



Board of Commissioners

David Henslee, Commissioner
Position One

Kelley Minty, Commissioner
Position Two

Derrick DeGroot, Commissioner
Position Three

February 14, 2023

We support House Bill 2765 to permit the use of the Klamath River to convey reuse quality water.

South Suburban Sanitary District (SSSD) is an Oregon special district within Klamath County that collects, treats, and discharges approximately 1.5 million gallons of wastewater per day for approximately 23,000 citizens. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality has modified the permitting requirements for discharging treated wastewater, which affects the SSSD's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for discharging treated wastewater into Lake Ewauna, headwaters of the Klamath River. SSSD must make significant, costly upgrades to its wastewater treatment plant to comply with the new DEQ requirements.

We support the concept of reusing the water discharged by the South Suburban Sanitary District to help offset some of the impacts caused by the severe multi-year drought, thereby providing a much needed public benefit. The SSSD Board of Directors voted unanimously to dedicate the reuse quality water to easing some of the severe multi-year drought impacts to irrigators, refuges, and wildlife.

House Bill 2765 would permit the use of the Klamath River to convey this reuse quality water to areas of Klamath County and the Lower Klamath Wildlife Refuge that have been impacted by the severe multi-year drought, thereby saving the citizens a \$20 million expenditure to install a pipeline for the same purpose.

Sincerely,

David A. Henslee
Commissioner

Out of Office Today

Kelley Minty
Vice Chair

Derrick DeGroot
Chair