**WateReuse Association**

**Stormwater Reuse and On-site Water Recycling Advocacy Principles**

**DRAFT as of 7/16/2018**

The WateReuse Association recognizes that a range of water recycling practices can assist communities in addressing local water management challenges. This includes traditional forms of water reuse, such as advanced treatment of wastewater produced at a centralized treatment system or desalinating ocean water, as well as emerging practices such as capturing and reusing stormwater for either industrial cooling or aquifer recharge, and capturing and reusing graywater via decentralized, on-site treatment systems. As communities consider these various forms of water recycling and as the WateReuse Association undertakes engagement and advocacy on these emerging water recycling approaches, the following principles and rationales will guide our work:

1. WateReuse’s advocacy related to these practices should focus on the benefits of stormwater and on-site reuse wastewater streams as potential sources of water that can augment existing water supply needs.
2. WateReuse recognizes that these practices may also have ancillary benefits in addition to enhancing water supply such as improving water quality by reducing nutrient pollution and managing wet weather events.
3. WateReuse’s advocacy related to these practices should not focus on policy matters related to water quality permitting under the Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination Program (NPDES) or other related regulatory compliance requirements.
4. WateReuse recognizes that each community and region have unique water resource management challenges, and that decisions related to adoption and/or implementation of stormwater or on-site water recycling practices should remain at the local level.
5. Projects that incorporate stormwater and/or on-site recycling approaches should be coordinated with the existing centralized water recycling systems to ensure that these projects do not negatively impact centralized systems.
6. Stormwater and on-site reuse systems should complement existing centralized reuse systems where feasible to enhance the region’s overall water management goals.
7. Stormwater and on-site water recycling programs should comply with public health standards and protect public health.
8. Issues regarding an entity’s ability to sustainably and properly operate and maintain these systems should be carefully considered.

Within this overall advocacy framework, WateReuse will seek opportunities to increase support for stormwater and on-site recycling through sharing of information and educational materials, technical assistance, research, and policy advocacy.