



January 12th, 2023

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Past President
Gilbert Jones
El Paso Water, TX

The Honorable Radhika Fox
Assistant Administrator
Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
William Jefferson Clinton Building
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Radhika:

On behalf of the WateReuse Association (WateReuse), I would like to thank you and your Office of Water team for meeting in-person with the water sector associations to discuss our shared top priorities for 2023.

WateReuse commends EPA's leadership in standing up the Interagency Working Group on Water Reuse and leading the U.S. delegation on water reuse to Israel in October 2022. In addition, WateReuse appreciates the ongoing work of EPA's Water Reuse Program team as it guides the successful implementation of the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP). As the only national organization solely dedicated to advancing water reuse, we look forward to continued collaboration on the implementation of the WRAP and Interagency Working Group on Water Reuse.

As you work to implement EPA's robust agenda for 2023, WateReuse offers our support and continued partnership. WateReuse and our members remain well-positioned to support the Administration's efforts regarding water affordability and resiliency. As climate pressures increase, more and more communities will face water quality, availability, and affordability challenges. Water reuse remains an essential tool in helping communities to develop resilient and affordable water supplies, and as such, we appreciate EPA's continued focus on water reuse and recycling as both a resiliency and an affordability tool.

To this end, we also appreciate EPA's efforts to work with the Office of Management and Budget to secure appropriations for the Pilot Program for Alternative Water Source Grants in FY2024. The Alternative Water Source Grants Pilot Program was authorized but left without direct funding in the BIL. By including a funding request for the program in the FY 2024 Budget Request, EPA can communicate the nationwide importance of water recycling a resiliency tool.

Finally, as we discussed during our meeting last week, WateReuse urges the Office of Water to work with the Office of Land and Emergency Management to assess and account for the potential adverse impacts of the proposed designation of Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid (PFOS) as CERCLA Hazardous Substances on water, wastewater, and water reuse utilities. WateReuse and our members stand ready to support the successful implementation of the agency's PFAS Strategic Roadmap; however, we remain concerned that CERCLA liability may unfairly fall to PFAS receivers rather than to PFAS polluters.

Thank you again for taking time to meet with WateReuse and our water sector partners, and I look forward to a continued partnership with EPA to advance water recycling and support communities across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Patricia Sinicropi', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patricia Sinicropi, J.D.
Executive Director

