

# OAWU Expands Services

By Jason Green

For thirty-years, OAWU has offered all but a few services for free to members and non-members. Services with a fee have been conferences, certification and ops reviews, CCRs and Operator of Record services. With the continued growth and stability of your Association, it is both an opportunity and now an obligation to expand and build on these services and provide them at an increased level of service. This change in direction stems from OAWU's Long Range Plan and necessity due to the loss of three OAWU federally funded positions. In preparing for fee services, two of the fundamental questions asked were: "What can best assist the Membership?" and "What can benefit the Association for the Membership?". These new or expanded services will not "take away" or "degrade" the existing free services to both members and non-members of the Association.

Your Board of Directors and Staff are pleased to now offer exceptional services that go beyond OAWU's previous scope of work for a reasonable fee. Your Association's guarantee: We will meet or exceed your performance expectations or you will not be billed; and we will save you money either in the service provided or by providing you the service. Summarized costs: Selected bid projects are case by case basis; Members save 10% from standard OAWU bid; Member saves \$20/hour from standard hourly rate. Following are several examples of additional or expanded services offered:

1). **SOC Waiver:** Having OAWU research, write and apply for your SOC waiver could easily save you \$4,000 to \$6,000 per each water source/well by reducing your sampling requirements from every three to nine years. A waiver relieves additional sampling, employee time and testing expenses.

2). **Rate Study and Reporting:** OAWU has built a reputation on factual, usable and defensible rate studies with options and structures that have been implemented by many Oregon water and wastewater systems. These implemented studies have allowed many systems to obtain funding from various private and government agencies and/or

allowed the system to increase revenue for operations or future expenses. OAWU will expand upon these foundations and provide you a professionally compiled study with options and documents that will allow you and your council or board to adopt new rates necessary to meet your system needs.

3). **Health and Safety Assessments:** Compliance issues, written plans and reviews.

4). **Water System Operations, Management and Efficiencies Review**

5). **On-Site Services:** Construction inspections; project management; interim system operation and management; tank cleaning; line flushing and valve exercising; hydrant flow testing and maintenance; well flow tests; confined space entry assistance and plans; specialized training.

We are excited about the development of the Project Management and Services Division of OAWU and the opportunity to better serve you. We encourage you to give special attention to obtain an SOC waiver. If you would like a bid, estimate or have questions about services, please contact the OAWU office at 503-873-8353.