B Lab Statement on Open Water's B Corp Certification
B Lab's independent Standards Advisory Council has rendered the following decision and guidance regarding eligibility for B Corp Certification for bottled water companies:

"Bottled water companies are eligible for B Corp Certification with additional review by the Standards Advisory Council and, at minimum, incremental disclosure on their public B Corp profile regarding material sensitive issues in the industry."

Open Water is required to disclose a summary of its practices in the areas of Water Access, Sustainable Usage, and Waste Management as a part of its B Corp Certification. For more information on the review process, please refer to B Lab's statement on the bottled water industry and B Corp Certification here.

Summary of Company
Open Water is a U.S.-based bottled water company on a mission to fight ocean plastic pollution by offering water in 100% recyclable aluminum bottles and cans. A portion of every sale is given to charitable efforts that advance ocean conservation.

Open Water works with a network of bottling partners and does not operate its own extraction or bottling facilities. Additionally, Open Water does not directly explore water sources and relies exclusively on co-packers for sourcing water and bottling.

The company is responsible for sales. In its last fiscal year, the company earned 100% of its annual revenue from the sale of unflavored still water and sparkling water under its sole brand name "Open Water".

Open Water's Industry Practices

Water Access
Open Water works with a small network of Food and Drug Administration (FDA) certified bottling partners in the United States. These partners source water under the oversight of relevant state and local authorities and maintain all required permits for withdrawal and treatment. Open Water pays its suppliers based on volume and requires them to follow applicable environmental and water-management regulations. Where wastewater treatment fees are applicable, they are paid by the copackers to the relevant government authorities.

The company also invests in community water initiatives near its production regions, supporting nonprofit projects focused on watershed protection, restoration, and water stewardship.

Open Water is not engaged in any lobbying or policy advocacy for cheaper water prices nor easier water access. The company also reported there are no stakeholder concerns regarding its water access that remain unresolved.

Sustainable Usage

Because Open Water does not extract or bottle water directly, all withdrawal volumes are managed and reported by its bottling partners in compliance with local regulatory limits. Open Water reviews documentation from each partner to confirm that sustainable practices and legal requirements are met.

As of October 2024, Open Water has four water sources across the U.S.:

1.Nebraska: The water source from Nebraska is groundwater, withdrawals of which are regulated by the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources. They determine annual groundwater management plans, which outline what they will do to manage depletion and quality concerns in the area.

2.Minnesota: The water source from Minnesota is a private well that draws from the Mt. Simon Aquifer and it is overseen by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Ecological and Water Resources Division.

3.California: The water used at the filling facility in Commerce, California is a combination of local groundwater and surface water from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), which is obtained from the Colorado River and the State Water Project in northern California. The City of Commerce's water system is managed by Cal Water. More info about the water sources is available here.

4.Virginia: The water source for this facility is groundwater from the Potomac Aquifer pumped via a private well overseen by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

Waste Management

Open Water is committed to minimizing waste and optimizing the use of resources in packaging. Here are the key waste minimization practices employed by the company:

● Aluminum Packaging: Exclusively packages water in aluminum cans and bottles with aluminum caps, avoiding PET plastic bottles and caps entirely. Aluminum is infinitely recyclable, with a significantly higher recycling rate compared to plastics.

● Lightweighting: To further reduce material usage, the company prioritizes the lightest aluminum packaging wherever possible. This process minimizes the amount of aluminum required without

compromising product quality or durability, decreasing resource extraction and energy use in manufacturing.

● Pallet wrap: Company has optimized its tertiary packaging processes to reduce the use of plastic wrap on pallets by 40%.

On average, Open Water's cans and bottles use an average of 73% post-consumer recycled (PCR) aluminum.

The company continues to look for ways to continue to lightweight its primary and secondary packaging and increase the PCR content of its beverage containers. As aluminum recycling rates continue to rise and there is more secondary aluminum available, the company's production process hopes to make use of that and increase the PCR content in all of the company's products.

B Lab's Public Complaints Process

Any party may submit a complaint about a current B Corp through B Lab's Public Complaint Process. Grounds for complaint include:

1. Intentional misrepresentation of practices, policies, and/or claimed outcomes during the certification process, or
2. Breach of the core values articulated in our Declaration of Interdependence within the B Corp Community.