



# Current Events

November 2020

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## IMPORTANT NOTICE:

### **WATERPRO'S OFFICE REMAINS CLOSED TO WALK-IN TRAFFIC.**

To help slow the spread of the coronavirus, we have closed our offices to the public until further notice.

Phones will still be staffed during regular business hours, so feel free to call.

If you must meet with staff, please call 801-571-2232 to make an appointment.

### Office closures:

Our office will be closed entirely (no telephone service) on Thursday and Friday, November 26 and 27, in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday.

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## Water Reuse Project: An Update

WaterPro/Draper Irrigation is proceeding to install the infrastructure for our long-planned project to reuse treated recycled water in our irrigation system.

In recent months we have been coordinating with UDOT and developers to install water mains as they build roads and subdivisions. This type of planning will help us save money in the long run by not having to tear up existing roads to install the mains later.

This multi-year project has been proceeding slowly, in part because it requires cooperation between multiple jurisdictions. However, we feel it's worth the effort because water reuse is a crucial method for conserving water to satisfy the needs of Utah's growing population.

### **Description of the project**

Our reuse plan calls for receiving treated water from the South Valley sewer treatment plant west of the Jordan River at approximately 13200 South. We will build a pump station to move this

water into our pressure irrigation (PI) systems so our customers can use it to water their landscaping.

### **Is recycled water safe?**

The treated water from the South Valley plant is considered Type A, which is the highest level of treatment used for effluent water. This treated water is clean enough to drink, although WaterPro is planning to use this water in our secondary system only, not in our culinary (drinking) water system.

Many cities in the U.S., as well as in many other countries, do use treated effluent as drinking water and have done so for many years (see article on page 2). Water reuse is an established and safe technology.

### **Where does the water come from?**

The South Valley plant receives water from sewers throughout the south end of the Salt Lake Valley.

Water rights continue even after the water is used once – for example, flushed down the toilet

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## **Recycled Water Is Nothing New!**

Communities across the country and around the world have been using recycled water for many years.

Namibia, the driest country in southern Africa, has been drinking recycled water since 1969.

In Israel, nearly 90% of wastewater is recycled for use in irrigation, four times higher than any other country. One-quarter of its overall water supply comes from recycled sources.

Singapore, which has no aquifers, started drinking recycled water in 2003. This water surpasses World Health Organization standards for drinking water quality and is clean enough to be used for the electronics industry.

In fact, many cities in the U.S. and elsewhere actually use recycled water because they drink treated water that is downstream from other cities' wastewater plants.

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or swirled down the drain and into the treatment plant. So for every gallon of "new" water where WaterPro holds a water right, we still have a right to reuse that water after it goes to the sewer treatment plant.

Of course, all the other water utilities whose water flows to the South Valley plant also have rights to the water they have used. That's one reason why this project is so complicated: we need to craft an agreement with all the entities that send water to be treated. Several other municipalities are also planning to reuse water from the plant.

### **Improving water quality**

The water reuse project will help us improve the quality of the water we provide to our PI customers.

As part of the project, we have reconfigured existing water rights so that we will rely much less on water from Utah Lake and instead mix the reuse water with other

water from shallow wells near the South Valley treatment plant. Minimizing use of Utah Lake water has several advantages:

- Algae blooms in Utah Lake will have very little effect on our PI water.
- There will be less silt and debris in the PI water, which means filters will not become clogged as often.
- Odors and other unpleasant side effects of Utah Lake water will be minimized.

We may still occasionally use Utah Lake water to supplement our PI system, but we will rely on it much less than in the past.

### **Reuse and conservation**

The biggest advantage of reusing water is conservation. As Utah's growing population puts more pressure on our already-stressed water supplies, making the most of every drop makes sense.

