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**INTERIM RECLAIMED WATER POLICY**

Effective Date: September 29, 2023

Approved By: GVS&amp;DD Board

**Policy No. UT-019**

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**PURPOSE**

The *Interim Reclaimed Water Policy* will guide the use of Reclaimed Water from Metro Vancouver's wastewater treatment plants. This Interim Policy will help build practices, encourage use, and manage risk with respect to the reuse of water from wastewater treatment plants.

This Interim Policy applies to Reclaimed Water use projects both initiated by Metro Vancouver or brought forward by interested parties. This Interim Policy will be informed by the development of the Drinking Water Management Plan, and will be updated when the Plan is adopted.

**DEFINITIONS**

**"Board"** means the Board of Directors of the Metro Vancouver Regional District ("**MVRD**"), the Greater Vancouver Water District ("**GVWD**"), the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District ("**GVS&DD**"), and the Metro Vancouver Housing Corporation ("**MVHC**"), as the context requires;

**"Highest Level of Non-Potable Treatment"** means municipal wastewater that is treated in accordance with the quality and monitoring requirements set out in the Municipal Wastewater Regulation for the "greater exposure potential" category of Reclaimed Water;

**"Metro Vancouver"** means, collectively, MVRD, GVWD, GVS&DD, and MVHC, or any one of them, as the context requires;

**"Municipal Wastewater"** has the meaning set out in the Municipal Wastewater Regulation;

**"Municipal Wastewater Regulation"** means the *Municipal Wastewater Regulation*, B.C. Reg. 46/2018, as amended or replaced from time to time;

**"Reclaimed Water"** means municipal wastewater that is treated by a wastewater facility to meet specified standards and is suitable for reuse in accordance with the Municipal Wastewater Regulation; and

**"Reclaimed Water Guideline"** means the "Reclaimed Water Guideline – A Companion Document to the Municipal Wastewater Regulation made under the *Environmental Management Act*" issued July 2013 by the BC Ministry of Environment, as amended or replaced from time to time.

## **POLICY**

Metro Vancouver recognizes water is a precious resource and aims to conserve high quality drinking water by encouraging the use of Reclaimed Water when it is a suitable substitution meeting applicable health and environmental regulations, and is financially, socially, and/or ecologically beneficial.

Currently in the Metro Vancouver region, water that has been treated to meet the regulatory requirements for drinking water is used for many purposes that do not require this high level of treatment.

There is an opportunity for reclaimed water to play a role in the conservation of drinking water in the region.

## **Objectives**

Metro Vancouver will:

1. Encourage the development and use of Reclaimed Water at the Highest Level of Non-Potable Treatment, which will allow for a range of potential uses;
2. Evaluate potential projects on a case-by-case basis using a methodology that includes health, social, financial, environmental and legal benefits, opportunities and risks;
3. Set pricing for the use of Metro Vancouver's Reclaimed Water to account for the social, financial and environmental benefits and opportunities of using Reclaimed Water; and
4. Implement this Interim Policy by developing a Reclaimed Water Implementation Strategy that describes how Metro Vancouver will support the use of Reclaimed Water use in the region where appropriate.

## **Potential Uses for Reclaimed Water**

Metro Vancouver will consider making Reclaimed Water at the Highest Level of Non-Potable Treatment available for a range of uses in addition to current uses at the wastewater treatment plants. Uses may include, but are not limited to, the following, pending evaluation:

- Sewer flushing;
- Firefighting;
- Wildfire risk mitigation;
- Dust control;
- Washing down roads, vehicles and equipment;
- Construction uses;
- Industrial uses; and
- Lawn, landscaping and sports field irrigation.

## Supporting Documents

The Province offers guidance and regulation for Reclaimed Water use through the:

- Reclaimed Water Guideline; and
- Municipal Wastewater Regulation

This Policy is also aligned with the following Metro Vancouver policies and strategies, including the:

- Board Strategic Plan;
- Integrated Liquid Waste and Resource Management Plan;
- Drinking Water Management Plan (under review); and
- Ecological Health Framework.