

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR WATER RECLAMATION



The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9; the California Water Resources Control Board; the California Department of Water Resources; the California Department of Health Services; the California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health; the United States Bureau of Reclamation; and the Water Reuse Association of California adopt the following joint statement of support for water reclamation:

Whereas, water reclamation is defined as the beneficial use of treated wastewater for such planned uses as irrigation, industrial cooling, recreation, groundwater recharge, environmental enhancement, and other uses permitted under California law; and

Whereas, the Governor of California has made water reclamation an important element of California's water supply policy; and

Whereas, the California State Legislature has adopted statewide goals for water reclamation providing 700,000 acre-feet by the year 2000; 1,000,000 acre-feet by the year 2010 so as to help the state meet its future water needs; and

Whereas, the Department of Water Resources estimates that California will need to increase its water supply by 3,000,000 to 5,000,000 acre-feet by 2020, which includes an assumption that 1,300,000 acre-feet of conservation will be achieved by then; and

Whereas, the Bureau of Reclamation is currently engaged in several water conservation and reuse projects and plans to help promote water saving throughout California and the West.

Whereas, the amount of water reclaimed in California has increased from 165,000 acre-feet per year in 1977 to over 380,000 acre-feet in 1993; and

Whereas, the Water Reuse Association of California's 1993 survey reported that water reuse will continue to increase from 380,000 acre-feet per year in 1993 to a projected 1,000,000 acre-feet in 2000 and to a projected 1,300,000 acre-feet by 2010, and that the major constraints to achieving these levels of reuse appear to be funding, institutional and regulatory disincentives, the permitting process, and public acceptance; and

Whereas, California's extensive experience with water reclamation provides reasonable assurance that the potential public health risks associated with water reclamation in California are minimal, provided all regulations pertaining to water quality, monitoring, reporting, and reliability are adhered to; and

Whereas, California law and regulations are fully protective of human health and require a specific level of water quality and treatment corresponding to each beneficial use of reclaimed water; and

Whereas, this set of laws and regulations also provides general requirements and provisions which reclaimed water purveyors and users must comply, including monitoring and reliability requirements to further assure that use of reclaimed water is safe; and

Whereas, Congress established pollution prevention as a "national objective" in the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 and EPA has adopted pollution prevention as the new environmental ethic, and EPA's definition of pollution prevention, pursuant to the Act, includes increased efficiency in the use of water.

Now, therefore, be it resolved on this first day of June 1994, the undersigned agencies support the pursuit and development of federal, state, and local water reclamation policies and regulations that will reduce constraints and promote water reclamation. Specifically, the agencies will work to overcome and reduce institutional and regulatory disincentives and funding constraints, and to promote public acceptance of water reclamation. The agencies will cooperate to develop specific policies and resource commitments that will enable the State of California to meet the Legislature's water reclamation goals and to help satisfy the State's overall water needs.

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