

Water Reuse

Water reuse is an important water management strategy to help meet the growing demands being placed on available water supplies in Texas and across the nation. Water reuse is becoming increasingly accepted for a wide variety of direct applications, including landscape and agricultural irrigation, toilet and urinal flushing, industrial processing, power plant cooling, wetland habitat creation, restoration and maintenance, and groundwater recharge. Additionally, augmentation of potable water supplies through indirect applications of reclaimed water (i.e., blending reclaimed water with raw water in a reservoir or other water body) is playing an important role in meeting water supply demands in Texas. Texas has/is undergoing severe drought conditions (i.e., early 1990s and 2006 periods), which strongly supports the need and the value of using our water resources in an effective and efficient manner that can be achieved by water reuse.

****REQUEST****

- [Support](#) increased federal funding for:
 - Title 16 Program
 - EPA Research Grant Program
 - State Revolving Funds
- [Support](#) increased funding needed for further development of reuse water strategies as an important and critical water management strategy in Texas.

Reuse water strategies are currently proposed as a part of the 2007 Texas State Water Plan to provide fifteen (15) percent of the new water supplies required to meet the demands for the growing Texas population through the year 2060. The 2007 Texas State Water Plan includes more than 40 projects across the state that will provide more than 1,300,000 acre-feet/year of supplies and would cost on the order of \$3.1 billion dollars. In Texas, during the last six years, there have been about 30 applications submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to secure the permits for the right to use reuse water in indirect applications. The quantity of reclaimed water associated with these permit applications is totals approximately 700,000 acre-feet/year and represents a substantial increase from the 2002 State of Texas Water Plan as agencies seek to better conserve and utilize their existing supplies and minimize dependence on new reservoirs. In the North Central Texas area, approximately 28 percent of the future new water needs are planned to be met with reuse water. There are numerous planned and operating major reuse water projects in cities across Texas including Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, Odessa, Lubbock, Amarillo, and others. Additionally, several of the major water suppliers (i.e., special water districts or river authorities) are actively involved in the operations and/or planning of reuse water projects including Tarrant Regional Water District, North Texas Municipal Water District, Trinity River Authority of Texas, Colorado River Municipal Water District, Brazos River Authority, Lower Colorado River Authority, and others.

Major considerations that must be addressed to successfully maximize the use of reuse water include performing research needed to develop sound science and technology, providing funding support for implementation of the projects, and gaining public support. To address these considerations, federal funding is needed to support the further development of reuse water as a key water management strategy. Possible avenues for providing the federal funding include the Title 16 Program, EPA Research Grant Program, and State Revolving Funds. Much of this research funding will be augmented by funding from other sources resulting in a better benefit for the funds allocated. Addressing these considerations would not only benefit Texas and result in additional funds being made available, but would provide a benefit for implementing reuse water across the United States.

Efforts by Senators Murkowski and Feinstein to review the effectiveness of the Title XVI program should be continued during the 110th Congress. The TWCA support the efforts of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to make Title XVI a more effective program with opportunities to support major reuse projects need in Texas in the future.