



## **B Lab Statement on Eldorado Artesian Springs, Inc.'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.*

As a bottled water company, Eldorado Artesian Springs, Inc is required to disclose a summary of its practices in the areas of Sustainable Usage, Water Access, and Waste 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](#).

### **Eldorado Artesian Springs, Inc.'s Industry Practices**

#### Sustainable Usage:

Eldorado Artesian Springs, Inc. sources its water from 12 artesian springs. Water emanates under its own pressure and is not specifically pumped from the aquifer by the company. The company also utilizes only a part of the water that naturally emanates from the springs and about 8-9% of their water withdrawal limit.

In 2021, the company commissioned an independent hydrogeological assessment that confirmed that the company's extraction is approximately 1.5% of the annual recharge of the aquifer that feeds their artesian springs. The hydrogeological study also confirmed that within the 51 year study period, static water levels in the wells were consistent and had not declined which indicate sufficient recharge to the aquifer.

#### Water Access:

Eldorado Artesian Springs, Inc. owns 42 acres surrounding their water sources and the resort Which was purchased in 1983 from the family that founded the resort in 1905, and which also entitled them to rights to use the water from the springs. The water is owned by the state and the company has "water rights" for consumptive, recreational use and for provision to utilities.

Under the "water rights" system, if the company's water withdrawal is made during a period of time when their water rights are in priority, then there is no payment required for such withdrawals. If withdrawals are made when their water rights are not in priority then they are required to replenish the water as per a state approved augmentation plan. Close to 8% of the company



water abstraction happens when their rights are in priority and more than 90% of their water abstraction happens when their rights are not in priority for which they are required to replenish the water. The company also purchases a portion of its water from the municipal system for cleaning, sanitation, outdoor irrigation and kitchen.

The company does not engage in any lobbying practices to influence water access and/or pricing and specifically does not join industry trade associations due to their lobbying practices. The company did not report any stakeholder concerns related to their water abstraction.

#### Waste

Eldorado Artesian Springs, Inc. utilizes many different materials for their packaging namely PET, rPET, Polycarbonate, HDPE & Glass. A majority of the company's bottled water is contained in 3-5 gallon containers which are made from virgin PET. These containers are reused multiple times through various policies in place at the company (including paying back customers for returning bottles, etc.) and then taken to a recycling facility. The company's 1.5 L bottles are made from 100% rPET; 1 gallon bottles are made of HDPE which is made of 60% virgin and 40% regrind. Company also utilizes glass bottles and polycarbonate for a portion of their products.