



YAMHILL SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Wednesday, May 29, 2024

Laura Hart
Oregon Water Resources Department
725 Summer St NE, Suite A
Salem, OR 97301

Re: Modifying the rules governing new ground water right applications in The Oregon Ground Water Act of 1958

Dear Laura Hart:

Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) responds to land use applications from Yamhill County Planning & Development Department on conditional uses that require new wells or expanded uses of groundwater in Yamhill County.

Yamhill County Planning & Development Department does not have data on the water available in the underground aquifers for new applications. Allowing new wells to withdraw water from an aquifer with limited water or water levels that are declining could lead to conflicts with the owners of older nearby wells.

Yamhill SWCD supports modifying the rules that will result in better management of underground aquifers in the county. We also urge OWRD to require monitoring devices on all new wells, including domestic, irrigation, municipal, and others, that will record data showing water levels to determine declines in the county underground aquifers. This information should be updated regularly and made easily accessible to other agencies and the general public. This data will help Yamhill County and the public make more informed decisions and improve management of limited groundwater resources.

Please add this letter to your file and include our District in any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boyer, District Chair
Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District

Letter also sent to: OACD & ODA