

State Water Reuse Regulatory Guide

FUNDED BY:

WaterReuse Association, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA), American Water Works Association (AWWA), National Association for Clean Water Agencies (NACWA), and Water Environment Federation (WEF)



As a growing number of states look to add or expand water reuse and advance their associated regulations, they are looking for guidance and best practices for developing and implementing clear, appropriate, actionable rules.

Brown and Caldwell (BC) is partnering with Hazen and Sawyer (Hazen) to support the WaterReuse Association and its funding partners (AMWA, AWWA, WEF, NACWA) to develop a State Water Reuse Regulatory Guide (Guide). This Guide will provide strategies and tailored messaging technologies, and source water characterization in the regulatory process for water reuse programs.

Across the United States, communities are increasingly turning to water reuse as traditional sources become less reliable due to population growth and climate change. In regions with sufficient water supply, water reuse is an alternative method to manage issues such as land subsidence, saltwater intrusion, and adherence to stricter nutrient management regulations. As a result, many wastewater agencies are exploring innovative ways to repurpose treated water, helping protect ecosystems while supporting long-term water sustainability.

A primary consideration in the advancement of water reuse initiatives is the need to address limited or undefined regulatory frameworks. Unclear regulatory guidance may result in inconsistent interpretation and application among regulators, introducing uncertainty for project proponents and potentially hindering development progress. Overly stringent regulations may impede the implementation of water reuse projects, while excessively lenient standards could pose risks to public health and the environment, ultimately diminishing public support. This Guide is designed to assist states and stakeholders by offering collaborative approaches to regulatory development and outlining technical elements fundamental to effective regulatory language.

EXPECTED COMPLETION: May 2026

**Providing
accessible,
practical, and
usable water
reuse guidance**

APPROACH

The project team is leveraging the experience within the water reuse community to inform the Guide through an engaged approach in three major task areas:

- **Document Review:** Gathering what is already known about regulatory development processes and critical success factors that can be used as a basis for stakeholder outreach and initial guide development.
- **Stakeholder Outreach:** Leveraging the momentum and enthusiasm of WaterReuse section members and those of its partners to solicit input to be built into the key elements for the guide.
- **Guide Development:** Making sure there is a robust process for incorporating existing information, outcomes from stakeholder outreach and scientific and technical knowledge to inform the final deliverable (between 30-50 pages).



KEY OBJECTIVES

The Guide will:

- Be accessible, practical, and usable
- Allow easier navigation of regulatory processes for water reuse

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

	Technical Advisory Committee	Workshops	Interviews	Focus Groups
OPPORTUNITIES	Quarterly meetings	One meeting	Up to 30 meetings	Up to 4 meetings
ENTITIES INVOLVED	WaterReuse Project Partners Subject Matter Experts	WaterReuse Partner Members	WaterReuse Partner Members Regulators	WaterReuse Partner Members Regulators

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