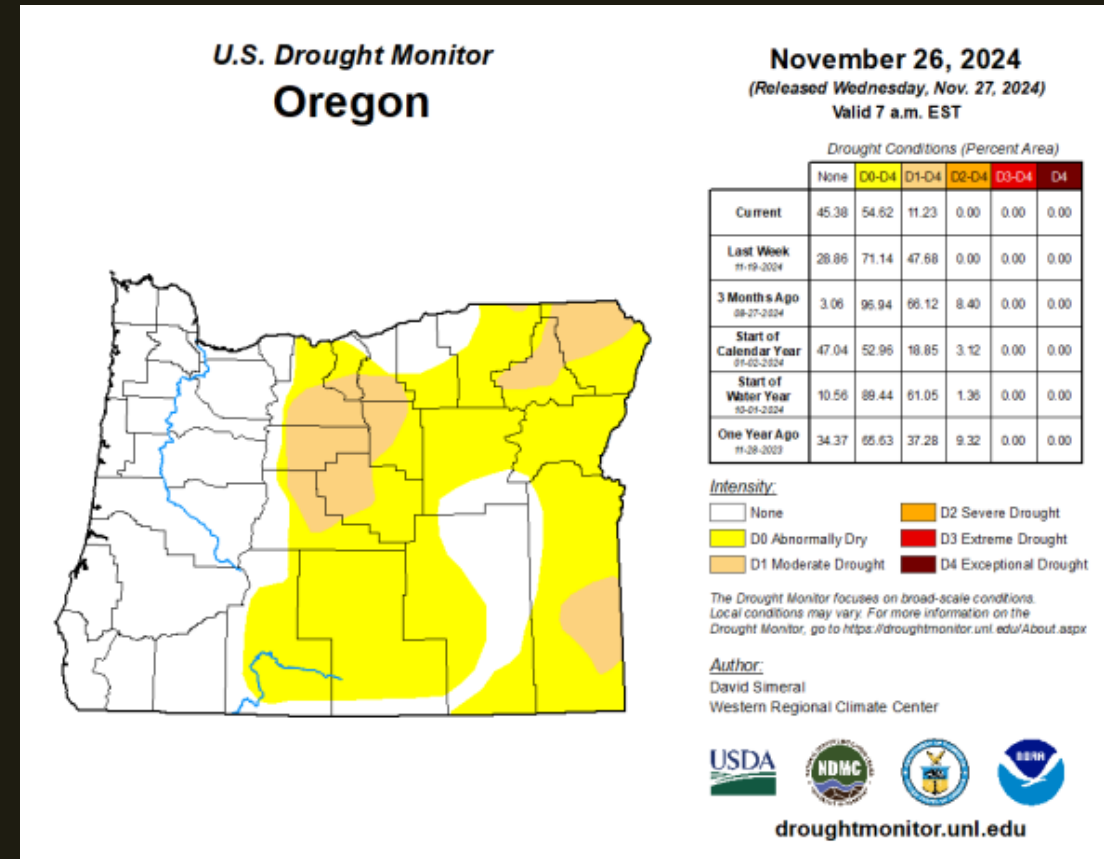
Department of Environmental Quality

House Interim Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
December 11, 2024

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Water Reuse Drivers

- Severe weather & Ongoing drought
- Water conservation, groundwater protection, drought resilience
- Upcoming temperature Total Maximum Daily Loads



OR Water Reuse History & Regulations

- **2003 SB820:** *Directs assessment of water reuse in the urban environment*
- **2005 EO 05-04:** *Directs agencies to "encourage the use of recycled water...in a manner which protects public health and the environment" (municipal, industrial, agriculture)*
- **2008 OAR 340 Division 55:** *Establishes Recycled Water Use Rules & Regulations*
- **2011 OAR 340 Division 53:** *Establishes Greywater Rules & Regulations*
- **2023 HB2010 (section 22):** *Identify needs, opportunities, barriers, and path forward*

Who is involved?

Municipalities

- Wastewater Management Agencies

Industries

- Data centers
- Food processing

Agriculture

- Irrigation districts



State Agencies & Roles



Water reuse permitting and project evaluation, environmental protection



Process water rights permits and registrations for reuse



Protection of human health



Protection of fish and wildlife

Path Forward

- **Increased Collaboration**

Meetings with EPA and other state's regulators (California, Arizona, Texas, etc.) to learn what works and what problems are encountered

- **Statutes, Rules, and Policies**

Continue to review and evaluate our program to facilitate reuse and break down barriers without creating unintended consequences

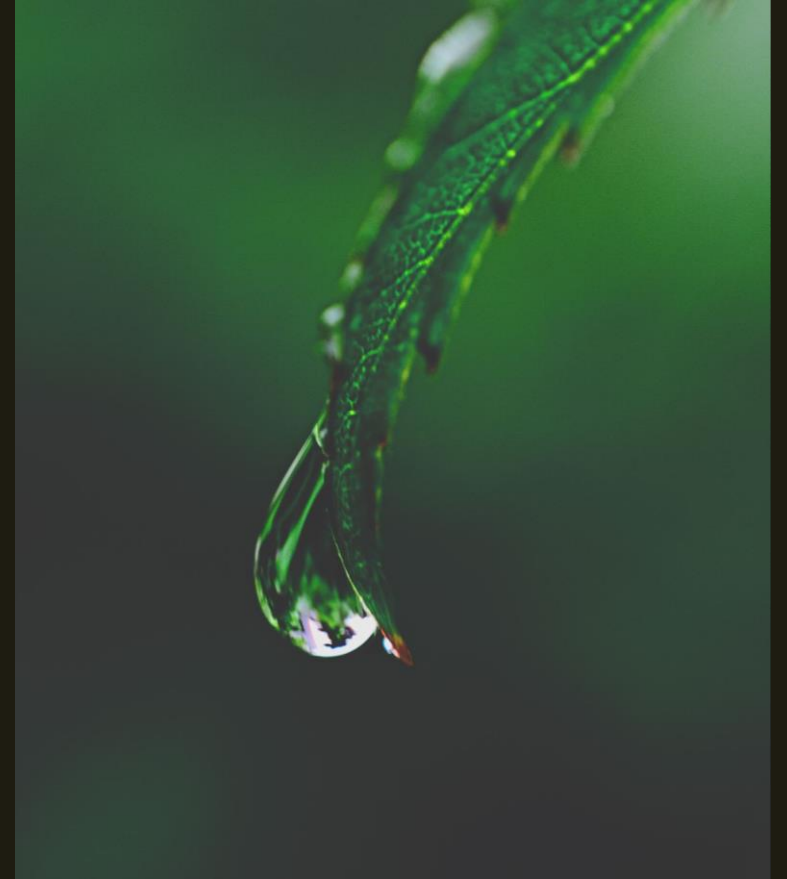
- **Interested Parties**

Continue meetings and work groups with interested parties to identify barriers and streamline the program



Anticipated Outcomes

- **Improve and Expand Water Reuse Program**
Allow for expansion of reuse. Increased interagency coordination to create a straightforward permitting pathway.
- **Program Scalability**
Ensure DEQ, OWRD, and OHA are equipped with the tools to drive wide scale reuse projects and ensure the protection of water rights and environmental quality.
- **Protect Water Resources**
Improve management tools that contribute to the conservation of natural resources, groundwater, and water supply for the state.



Expanding Water Reuse in Oregon:

ACWA Update to the Legislature

December 11, 2024

Susie Smith
Stony Creek Consulting
on behalf of:
Oregon Association of Clean Water Agencies



Community wastewater treatment and stormwater management agencies across the state working together to protect Oregon's water quality since 1987

Reuse – A Critical Water Quality Solution

- **Reuse** – High value, multi-benefit strategy to sustainably meet growing water quality challenges
- **Challenges**--Wastewater agencies struggle to develop reuse projects under current regulations and permit processes
- **Opportunity** – 2023 Legislative directive to evaluate program and address challenges (HB 2010)



HB2010 Was a Catalyst

- New limited duration staff at DEQ and WRD has supported collaboration with other entities to implement legislative mandate
- Review of OARs and DEQ permitting policies to improve clarity, efficiency, and implementability
- Review of roles, responsibilities, and coordination is underway
- Review other states' policies for policies and programs that provide good examples



Next Steps to Completion

- Development of recommended changes requires more time and resources than HB2010 provided
- Ongoing resources for DEQ and other agencies beyond 2025 are required
- Legislative action is needed extend the mandate and the work to fully implement EO 05-04, enabling expanded beneficial reuse as part of Oregon's sustainable water future





Thank you!
Q&A