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## **Principles Related to Alternative Sources of Water Supply and On-site Non-Potable Water Systems**

The WaterReuse Association (WRA) recognizes a range of water reuse practices, including involving the use of alternative water sources, can assist communities in addressing local water management challenges as part of an integrated water management strategy. WRA also recognizes that these practices may have additional benefits beyond enhancing water supply and improving water quality, such as reducing impacts from flooding and/or peak wet weather events, and building resilient communities to address water-related challenges due to climate change. WRA's advocacy related to these practices will focus on identifying and promoting the benefits of alternative water sources, such as offsetting existing water supply needs, helping meet new water supply demands, addressing water quality issues, or providing open space or habitat.

Alternative sources of water supply support various applications, and beyond the widely accepted practice of recycling municipal wastewater, alternative sources of water supply may include captured stormwater, harvested rainwater, agricultural runoff, industrial wastewater, and graywater, and under appropriate conditions, blackwater produced by buildings and commercial facilities. These alternative water sources have variable water quality and depending upon the specific scenario, these may be processed on-site for non-potable purposes using treatment systems serving one (or more) commercial or multi-residential buildings, or they may be treated and used conjunctively with recycled water. As WRA members (and others in their communities) seek to develop projects that incorporate alternative sources of water supply, the following principles are recommended to guide these practices:

1. WRA supports research into and the development of appropriate water quality criteria for the various end uses of alternative water sources and performance criteria for on-site non-potable water treatment systems to ensure the protection of public health and the environment. Overall, WRA's advocacy in this area will be guided by a "fit-for-purpose" philosophy, such that regulations and appropriate levels of treatment account for specific characteristics of the alternative water source, and are tailored to the intended uses for the alternative water supply;
2. Every community or region has unique water resource management challenges, and decisions related to adoption and/or implementation of projects that incorporate alternative water supply sources and/or practices should remain at the local level;
3. Use of alternative water sources and on-site non-potable water systems should complement existing centralized reuse systems and enhance the overall water management goals of a community, and should also take into account State water rights laws that may apply, depending on the project type;

4. Sponsors of projects that leverage alternative water sources or that involve on-site non-potable water systems are encouraged to coordinate efforts with existing centralized wastewater, water recycling and drinking water systems to ensure that potential adverse impacts to these centralized systems are, to the extent feasible, avoided and/or mitigated. WRA recognizes that potential adverse impacts to centralized systems may include reduced flows, declining revenues and/or increased concentrations of wastewater characteristics (such as TSS and BOD) and contaminants in effluent, among other issues; and,
5. Communities evaluating projects that integrate alternative water supply elements should carefully consider issues regarding a project sponsor's ability to sustainably and properly operate and maintain these systems to protect public health and the environment.

Within these principles, WRA will seek opportunities to express support for the use of alternative sources of water and deployment of on-site non-potable treatment systems through sharing of information and educational materials, technical assistance, research, and policy advocacy.

Adopted by WateReuse Board of Directors  
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