



Proclamation

WHEREAS, safe, clean, and sustainable water resources are essential to Florida's environment, economy, citizens and visitors; and

WHEREAS, although Florida's water supplies are finite, the state's population and need for water resources continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, water reuse provides a means for conserving and augmenting Florida's precious water resources; and

WHEREAS, Florida has established the encouragement and promotion of water reuse as state objectives in Chapters 373 and 403, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Florida has risen to be a national leader in water reuse, reusing nearly 900 million gallons of reclaimed water per day, more than 50% of the wastewater treated, to conserve freshwater supplies and recharge our freshwater resources; and

WHEREAS, Florida's permitted reuse capacity is more than 2.4 billion gallons per day (approximately 87 percent of Florida's total permitted capacity for all domestic wastewater treatment facilities); and

WHEREAS, WateReuse Florida, in coordination with the Florida Water Environment Association and Florida Section of the American Water Works Association Utility Councils, established the Potable Reuse Commission (PRC). Through a two-year consensus driven partnership the report "Advancing Potable Reuse in Florida: Framework for the Implementation of Potable Reuse in Florida" declared reuse as a source water for potable supply and was signed into law by Governor DeSantis in 2020; and

WHEREAS, WateReuse Florida is a partner in the One Water Florida initiative to educate the public and stakeholders on reuse as a safe, future water supply in Florida; and

WHEREAS, May, typically a dry month when water demands are high, is a good time to educate residents about how they can help save Florida's precious water resources through water reuse; and

WHEREAS, WateReuse Florida is a state section of the WateReuse Association, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the beneficial and efficient use of high-quality, locally produced, sustainable water sources for the betterment of society and the environment through advocacy, education and outreach, research, and membership; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it proclaimed by WateReuse Florida that the week of May 19-25, 2024 as

Florida Water Reuse Week

and calls upon local governments, utilities, citizens, and businesses to help protect our precious resource by practicing water conservation and to use reclaimed water in an efficient and effective means.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Michael W. Sweeney", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael Sweeney, PhD, President
WateReuse Florida
February 1, 2024