



# **Regional Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study**

Presentation to the Washoe County Board of County Commissioners December 18, 2018

















# **Today's Discussion**

- Reclaimed Water Uses in the Truckee Meadows
- Advanced Reclaimed Water Projects in the United States
- Regional Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study
- Collaborations
- OneWater Nevada
- Nevada Water Innovation Institute

#### **Current Reclaimed Water Uses in the Truckee Meadows**

- Water sourced from regional water reclamation facilities
- Decades of water recycling experience
- ◆ 10 % of total area water supply
- Regulated by the State of Nevada Division of Environmental Protection





#### **State of Nevada Reclaimed Water Regulations**

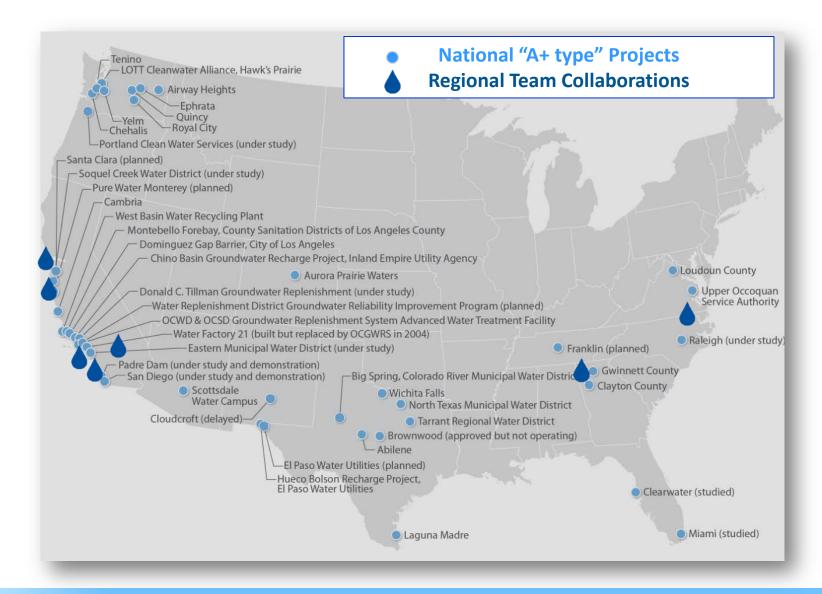
#### Categories A thru E water quality

- Standards for non-potable uses
- Safe for environment, recreation, and industrial uses

#### Category A+ water quality

- Meets all State and Federal drinking water standards
- Quality achieved through advanced water treatment and natural purification processes
- Intended for storing water in groundwater aquifers
- Governor Sandoval's 2015 Drought Forum: improve Nevada's drought response

# National "A+ type" Reclaimed Water Programs



# **Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Facility**

- ♦ In service since 2016
- Operated as a drinking water demonstration facility
- ◆ 10 million gallons per day
- Expanding sustainable water supplies
- Public education center







# **Conditions for Success: Building Legitimacy**

- Clear Purpose
- Public Engagement
- Regional Effort
- Regulatory Pathway

- Demonstration Project
- Hydrogeologic Investigations
- Independent Expert Panel
- Feasibility Study
- Regional Water Authority Leadership





# **Regional Reclaimed Water Feasibility Study**

#### Purpose

• Determine if Nevada's newly adopted Category A+ for reclaimed water offers water management opportunities for the Truckee Meadows Region.

#### Key Questions

- What would be the social, economic, and environmental impacts?
- How to ensure A+ water would be a safe, sustainable, and a reliable resource?
- Can local aquifers be used for long-term water storage?
- How to encourage public engagement?

# **Regional Reclaimed Water Feasibility Phase Activities**

**Project Development** 

Nevada Regulations

**Community Outreach** 

**Treatment Technologies** 

5-Year Study created from recognized best practices

**Demonstration Projects** 

Hydrogeologic Investigations

**Funding** 



## University of Nevada, Reno Leadership

- Krishna Pagilla, PhD
  - Program Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering
  - Internationally recognized water expert
- Examining social, economic, and financial aspects
- Leading scientific and technical evaluations
- Leading water quality and public health evaluations
- UNR offers a broad range of independent expertise
- 3 PhD candidates dedicated to feasibility study

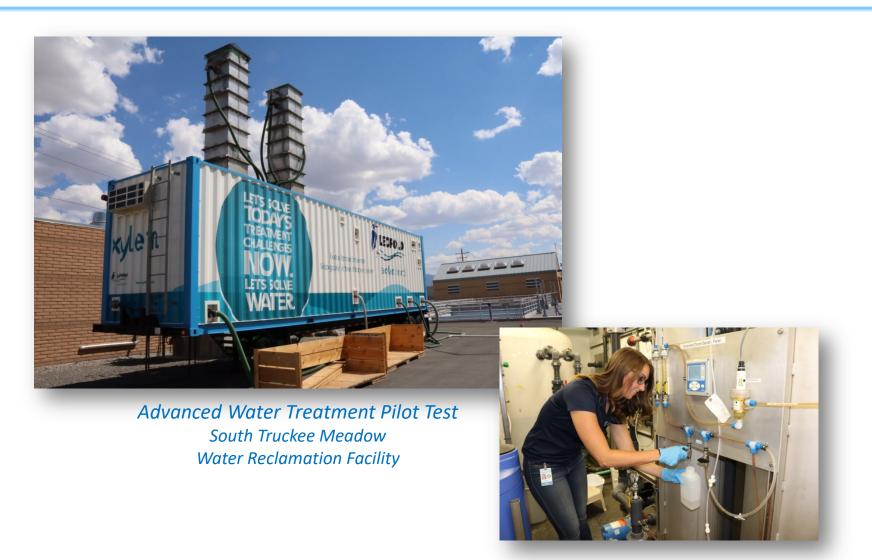








# **Demonstrations and Investigations**





Groundwater Investigation
Cold Springs
Water Reclamation Facility

## **Demonstrations and Investigations**

#### Treatment Technology Demonstration Projects

- 2017 2019 at South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility
- 2019 2020 at Reno-Stead Water Reclamation Facility
- 2019 2020 at Cold Springs Water Reclamation Facility

#### Groundwater Aquifer Investigations

- 2018 2019 at American Flat Road
- 2018 2020 at Bedell Flat



Bedell Flat, Washoe County Nevada

## **Collaborations and Funding Support**

- Regional Agencies
- University of Nevada, Reno
- Bureau of Reclamation
- The Water Research Foundation
- National Science Foundation
- Technology Providers
- Local Private Partners

















## **Independent Expert Panel**

- National and International Experts
- Assisted State of Nevada establish A+ reclaimed water regulations in 2016
- Vast technical and communications expertise
- Expert guidance and critical review on each activity

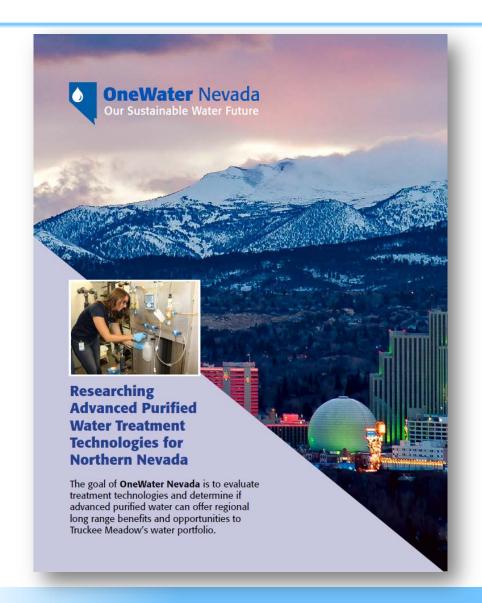


# **Feasibility Study Next Steps**

- ◆ Technical Work
  - On schedule to complete study in 2020
  - Treatment technology field demonstrations
  - Independent expert panel input
- Community Elements
  - Regulatory agency engagement
  - Broadening public education opportunities
  - Gathering public officials input
  - Community leaders field trips



#### **OneWater** Nevada











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#### **Vision**

A nationally and internationally recognized innovation institute, solving realworld problems in the water sector and providing opportunities for economic growth and water resiliency.

# Nevada Water Innovation Institute

Innovative Partnership
Creating
Water Management
Solutions

















