



CUWA Water Reuse Policy Principles

July 31, 2013

CUWA is committed to studying and promoting reliable, high-quality water supply for the State's current and future urban water needs, including water reuse. As with other sources of water supply, water reuse must, first and foremost, continue to be fully protective of public health and the environment. The following policy principles summarize CUWA's views on water reuse.

Water reuse (potable and non-potable) is an important component of current and future local water supply portfolios. Water reuse provides a resource for beneficial use and is an important part of diverse portfolios to improve the reliability of future water supplies and meet future demands. Water reuse can help to meet statewide water use efficiency goals (e.g., 20x2020) and offset the need for other sources of supply. Water reuse allows for increased independence and self-sufficiency and is a potentially significant water supply for some agencies.

Water reuse is a site-specific decision depending on a number of factors. Local water suppliers must retain the authority to efficiently manage the makeup of their water supply portfolio, including the use and extent of water reuse, and considering relevant factors such as cost-effectiveness and protection of public health, along with the best means to achieve water use efficiency targets.

Water reuse must be protective of water quality for other beneficial uses. Water quality objectives for downstream potential uses (i.e., surface water, groundwater supplies, and environmental uses) must be met.

Streamlined and efficient regulations are needed to provide consistency where feasible and allow sufficient flexibility to meet local needs. CUWA agencies encourage greater alignment among state agencies and their regional counterparts to provide more clarity of regulatory requirements and to efficiently navigate the regulatory process. CUWA also supports local discretion related to water reuse to enable agencies to efficiently manage local water resources.

Engaging with the public and customers is an important aspect of water reuse. Public engagement is critical in achieving greater understanding and support for water reuse programs. CUWA agencies are committed to meeting customer needs, delivering water of an appropriate quality for the intended uses.

CUWA recognizes the value of leveraging partnerships for water reuse projects. Partnerships among water and wastewater agencies and across regions are critical to finance and implement water reuse projects to the ultimate benefit of customers.

CUWA supports public funding for public benefits. Consistent with CUWA's Reliable Water Financing Policy Principles, public funding can produce public benefits associated with water reuse, such as decreased discharges to the environment and preservation of water supplies for potable use. Public funding can also facilitate innovation and implementation of new technologies.

Collaborative research is critical to advance the scientific basis for water reuse. CUWA agencies are committed to working cooperatively with research organizations (e.g., WaterReuse Research Foundation and Water Research Foundation) on their research agendas to address outstanding technical questions, including those related to potable reuse. CUWA agencies encourage sharing of information on technology and advances in water reuse.