



February 26, 2019

The Honorable Bill Quirk
California State Assembly
State Capitol Room 2163
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 292 (Quirk) Potable Reuse Terminology - SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Quirk:

On behalf of Water Reuse California, I am writing to thank you for introducing AB 292 (Quirk). The measure will eliminate the confusing and sometimes misleading terms "indirect" and "direct" from potable reuse terminology in the statute and, as proposed to be amended, make minor changes to the definition of "Treated Drinking Water Augmentation."

With the passage of AB 574 (Quirk) in 2017, California now has four distinct types of potable reuse projects: "Indirect Potable Reuse for Groundwater Recharge", "Reservoir Water Augmentation", and two subcategories for Direct Potable Reuse: "Raw Water Augmentation" and "Treated Drinking Water Augmentation." With the more precise definitions added by AB 574, the terms "indirect" and "direct" only add to confusion about potable reuse and proposed projects. The term "Direct Potable Reuse" also implies that purified recycled water is going directly into the drinking water supply, which is not the case with Raw Water Augmentation projects, and can be detrimental to project understanding. Recently, opponents of a groundwater recharge project in the Central Coast incorrectly labeled the project "Direct Potable Reuse" and the existing language in the statute made this difficult to correct.

Successful potable reuse projects require a great deal of public outreach and education. In general, once the public understands the robust nature of the multi-step purification process they are much more comfortable with potable reuse water. We thank you for introducing AB 292 to eliminate some confusion that will help all project proponents as they work to increase community understanding and comfort level for potable reuse projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer West". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer West
Managing Director

cc: Members, Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
Josh Tooker, Chief Consultant, Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials Committee
Gregory Melkonian Republican Consultant, Env. Safety and Toxic Materials Comm.