

# **Water Environment Federation Water Reuse Position Statement Adopted by the Board of Trustees: September 2017**

## **Background**

Traditional water supplies in many parts of the world are becoming inadequate to sustainably meet the needs of communities. Population growth, development, droughts, over-drafting of groundwater, and climate change are straining water resources and altering the way communities plan for future demands and uses of water. There is a clear need to more effectively use water resources to provide reliable, high-quality, and affordable potable supplies to communities. Where limited water supplies are increasingly inadequate or prohibitively costly for satisfying existing and future demands, use of, water reuse is essential.

## **Supporting WEF's Critical Objectives**

This position statement is consistent with the following Critical Objectives of WEF's Strategic Plan:

- Generate an increased public awareness of the value of water leading to increased funding to protect water quality through appropriate levels of infrastructure, management approaches, and services.
- Establish the conditions that promote accelerated development and implementation of innovative technologies and approaches in the water sector.

## **Water Reuse Priorities**

WEF will therefore advocate and promote the following priorities for proper and expanded water management of water reuse in the future:

- Develop and promote the use of common and consistent terminology.
- Support an adaptive approach.
- Define the appropriate role "water reuse" should play in current and future water management.
- Support community decisions to explore water reuse management considering regional, state, and local guidelines and objectives.
- Expand the science through research to ensure that water produced is safe, reliable, and affordable for the community.
- Educate and train stakeholders to show the legitimacy of "water reuse" projects and expand the sector.
- Support government funding of water reuse research and application, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI program.

## **References**

See the Water Reuse Blue Ribbon Final Report, Recommendations and White Paper dated August 20, 2017 for additional information.