

Exhibit I Support letters

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WATER RESOURCES DEPT.
SALEM, OREGON



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Environmental Quality

Eastern Region

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Pendleton, OR 97801

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May 2, 2008

State of Oregon
Water Resources Department
725 Summer Street NE, Suite A
Salem, Oregon 97301-1266

Subject: Support for instream allocation of conserved water, Walla Walla River

Dear OWRD Representative,

We at DEQ support the efforts of Oregon Water Trust in their recent application for instream allocation of conserved water associated with improved irrigation efficiency at the Milton-Freewater Golf Course.

The DEQ has established a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limit for Walla Walla River temperature and thermal input. For the mainstem Walla Walla River, the temperature water quality standard 'natural condition criteria' is applicable. The principle TMDL objective for the Walla Walla River above the Oregon-Washington Border is a temperature pattern that would be achieved with natural conditions regarding flows, geomorphology and land cover. Simulated natural temperature patterns are available at the Walla Walla page of our TMDL website. The TMDL studies indicate that increased instream flow will decrease the effect of solar heating substantially, and that this is particularly important in the Milton-Freewater to Stateline reach, where various human modifications have caused the most dramatic heating assessed in the Subbasin.

Thank you for considering the subject application, and for your work in protecting Oregon's water resources.

Please contact me at 541/278-4603 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Don Butcher
Basin Water Quality Coordinator
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
700 SE Emigrant, Suite 339
Pendleton, OR 97801

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cc: David Pilz, Project Manager, Oregon Water Trust, 522 SW Fifth Avenue, Suite 825, Portland, OR 97204