



# The Three Rs of Potable Reuse:

## Research, Risks, and Regs

Rocky Mountain Water Reuse Workshop

Golden, Colorado | August 14, 2014

**John Rehring, P.E.**

  
Engineers...Working Wonders With Water™



Drivers for Potable Reuse in  
Colorado and the West

Risks: What's the Big Deal?

Regs: Where are We  
Headed?

Research: Bridging the Gaps





## Drivers for Potable Reuse in Colorado and the West

Risks: What's the Big Deal?

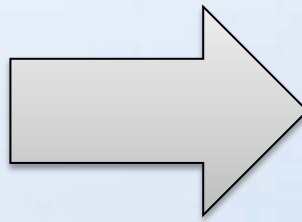
Regs: Where are We Headed?

Research: Bridging the Gaps

# Cultural Shifts are Happening in the Water Industry and in Our Communities

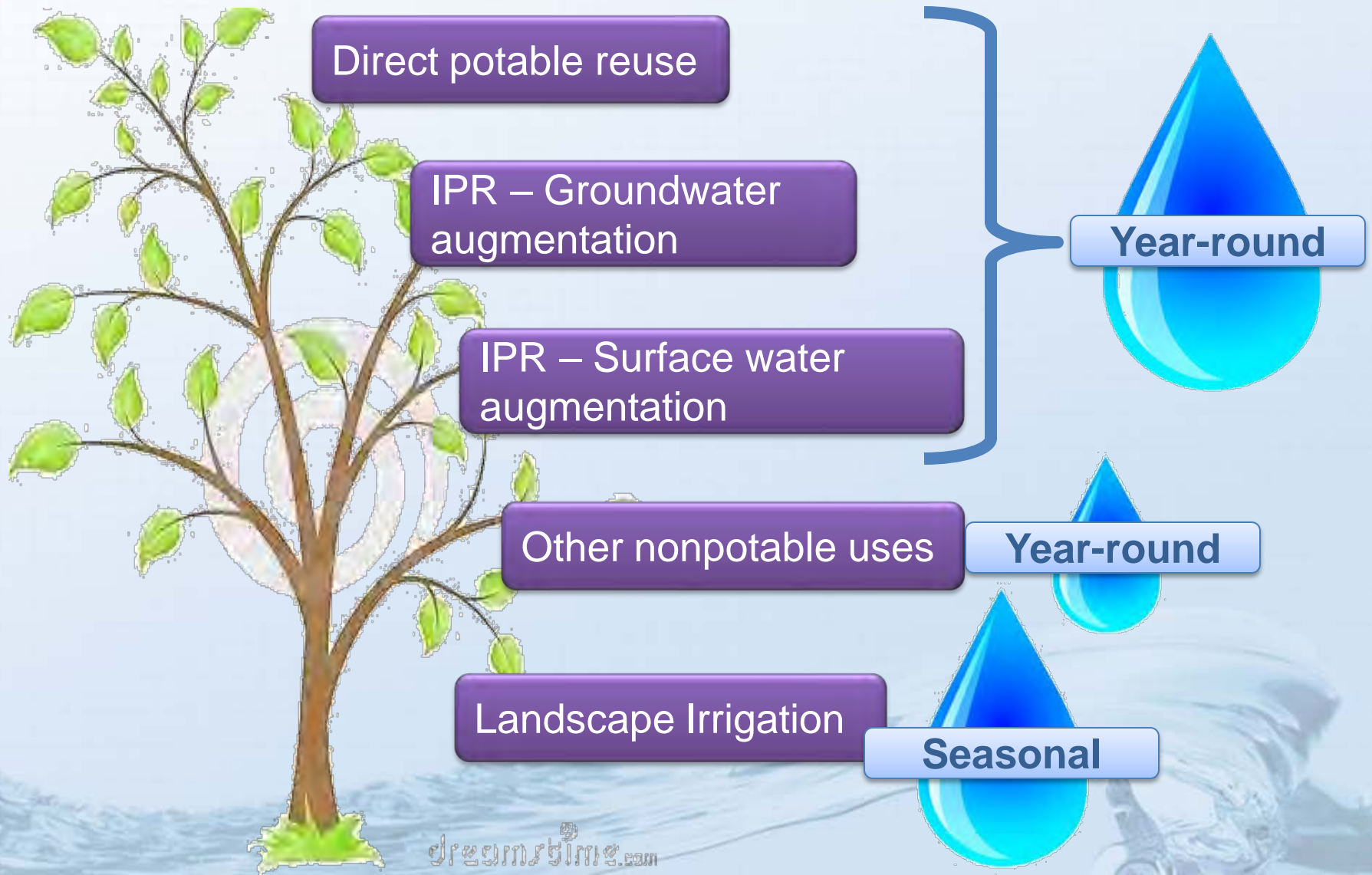


**“WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT”**



**“WATER RECLAMATION”  
AND  
“RESOURCE RECOVERY”**

# Why is POTABLE Reuse Attractive Here?



# IPR has Essentially Become Commonplace

## *Examples of prominent IPR projects*

**San Diego:**  
Reservoir  
Augmentation  
Demonstration

**Aurora:**  
Recapture of  
Return Flows

**Upper  
Occoquan:**  
Surface Water  
Augmentation

**Orange County  
Water District:**  
Groundwater  
Replenishment

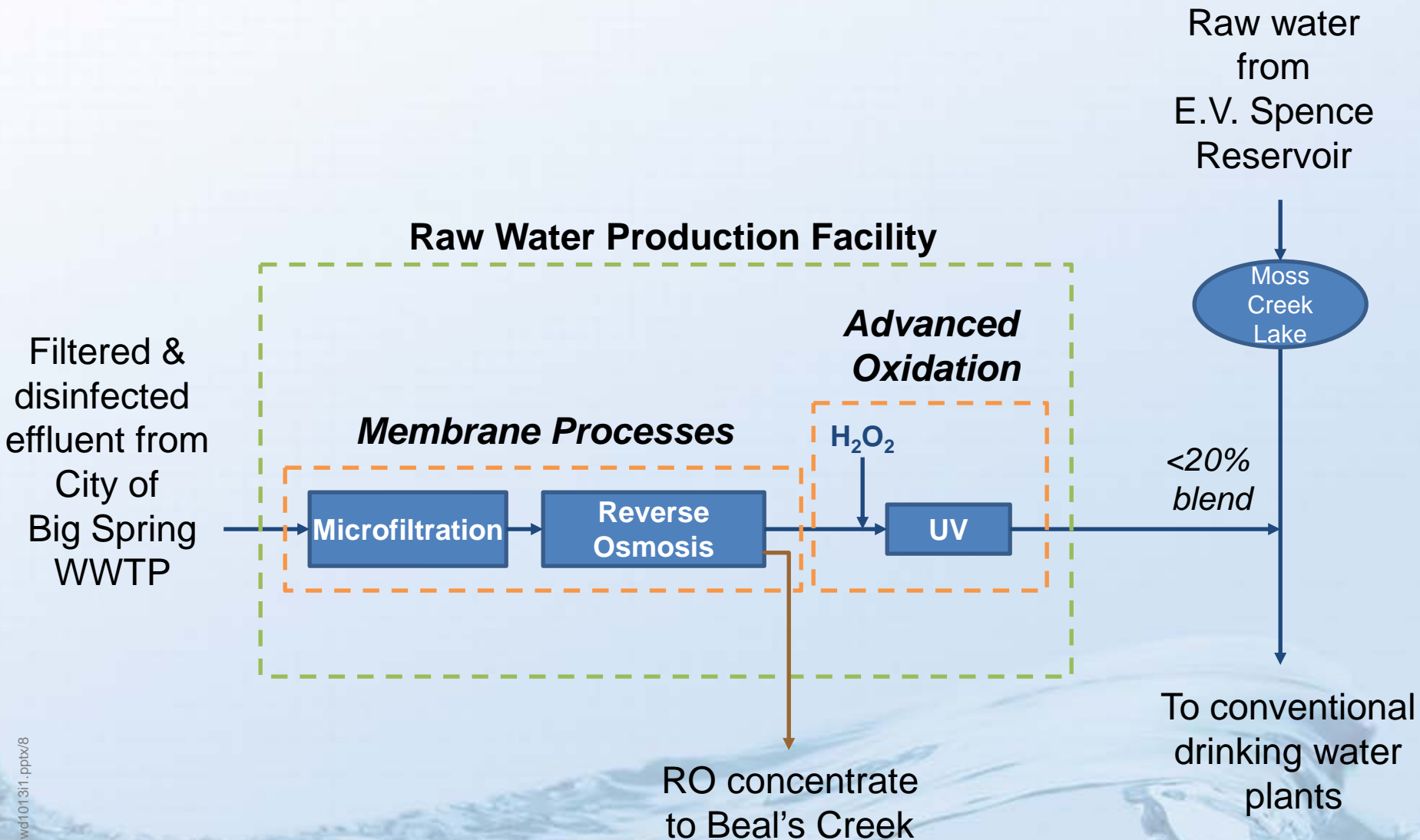
**Gilbert:**  
Groundwater  
Recharge  
Ponds

**NTMWD:**  
Surface Water  
Augmentation

# DPR is Getting “Closer to Home”



# “Raw Water Production Facility” in Big Spring, TX





Drivers for Potable Reuse in  
Colorado and the West

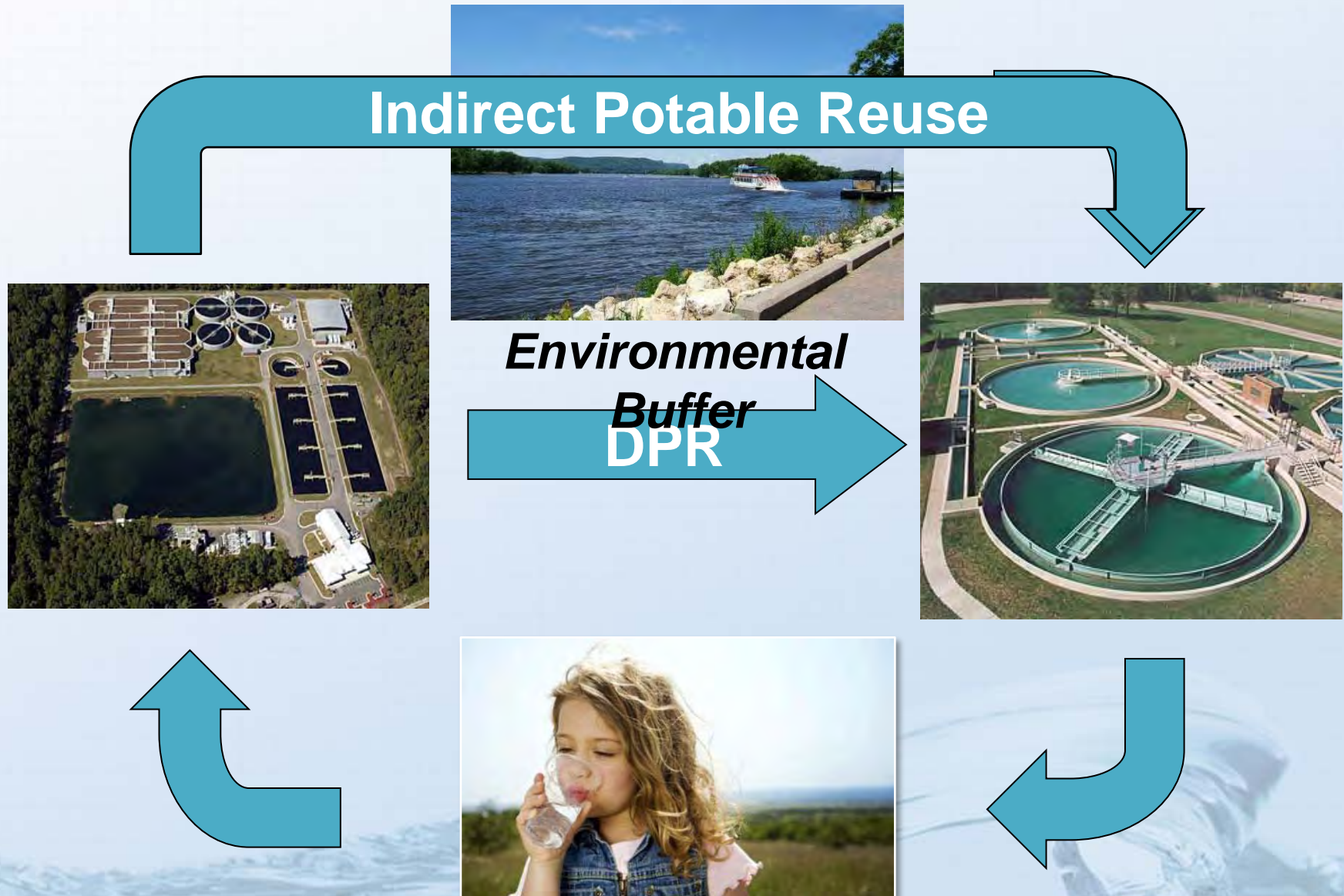
Risks: What's the Big Deal?

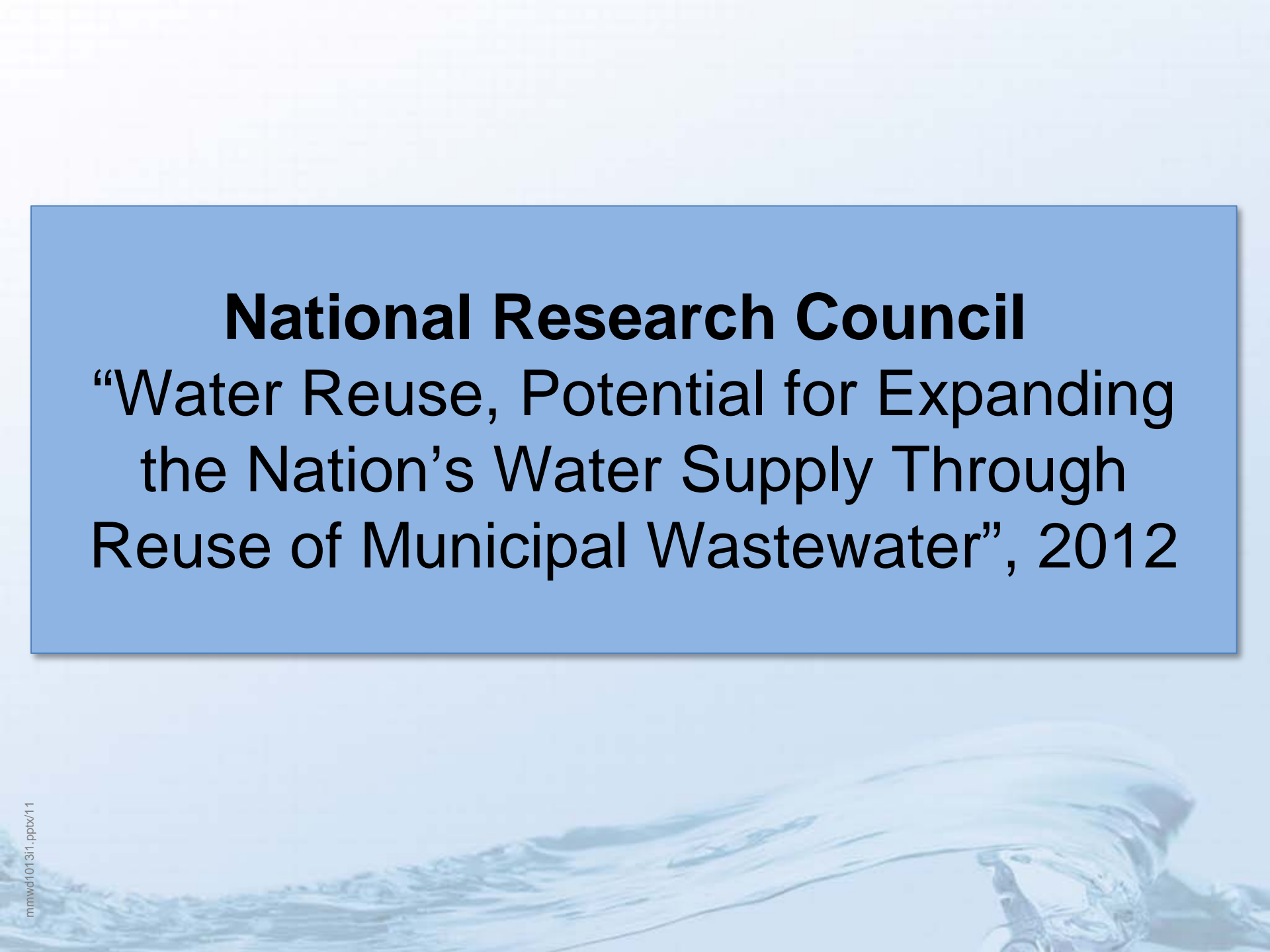
Regs: Where are We  
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# Potable Reuse

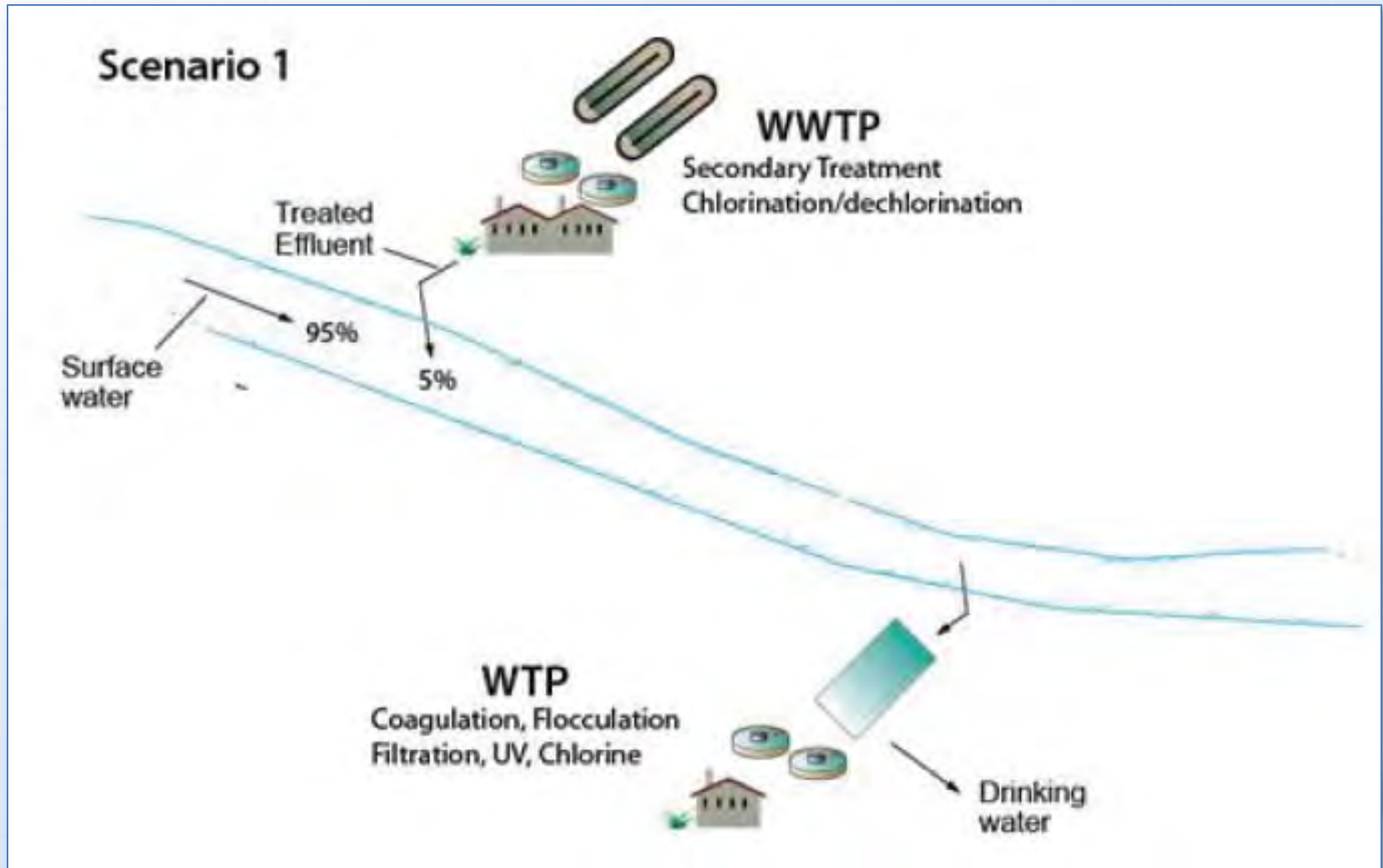


The background of the slide features a close-up, high-speed photograph of water splashing, creating a dynamic and textured surface. The water is captured in mid-motion, with droplets and ripples visible, giving it a sense of energy and movement. The overall color palette is light blue and white, which complements the text and the theme of water.

# **National Research Council**

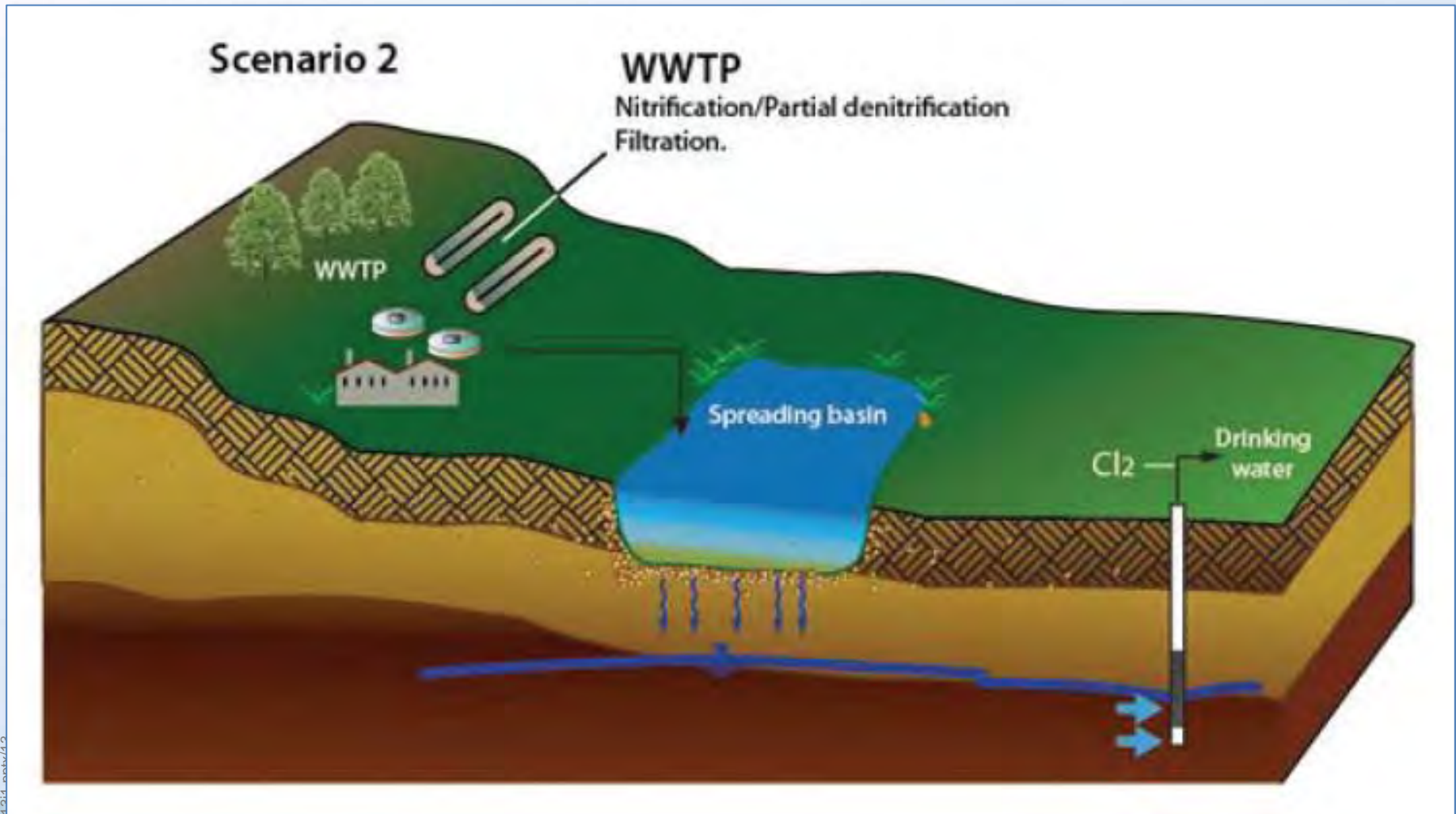
## **“Water Reuse, Potential for Expanding the Nation’s Water Supply Through Reuse of Municipal Wastewater”, 2012**

# Three risk scenarios examined

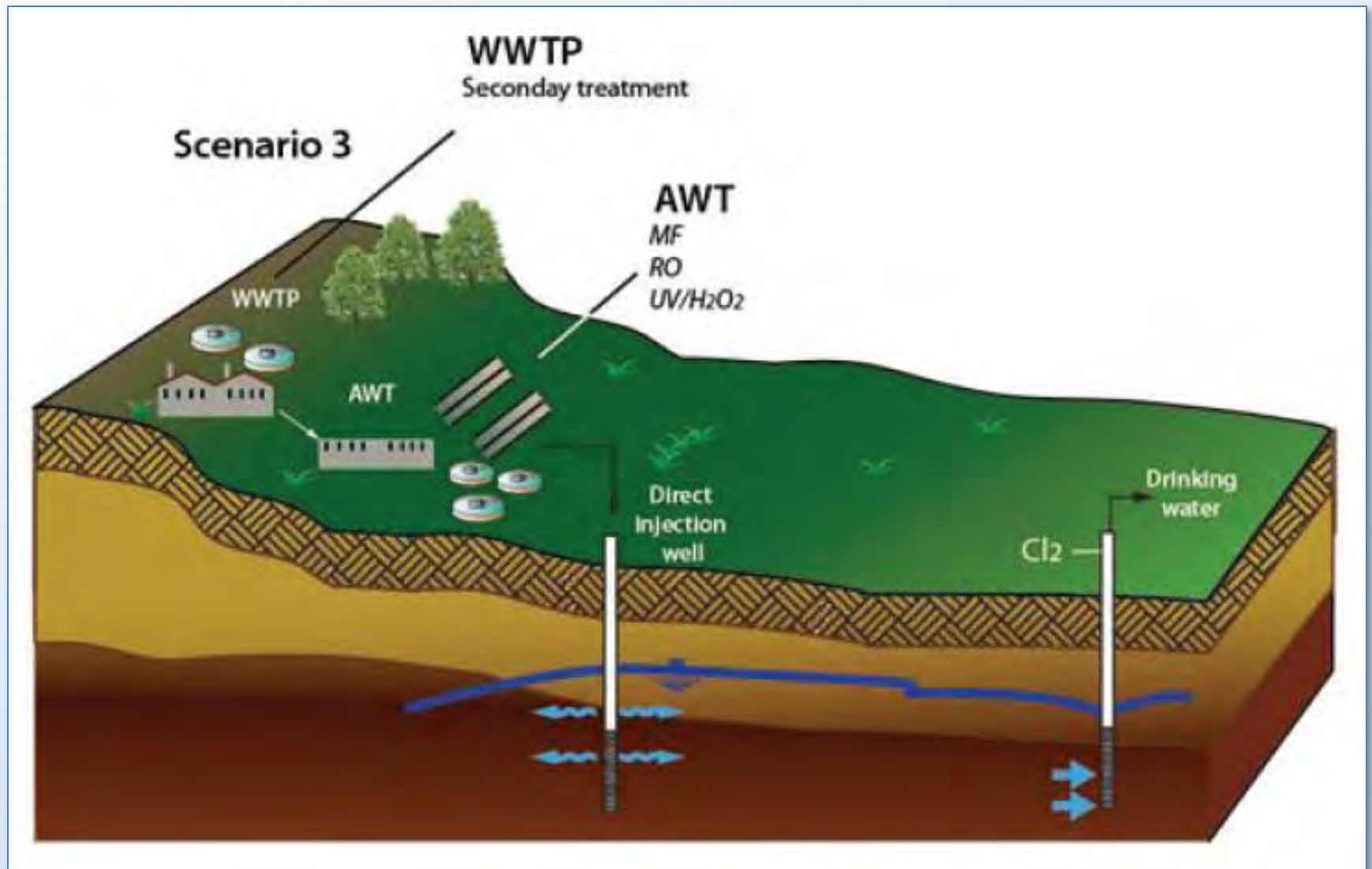


NRC 2012

# Three risk scenarios examined

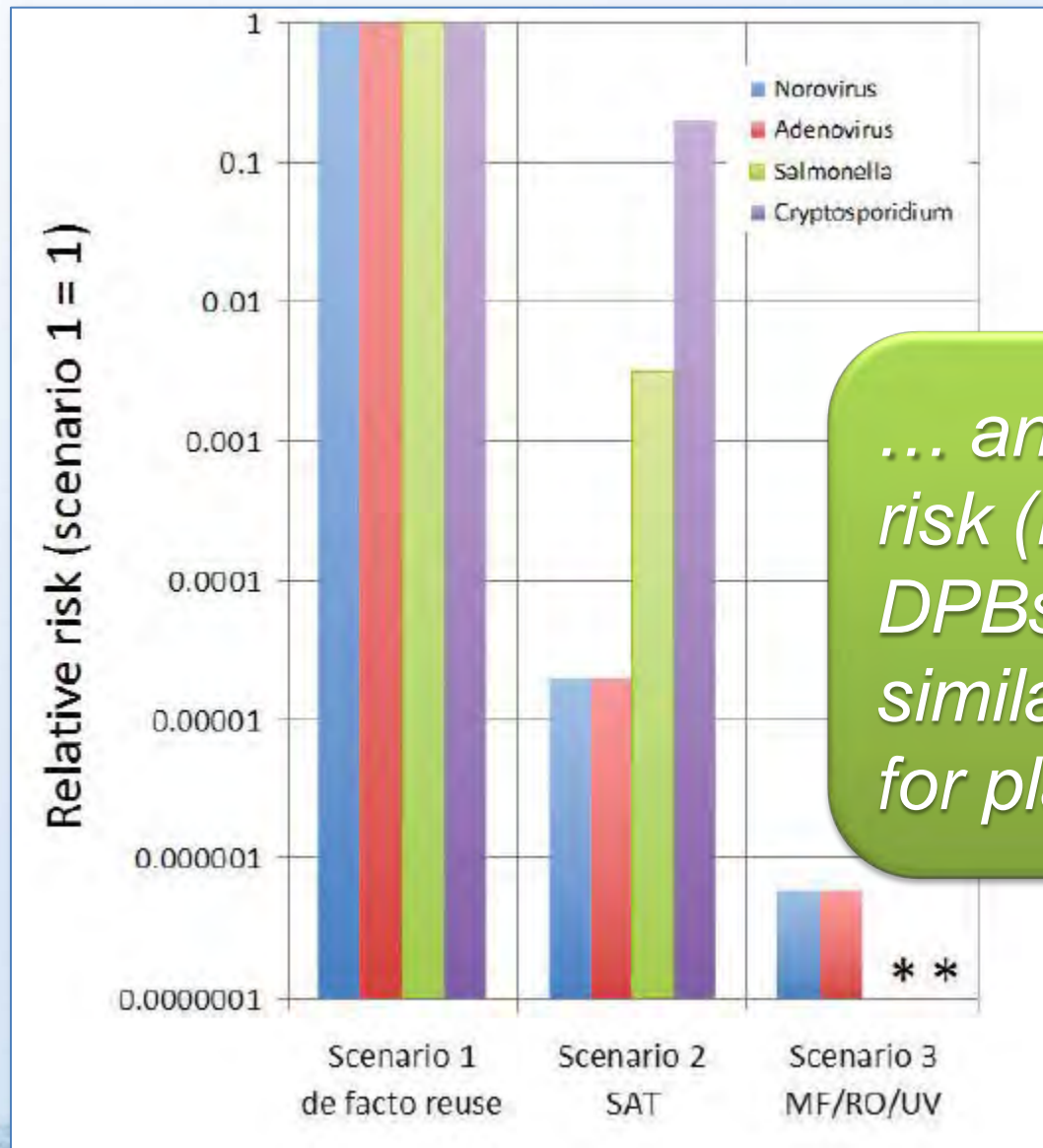


# Three risk scenarios examined



NRC 2012

# Pathogen risk lowest for planned IPR



*... and chemical risk (NDMA, DPBs, etc.) was similar or lower for planned IPR*

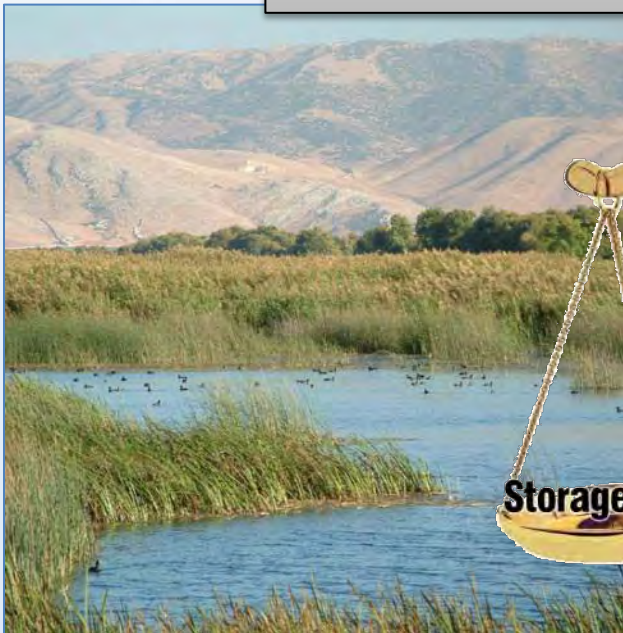
# GOING FROM INDIRECT TO DIRECT POTABLE REUSE

# IPR vs. DPR: Natural vs. engineered buffers

Response Retention Time (RRT)

Treatment

Perception



Storage Time

Long RRTs  
possible  
(months)

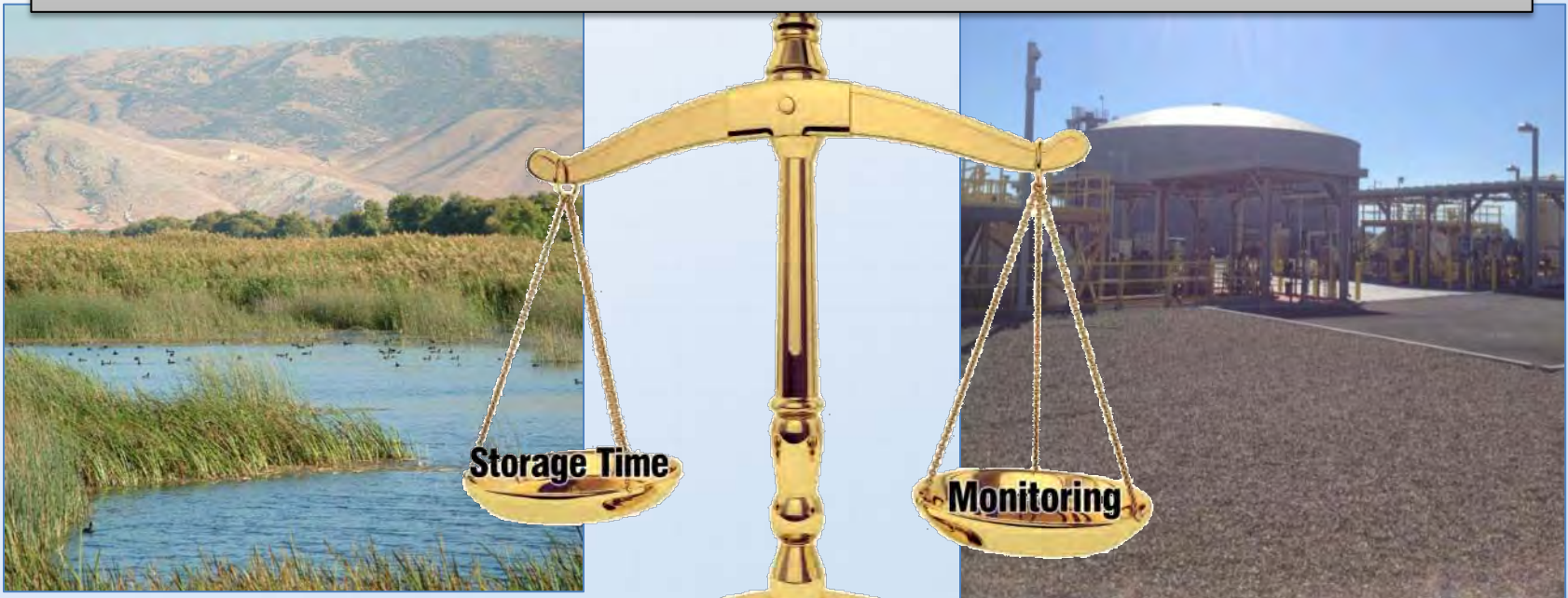


Monitoring

Shorter RRTs  
required  
(hours – days)

# How do we Compensate for Reduced RRT?

Additional monitoring and/or  
**Additional (redundant) treatment**  
-- anywhere along the overall treatment train --



Long RRTs  
possible  
(months)

Shorter RRTs  
required  
(hours – days)

# Problem Statement -

## Different ways to ask the same question:



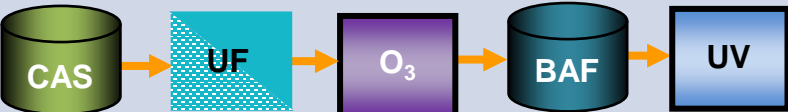
- How does DPR fit within the current regulatory “gap” between:
  - Wastewater treatment regulations (CWA etc.)
  - Drinking water treatment regulations (SDWA etc.)
- How does DPR fit within the context of existing practices:
  - Indirect potable reuse
  - *de facto* reuse
- ***Or – what must be done to wastewater to transform it into a raw water suitable for potable water treatment?***

# Opinions diverge on treatment goals for DPR... or do they?

- California Department of Public Health (IPR):
  - 12-log virus
  - 10-log *Giardia*
  - 10-log *Crypto*
- WaterReuse Research Foundation (11-02):
  - 12-log enteric virus
  - 10-log *Crypto* (*Giardia* implied)
  - 9-log bacteria
- Texas: case-by-case
  - Use wastewater effluent as a starting point
  - Baseline requirements:
    - 8- or 9-log virus
    - 6-log *Giardia*
    - 5.5-log *Crypto*

***Everyone (in the US)  
Agrees on the Potable  
End Goal!***

# We know that treatment trains can meet those goals

Treatment Train	Virus	Crypto	Total Coliform
	15	12	18
	15	13	18
	14	11	16
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

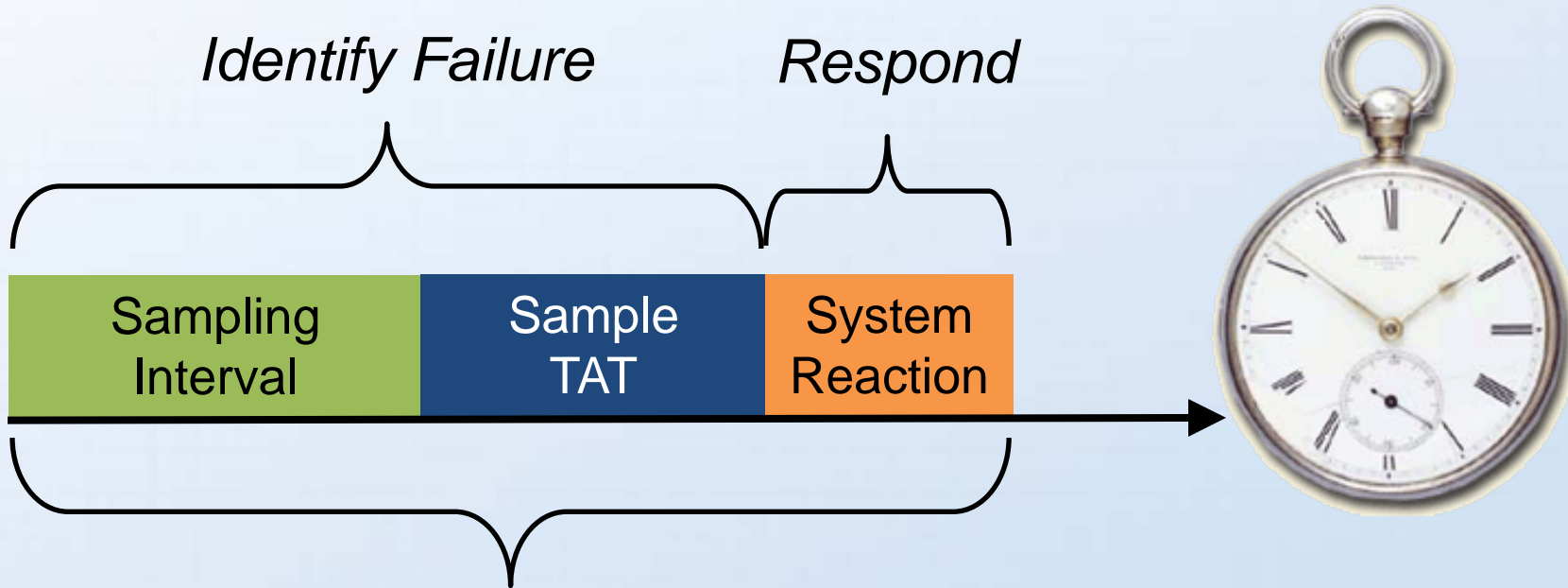
# But what if a process fails?

Treatment Train	Virus	Crypto	Total Coliform
	<del>15</del> <b>9</b>	<del>15</del> <b>6</b>	<del>15</del> <b>12</b>
	15	13	18
	14	11	16
<b>GOALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>

# Monitoring technology limits options

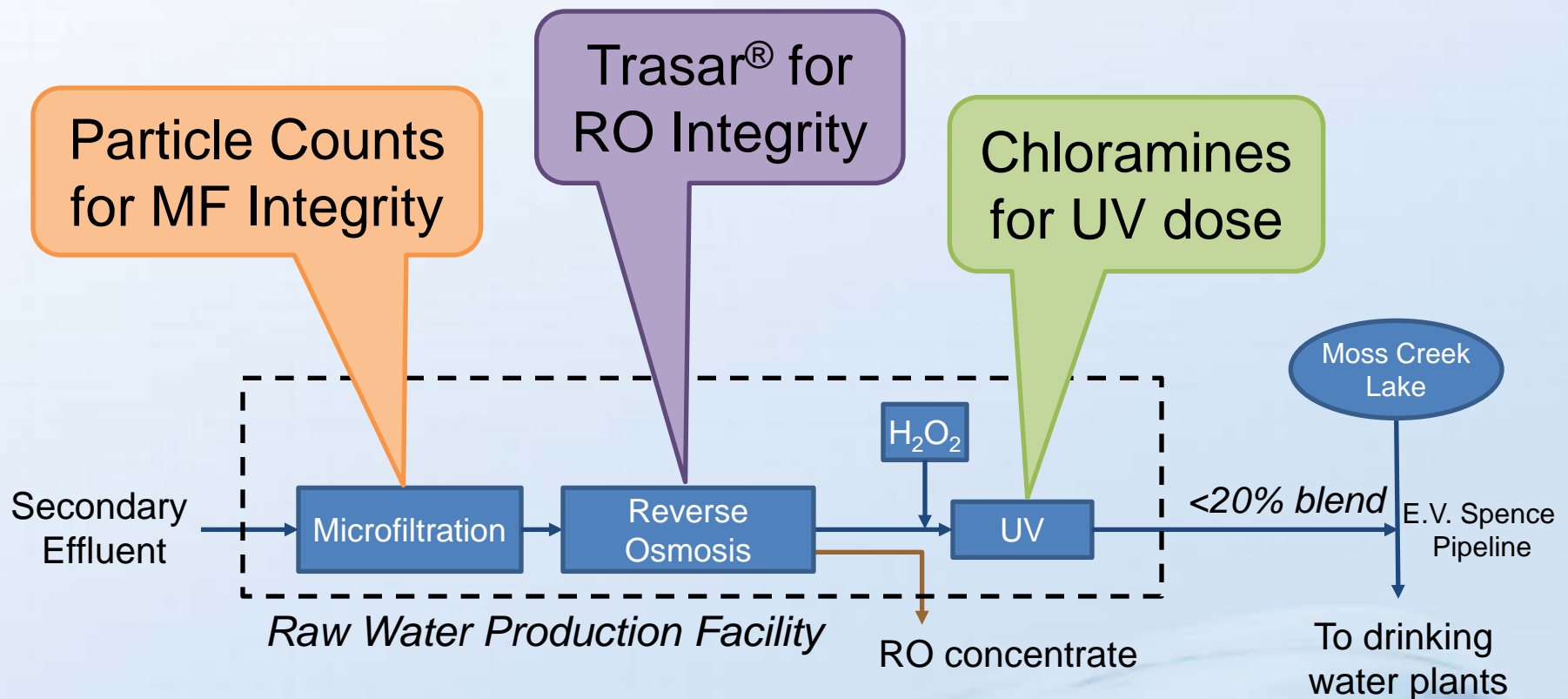


# Failure Response Time



*Failure Response Time (FRT) for one process*

# Monitoring study at Big Spring will demonstrate some new monitoring tools



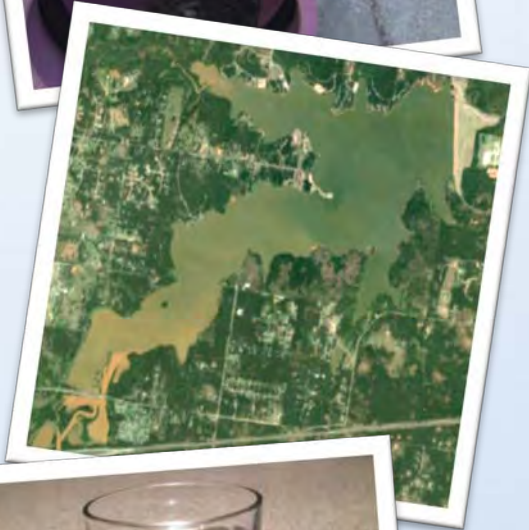


Drivers for Potable Reuse in Colorado and the West

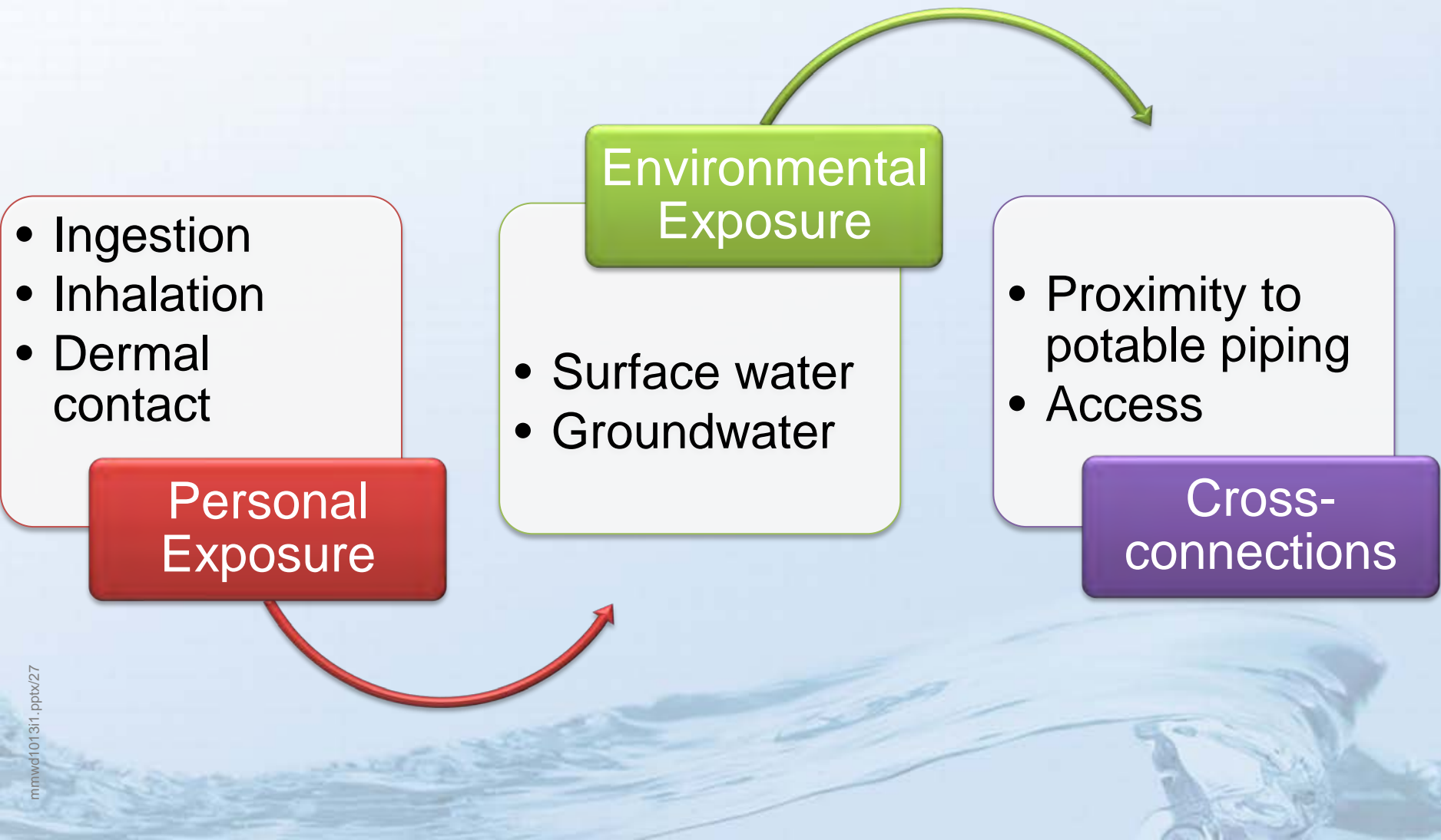
Risks: What's the Big Deal?

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# Non-potable Reuse Regs Mitigate Risks In Part by Avoiding Ingestion



# Potable Reuse Regulations: A Whole New Set of Challenges

Contaminants  
of Emerging  
Concern

Reliability

Sensitive Water  
Supply

Monitoring &  
Treatment  
Technologies

  
 $CWA + SDWA = IPR$

$CWA + SDWA = DPR$



**NWRI-NSF Direct Potable Reuse  
Treatment Workshop (July 2014):**

*The CWA and SDWA were not  
intended to be used for DPR.*

# IPR Regulatory Approach Options

## *Prescriptive*

- Specify water quality requirements, removal efficiencies
- Specify treatment technologies and reliability/ redundancy
- Provide process for variances

## *Performance*

- Specify water quality requirements
  - Rely on existing NPDES discharge and SDWA requirement
- 
- Confidence in technology and performance
  - Provides “belt & suspenders”
  - Doesn’t easily accommodate evolving technologies
- 
- Sufficient for “de facto” IPR (unplanned downstream)
  - Streamlined permitting and enforcement
  - Typically not geared toward emerging contaminants

ELEMENTS

CONSIDERATIONS

# California's New Groundwater Replenishment Regs Spell Out Key Requirements

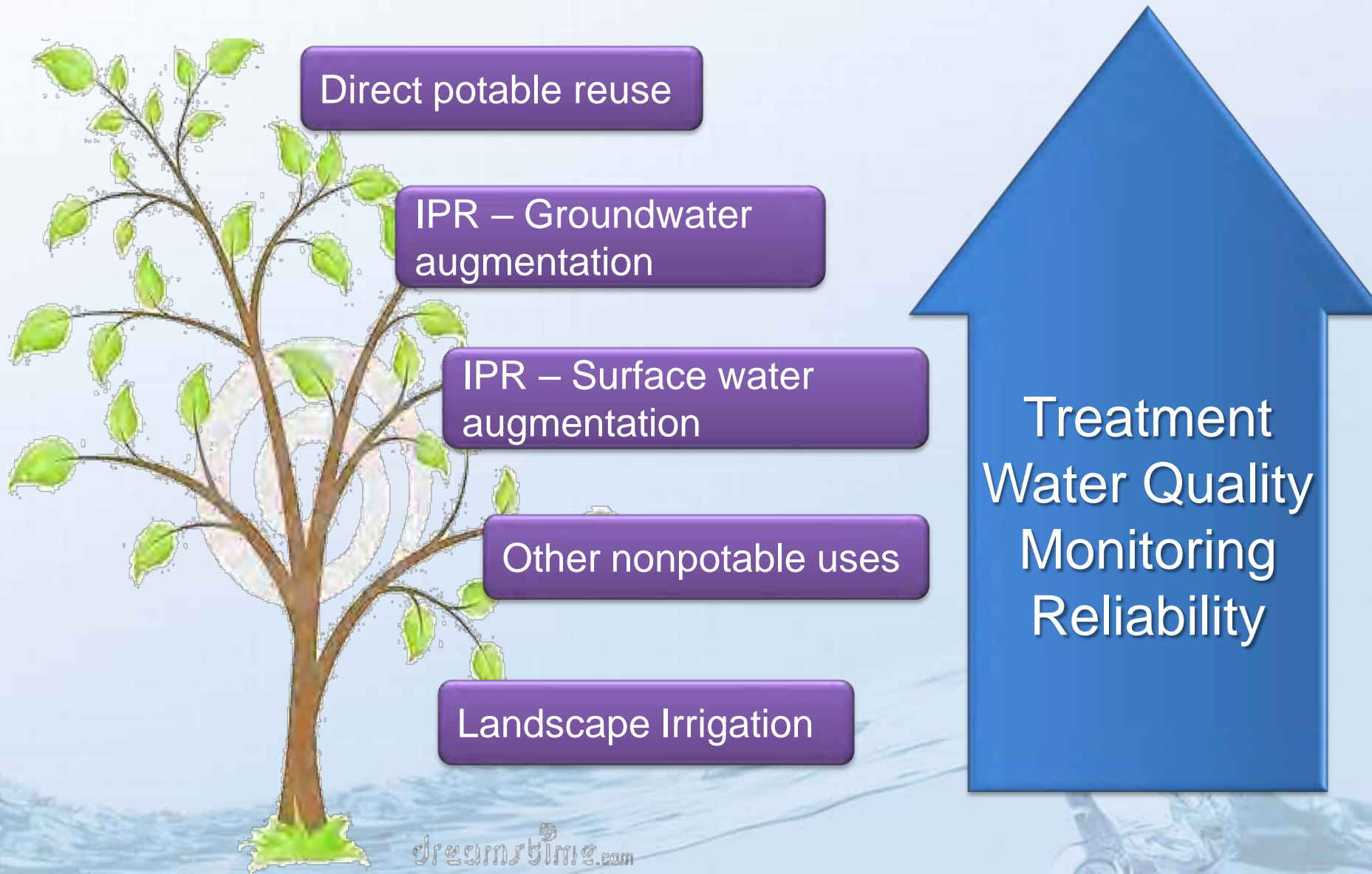
## Treatment & Quality

- Filtered, disinfected tertiary water
- 12/10/10 log reduction for enteric virus, Giardia, and Crypto
- Total nitrogen <10 mg/L
- Others < MCL or AL
- RO for injection systems

## Requirements and Credits

- <20% recycled water contribution relative to diluent water
- Virus reduction credits for every 1 month in GW storage
- Monitoring wells required

# Regulatory Development Reflects Interest and Demand for Reuse





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Caffeine



Ethynyl estradiol



DEET



Flame  
Retardants



Triclosan



Surfactants



Bisphenol-a

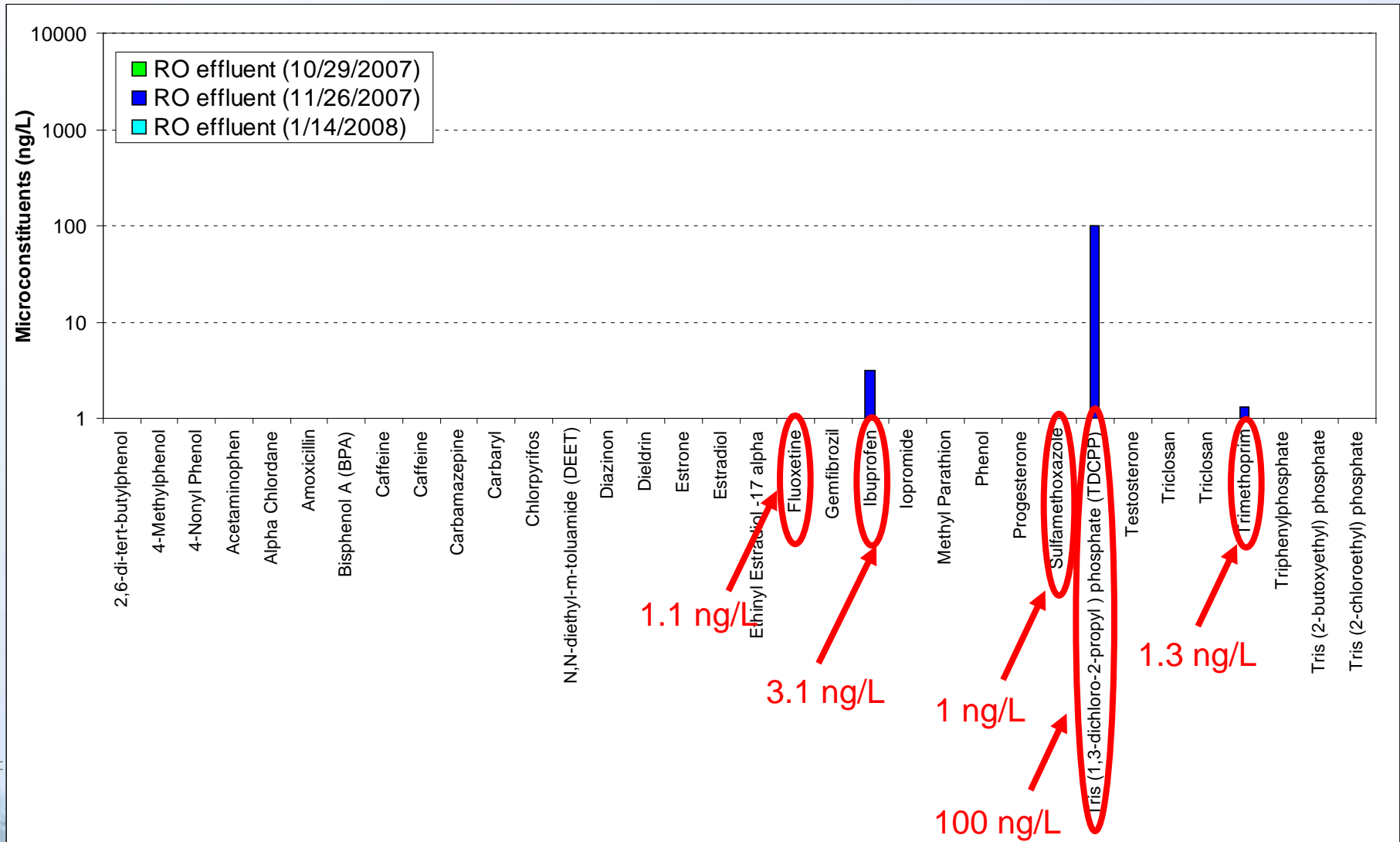
**WRRF 06019  
details membrane  
treatment and  
biological  
effluent impacts  
of TOrCs in  
reclaimed water**



**Monitoring for Microconstituents in  
an Advanced Wastewater Treatment  
Facility and Modeling Discharge of  
Reclaimed Water to Surface Canals  
for Indirect Potable Use**

**WaterReuse Research Foundation**

# Nearly all TOrCs were removed by RO membranes



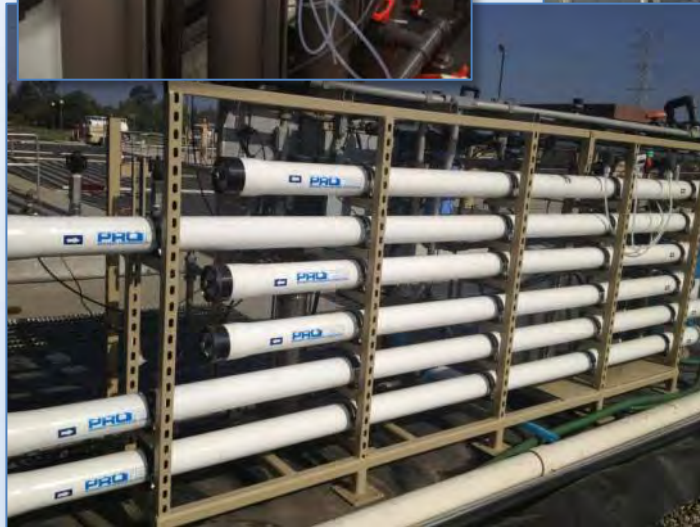
# **WRRF 02009 details advanced oxidation treatment of TOrCs and pathogens in reclaimed water**



**Study of Innovative Treatments  
for Reclaimed Water**

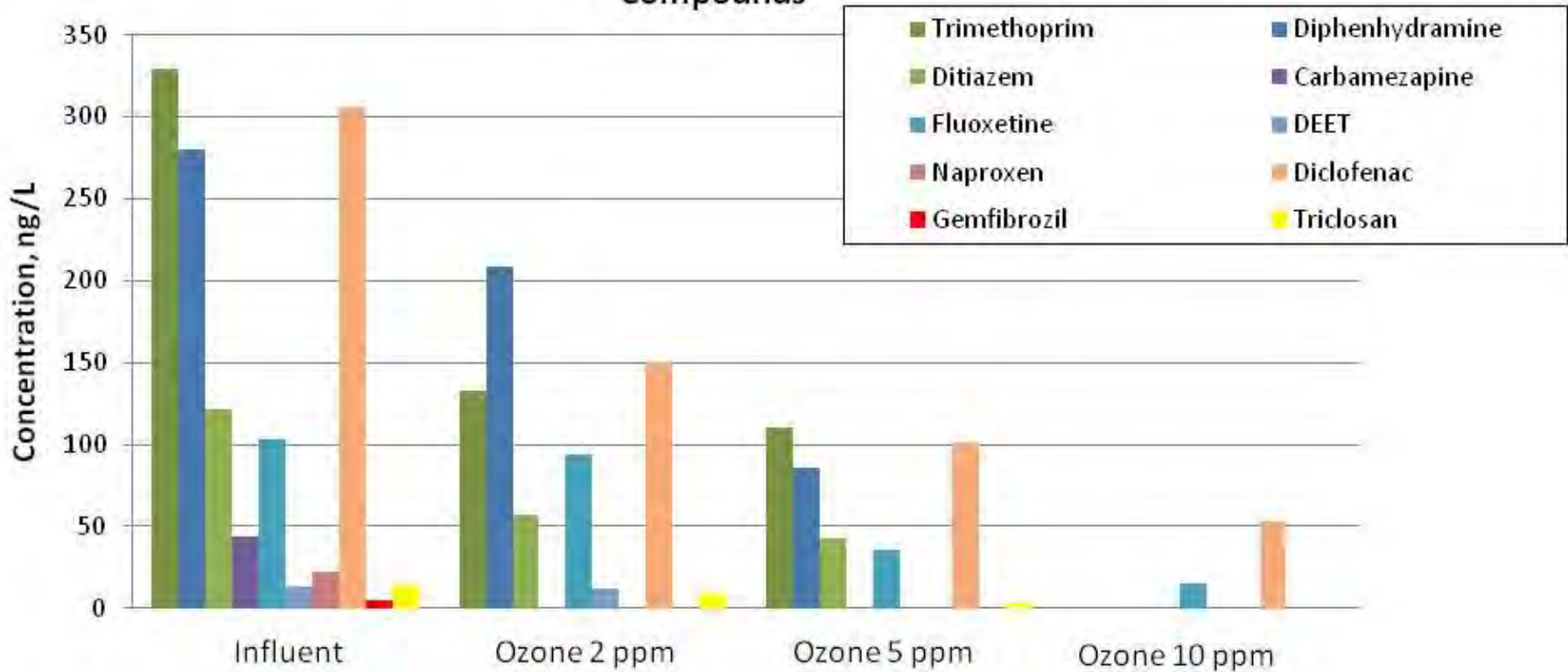
**WaterReuse Research Foundation**

# Wide range of technologies under analysis



# Large database being developed for trace organics removal efficiency

Well Oxidized (75% Destruction) at Ozone 10 ppm - Low Concentration  
Compounds



**WRRF 11-10 is  
the first step  
into how to  
safely  
implement DPR**

## **Application of Risk Reduction Principles to Direct Potable Reuse**

Anders Salveson  
Evan Mackey  
Corallo Engineers, Inc.

Marlene Salveson  
California State University, Sacramento

Michael Flynn  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration

**In Publication**



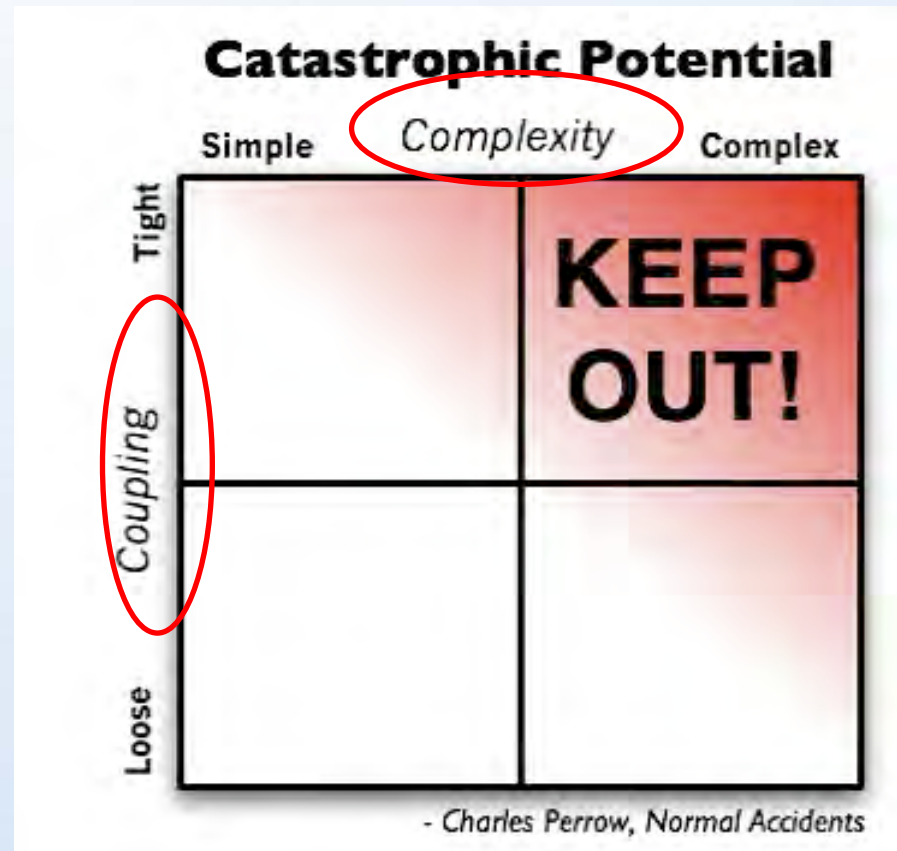
WaterReuse Research Foundation  
Alexandria, VA

# **Project Goal – “A critical initial evaluation of DPR, including treatment, monitoring, and operation.”**

- Identify important weak points in the advanced treatment process train.
- Look at how and when we can manage these risks.

# Lessons learned

- Look for opportunities to make things simpler and/or less tightly coupled.
- Control potential failure points relative to their risk.
- Monitoring is key.
- For personnel:
  - Training, training, training.
  - SOPs for critical failure events.



# WRRF 11-02, finding lower cost treatment for potable reuse

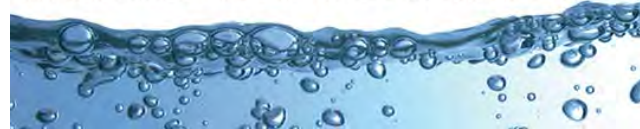
- WateReuse Research Foundation Project 11-02  
*“Equivalency of Advanced Treatment Trains for Direct Potable Reuse”*

**Trussell**  
TECHNOLOGIES INC

**WATER REUSE**  
RESEARCH

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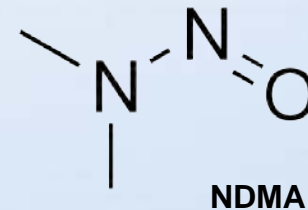
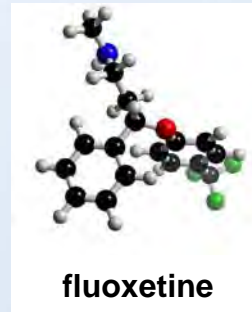
National Water Research Institute



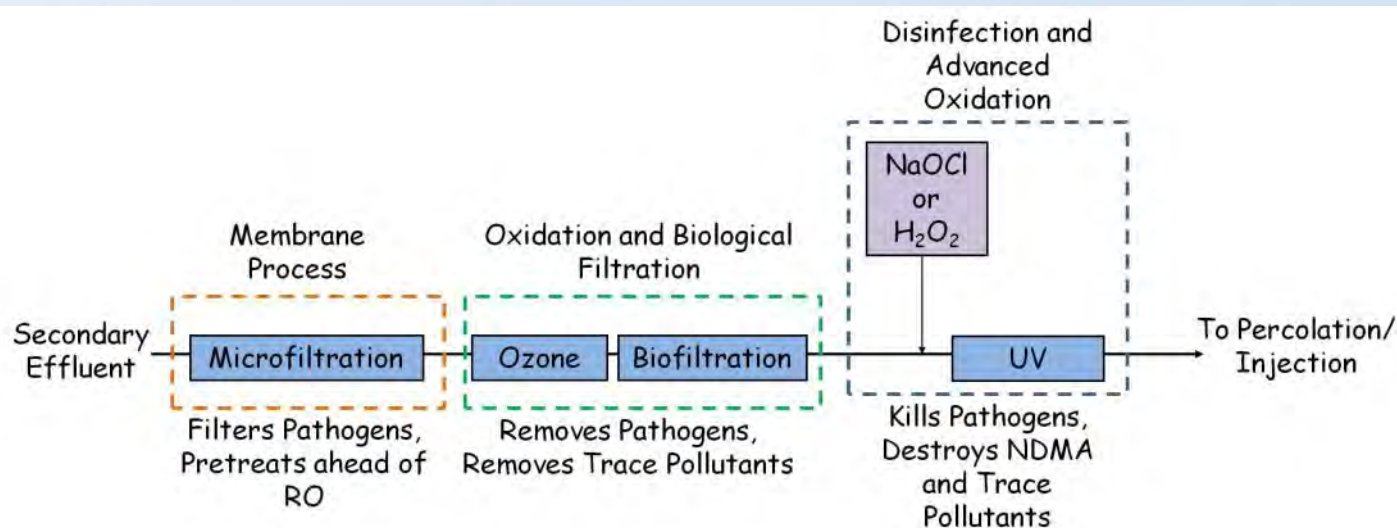
# Overall Goal: How do we make DPR safe?

## WRRF Project 11-02 Addresses Two Key Questions:

1. What level of treatment must we achieve?

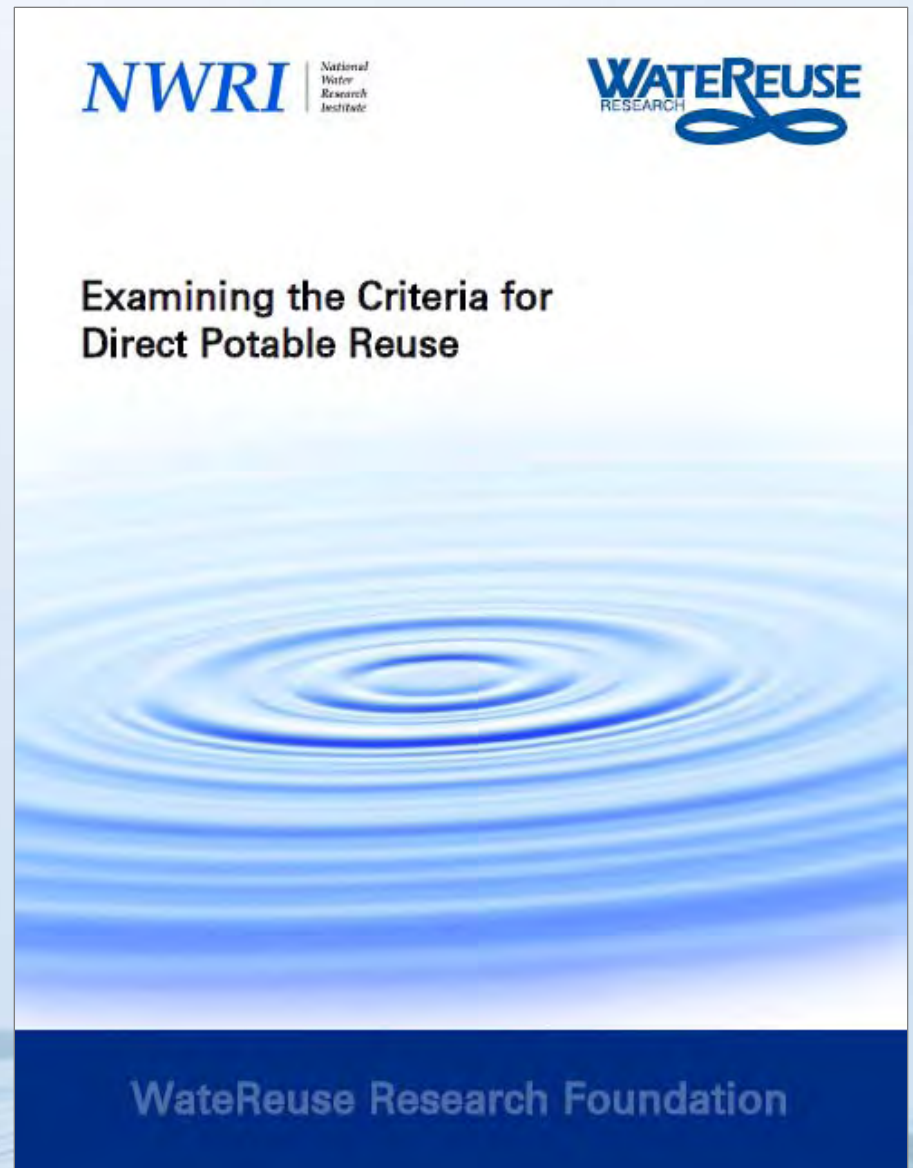


2. How can we achieve that level of treatment?



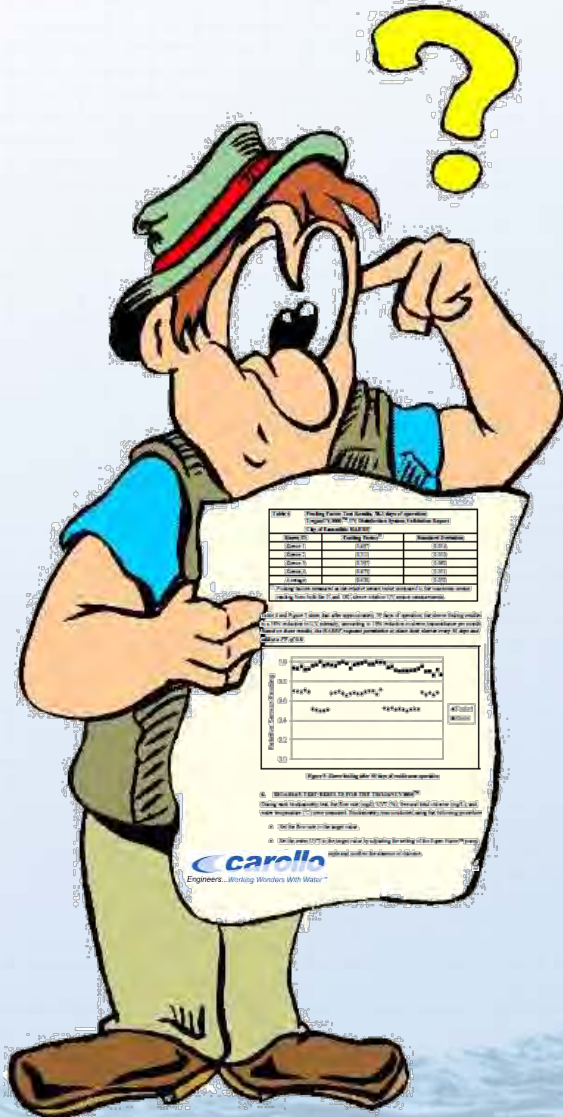
# WRRF 11-02 Panel Report specifies treatment goals

- From Raw Wastewater to Potable Water
  - 12-log virus
  - 9-log bacteria
  - 10-log protozoa



# Now we have all this information, but what do we do with it?

And... can we achieve  
the desired removals  
without reverse osmosis?



**Integrated Treatment Train Toolbox**  
**Potable Reuse**  
**IT3<sup>PR</sup>**

**WATER REUSE**  
RESEARCH

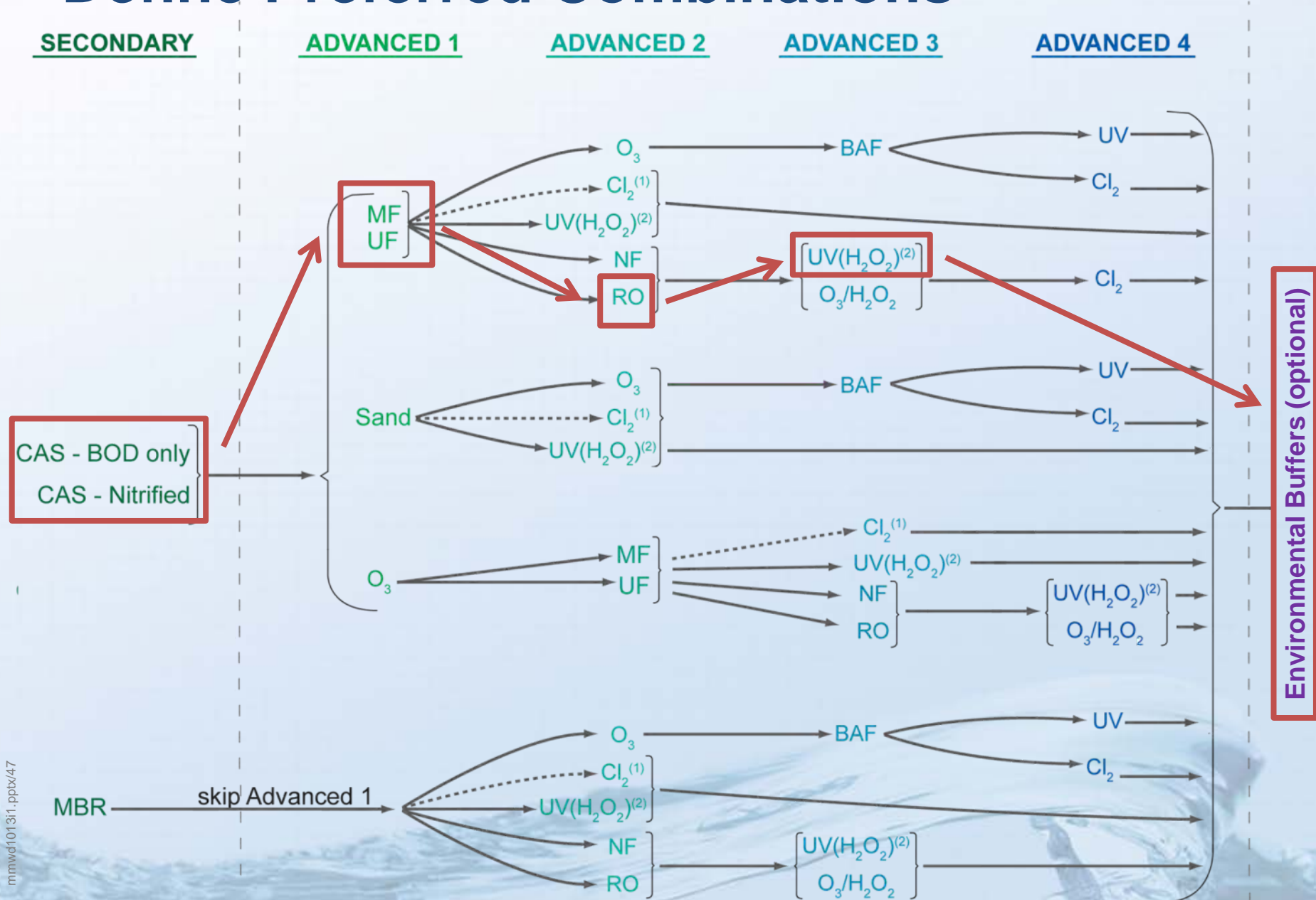
**carollo**  
Engineers...Working Wonders With Water™

**T**

# Step 1: Define “Performance Parameters”

Parameter	Removal Goal
<b>Microbial</b>	
Virus ( <i>MS-2 bacteriophage</i> )	> 12-log
Protozoa ( <i>Cryptosporidium</i> )	> 10-log
Bacteria (Total Coliform)	> 9-log
<b>Chemical</b>	
Trace Organic Compounds	< 1 ug/L
Estradiol Equivalency (EEQ)	< 5 ng/L
N-nitrosodimethylamine NDMA)	< 10 ng/L

# Define Preferred Combinations



# Work Through the Excel Interface for Results



**Integrated Treatment Train Toolbox**  
Potable Reuse

IT<sup>3</sup>PR



**DRAFT**

SELECT YOUR TREATMENT TRAIN:

Secondary Treatment

Conventional Activated Sludge - Nutrient Removal

SRT 7 days

Advanced 1

MF

Advanced 2

RO

Advanced 3

UV/H2O2

UV Dose 250 mJ/cm2

Advanced 4

None

Optional Environmental Buffers

Direct Injection (Subsurface Migration Only)

Travel Time 6 months

Selected Treatment Train:

	Treatment Goal	Influent Water	Effluent Water	Total Achieved Removal	Performance	
Bacteria	9-log			20.5-log	✓	meets criteria
Virus	12-log			18.5-log	✓	meets criteria
Protozoa (Crypto)	10-log			18.0-log	✓	meets criteria
EEQ	50%	10 ng/L	0.1 ng/L	99.0%	✓	meets criteria
TORCs	80%	5 ug/L	.08 ug/L	98.5%	✓	meets criteria
NDMA	90%	100 ng/L	10.0 ng/L	90.0%	⚠	minimally meets criteria

**CA-style FAT for IPR**

# Latest WaterRF DPR Research Assesses a Range of Blending Approaches

- Secondary Effluent with Raw Water
- Purified Water with Raw Water
- Purified Water with Finished Water
- ...and interactions in between.



# Path Forward for Potable Reuse

Progress will be a function of...

Scarcity /  
Options

Provider  
Interest

Technology  
& Costs

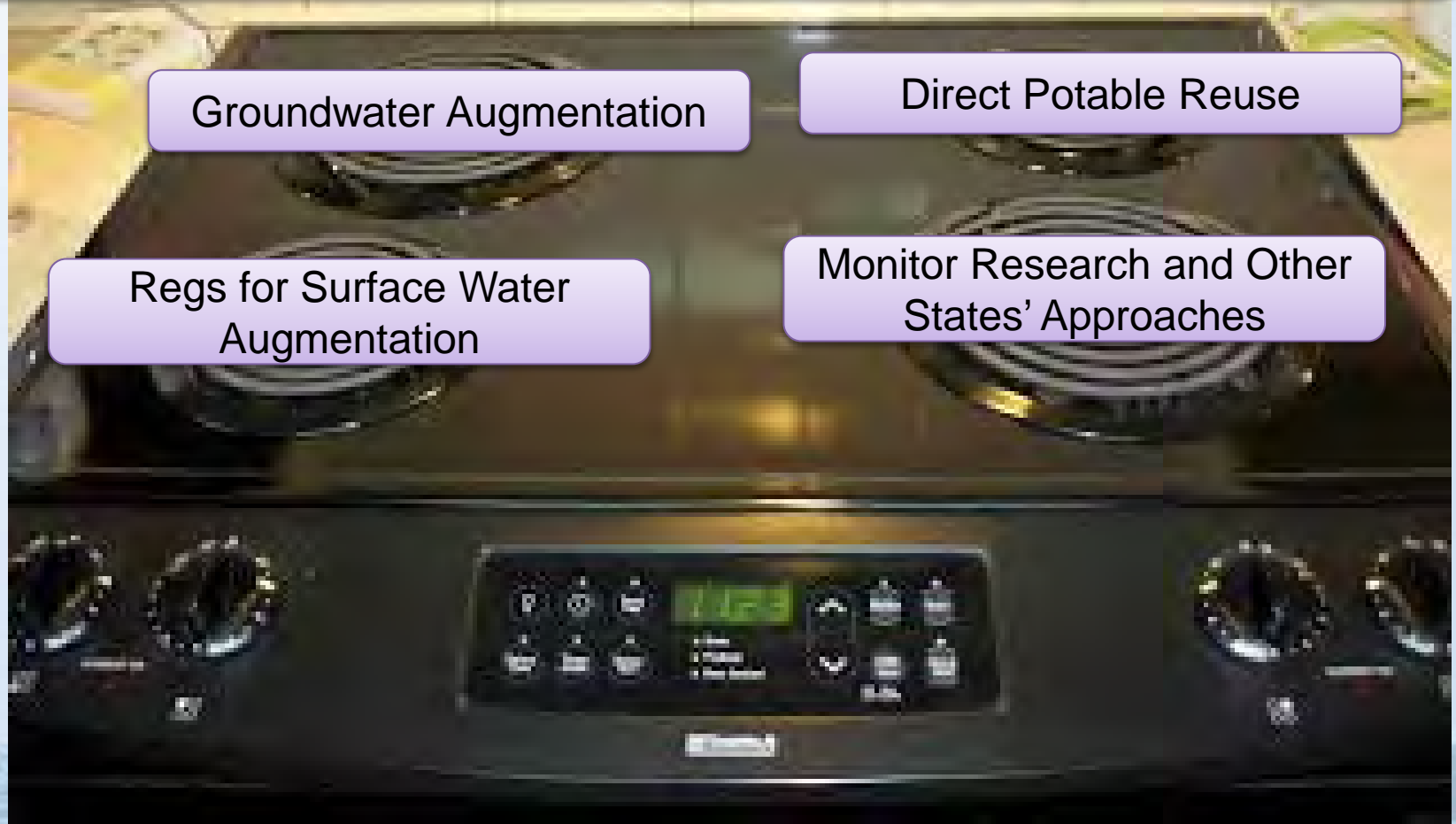
Public  
Acceptance

Groundwater Augmentation

Direct Potable Reuse

Regs for Surface Water  
Augmentation

Monitor Research and Other  
States' Approaches





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## Research, Risks, and Regs

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