

Statement of Support for Water Reuse

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection; the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4; the Florida Department of Health; the Florida Public Service Commission; the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services; the Florida Department of Community Affairs; the Northwest Florida Water Management District; the South Florida Water Management District; the St. Johns River Water Management District; the Southwest Florida Water Management District; and the Suwannee River Water Management District (collectively "Participating Agencies") adopt the following joint statement of support for water reuse:

Whereas, water reuse is defined as the beneficial use of reclaimed water (treated wastewater) for landscape and golf course irrigation; agricultural irrigation; industrial uses; toilet flushing; fire protection; decorative water features; ground water recharge; indirect potable reuse; wetlands creation, restoration, and enhancement; and other uses allowed by Florida's reuse rules; and

Whereas, Florida Statutes establish the encouragement and promotion of water reuse as state objectives; and

Whereas, Florida's Water Resource Implementation Rule advocates and directs that reuse of reclaimed water be established as an integral part of water and wastewater management programs in Florida; and

Whereas, water reuse provides an environmentally sound means for managing wastewater, while conserving water and replenishing valuable water supplies; and

Whereas, Florida law and regulations are fully protective of public health and environmental quality; and

Whereas, the capacity of water reuse systems in Florida exceeds one billion gallons per day; and

Whereas, Florida's extensive experience with water reuse has demonstrated the viability and acceptability of water reuse practice; and

Whereas, the EPA has recognized Florida's Water Reuse Program for excellence in 1993, 1996, and 1999; and

Whereas, the EPA encourages water reuse as a means for managing wastewater under the provisions of the Clean Water Act; and

Whereas, Florida Statutes require the Florida Public Service Commission to allow recovery of all prudent reuse costs in customer rates, which may be allocated among the utilities' water, wastewater, or reuse customers, or any combination thereof; and

Whereas, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and the water management districts have formally agreed to assist the Florida Public Service Commission in rate cases in the proper evaluation of reuse issues and the resulting costs, and promote customer acceptance of reuse through expert testimony at formal hearings, and at informal customer meetings; and

Whereas, Congress established pollution prevention as a national objective in the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 and the EPA includes increased efficiency in the use of water as part of a new environmental ethic; and

Whereas, the EPA, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the state's water management districts have participated in the funding of water reuse systems in Florida and all Participating Agencies have encouraged and promoted the safe implementation of water reuse in Florida.

Now, therefore, the Participating Agencies resolve to continue to encourage and promote water reuse, to work together to overcome institutional and regulatory disincentives and funding constraints, to ensure protection of public health and environmental quality, and to promote public acceptance of water reuse in Florida.



Use it Again,