

Summer Summit Technical and Policy Program (Continued)			
	Topic	Speaker	Title/Organization
2:45pm-3:30pm	City of Medford & Rogue River Irrigation District	Brian Hampson	Rogue River Irrigation District
		Dan Worth	City of Medford
		Kate Hart	Farmers Conservation Alliance
3:30pm-4:00pm	Oregon Water Reuse Regulatory Update	Grace Silver	Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
4:00pm-4:20pm	Meeting Water Challenges Together: Opportunities for Water Reuse Projects with Irrigation Districts	April Snell	Oregon Water Resources Congress
4:20pm-7:00pm Social Event: Drinks and Activities			

HISTORY OF WATER REUSE IN HERMISTON

In Hermiston, treated wastewater is reused for agricultural irrigation, reducing reliance on groundwater and the Columbia River. The program supports the region’s food processing economy, enhances sustainability, and helps manage water resources efficiently while meeting environmental regulations and promoting long-term resilience in the arid region. Collaboration between the City and the West Extension Irrigation District (WEID) in support of a recycled water program began in 2007. The City was facing increasingly strict discharge limits, while WEID was experiencing freshwater withdrawal limitations due to declining river flows. Feasibility assessment and State and Federal regulatory permitting required significant effort and a number of years to complete. Major treatment plant upgrades were completed around 2014, and the first recycled water deliveries to WEID were made in 2016. Thank you for joining us in Hermiston to celebrate 10 years of this successful program!

Regulatory Drivers

Oregon DEQ developed a Total Maximum Daily Load (TDML) for the Umatilla River in 2001 which set waste load allocations for sediment, temperature, algae, aquatic weeds, pH, ammonia, nitrate, and bacteria. Treatment facility upgrades necessary to meet these discharge requirements also allowed the City to meet water quality standards for Class A recycled water. Meeting summertime discharge limits, however, would require implementation of mechanical cooling to meet the new temperature restrictions. The City identified that this would increase costs substantially at the treatment plant, and sought other alternatives.

Treatment Process

The City’s treatment process uses screening to remove debris, followed by activated sludge biological treatment in aeration basins. Wastewater then passes through membrane bioreactor (MBR) filtration, removing solids and pathogens. Final disinfection with chlorine produces high quality recycled water to be reused for irrigation but can also be discharged to the Umatilla River outside of the summer season.



Challenges

This project was the first of its kind in Oregon. Because discharge to irrigation canals is not authorized under DEQ’s recycled water program, the City succeeded in obtaining a specific National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to discharge into the WEID Main Canal. The process required lengthy, close collaboration between all partners and DEQ. Transmission of the water to the canal required construction 9,000 lineal feet of new 18-inch piping to connect the City’s treatment facility to the canal, through Federally owned property. The installation required review and approval by the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation and an Environmental Assessment in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The 2014 upgrades to the treatment plant were valued at \$17.2 million. The City was able to fund the significant project through increase of sewer rates, while maintaining one of the most affordable public utility rates in the Pacific Northwest.



Sponsors

Thank you to our generous sponsors for supporting this event!



WATEREUSE ASSOCIATION PACIFIC NORTHWEST SECTION

Recycled water has been utilized beneficially in Oregon for several decades. The drivers for water reuse in the state include limitations imposed by new surface water discharge regulations, impaired water bodies with TMDLs, opportunities due to upgrades with advanced treatment technologies, and water supply needs. Multiple facilities implement water reuse programs throughout the state.

Recycled water is meeting a diverse set of needs in the Pacific Northwest, from enhancing source supply to protecting receiving waters and everything in between. A growing number of utilities and businesses are adopting recycled water systems. Our section is a multi-state regional chapter chartered in 2012 to promote the mission of The WaterReuse Association in the Pacific Northwest by addressing challenges unique to our local communities.

We aim to fulfill this mission through the following:

- Offer resources, networking, and information-sharing opportunities to utilities, recycled water users, and other relevant organizations
- Advocate for legislation and regulation development that promotes safe and responsible provision of water that is fit for purpose
- Address challenges in public perception to recycled water use and support communication and outreach needs
- Provide continuous learning professional development to our members through educational opportunities



JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

The WaterReuse Association is the nation’s only trade association solely dedicated to advancing laws, policy, funding, and public acceptance of recycled water. Our membership includes utilities that recycle water, businesses that support the development of recycled water projects, and customers who use recycled water for operations.

To learn more, visit watereuse.org/join or contact Erin Carr at ecarr@watereuse.org

LOOK FOR US IN SPOKANE AT THE 2026 PNCWA CONFERENCE!

WaterReuse PNW is partnering with PNCWA for the sixth year in a row to bring recycled water expertise to the technical program content. Visit conference.pncwa.org for conference information and registration. See you there!





SUMMER SUMMIT

& Social



EASTERN OREGON TRADE AND EVENT CENTER HERMISTON, OR 97838 | THURSDAY JUNE 18, 2026

PRESENTED BY



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10:00am–11:00am	Optional City of Hermiston Wastewater Treatment Facility Tour		
11:00am–11:30am	Arrival and Networking		
11:30am–12:30pm	Catered Buffet Lunch		
Summer Summit Technical and Policy Program			
	Topic	Speaker	Title/Organization
12:30pm–12:40pm	Welcome and Introduction	Jared Kinnear	Reuse and Resource Recovery Clean Water Services
12:40pm–12:45pm	Eastern Oregon Operator Section Announcements	Kyle Willman	Assistant Public Works Director City of Pendleton
12:45pm–1:00pm	WaterReuse Association Updates	Kari Davis	Recycled Water Project Manager King County
1:00pm–1:10pm	City of Hermiston Welcome & Introduction	Richard Dutcher	Wastewater Operator City of Hermiston
1:10pm–2:00pm	City of Hermiston, WEID, and AWS Partnership Panel	Richard Dutcher	Wastewater Operator City of Hermiston
		Bev Bridgewater	District Manager West Extension Irrigation District
		Mark Cullington	Client Service Director Kennedy Jenks
		Rupeet Malhotra	Manager- US West Water AWS
2:00pm–2:30pm	Douglas County Reclaimed Water Program Development	Darrell Winans	District Manager/ Public Records Officer Douglas County Sewer District #1 (East Wenatchee)
2:30pm–2:45pm: 15-Minute Break			