



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Improving the Security, Sustainability, and Resilience of the Nation's Water Resources – National Water Reuse Action Plan

FROM: David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator

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Date: 2020.05.04 14:52:44
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TO: Regional Administrators, Region 1-10

Our economy, environment, and way of life depend on reliable supplies of clean and affordable water. With aging infrastructure, a growing population, and new challenges that stress our water supply, there is a growing urgency to secure our Nation's water future. Over the next decade, 40 states expect to face freshwater shortages in certain regions within their borders.

On February 27, 2020, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler, Department of the Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, and Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue joined federal, state, tribal, local, and other water partners to announce the release of the National Water Reuse Action Plan – Collaborative Implementation (Version 1) (WRAP). Consistent with the Federal Policy Statement in the WRAP, I want to reiterate that the Office of Water supports the consideration of water reuse to increase water security, sustainability, and resilience, especially when considered through integrated and collaborative water resource planning approaches, typically at the watershed or basin-scale.

The WRAP builds on more than four decades of water reuse experience and promotes a growing collaboration of action among federal, state, local, and private sector reuse efforts. The WRAP launches 37 specific actions and over 200 initial implementation milestones across 11 strategic themes (e.g., policy, technology, workforce, communication) led by 28 different organizations and supported by more than 80 collaborating partners. The EPA is initially leading or co-leading 21 of the 37 actions. The WRAP is summarized in a print version, and more importantly, housed on the WRAP Online Platform (<https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/national-water-reuse-action-plan-online-platform>) where routine updates and progress will be maintained for public view. This system of implementation and planned annual updates will facilitate action, collaboration and partnerships, and accountability.

The EPA's regional management and staff played a critical role in the development of the WRAP over the past year, and I personally want to thank you for enabling their participation. I now ask that you stay engaged in this important initiative as we look to institutionalize water reuse into our core programs. Going forward, regional involvement will be critical, and may include:

- Building regional capacity and expertise by supporting the regional water reuse liaisons and incorporating water reuse into water programs, policies, and funding opportunities.
- Supporting consideration of water reuse with the states, tribes, and territories, while respecting their primacy in the management of water resources within their borders.
- Embracing the WRAP “Guiding Principles” of promoting water reuse, sound science, and long-term strategic thinking while protecting public health and the environment.

Water quantity, supply, and quality decision-makers have historically worked through independent management regimes. Addressing future water resource challenges will require more holistic thinking that embraces the “convergence of water” through more integrated action. The partnerships, actions, and accountability created in the WRAP will help foster the integration of water, promote consideration of water reuse, and improve the security, sustainability, and resilience of our Nation’s water resources.

Please reach out to me if you have specific feedback or suggestions. Your Regional Water Division Directors and Water Reuse Liaisons will continue to work with the newly established National Program Leader for Water Reuse, Jeff Lape. Links to water reuse resources, including the WRAP Online Platform and the Regional Water Reuse Liaisons, are listed below. Again, thank you for your ongoing leadership and support.

cc: EPA Regional Water Division Directors

National Water Reuse Action Plan Resources

- EPA Water Reuse Website – <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse>
- WRAP Launch Press Release – <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-and-partners-announce-collaborative-implementation-national-water-reuse-action-plan>
- Launch Event Video (90 minutes) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cae-RV8Mu84>
- WRAP Print Version – <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/national-water-reuse-action-plan-collaborative-implementation-version-1>
- WRAP Online Platform – <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/national-water-reuse-action-plan-online-platform>

Regional Water Reuse Liaisons

This will be posted on the EPA Water Reuse website and will be updated as needed.

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