

## WATER REUSE SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

Presented to TWRI/USGS as part of final grant report, 14 May 2012

There were 75 responses to the survey (1.5% return) of which 11 were eliminated because the respondents did not live in a targeted county.

### 1. Which county do you live in?

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Collin:</b>	32	50
<b>Lubbock:</b>	18	28
<b>Midland:</b>	10	16
<b>Potter:</b>	4	6

### 2a. Water reuse is acceptable only when there is a genuine need, such as during a drought.

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	= 7	11
<b>Agree</b>	= 5	8
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	= 24	37.5
<b>Disagree</b>	= 20	31
<b>Neutral</b>	= 8	12.5

### b. Recycling treated wastewater for non-potable uses is a good way to conserve clean water sources for potable supplies.

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	= 33	52
<b>Agree</b>	= 29	45
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	= 1	1.5
<b>Disagree</b>	= 1	1.5
<b>Neutral</b>	= 0	0

### c. Treated wastewater should only be used for non-potable purposes.

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	= 21	33
<b>Agree</b>	= 23	36
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	= 2	3
<b>Disagree</b>	= 4	6
<b>Neutral</b>	= 14	22

### d. I believe my region has sufficient water supply to meet future needs.

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	= 2	3
<b>Agree</b>	= 11	17.5
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	= 20	32
<b>Disagree</b>	= 19	30
<b>Neutral</b>	= 11	17.5

3. *What do you see as acceptable uses for reclaimed wastewater? (55 responses)*

Respondents gave multiple answers to this question.

- Irrigation (includes agricultural, landscaping, and house plants):** 73%
- Car washes:** 27%
- Everything (includes potable or potentially potable):** 15%
- Anything except drinking and cooking:** 11%
- Toilets:** 13%
- Industrial (includes fracking and oil fields):** 13%

Other uses mentioned included construction sites, highway projects, cooling towers for power generation, decorative fountains and ponds, fire hydrants, appliances, wildlife habitats, showers, and pet bathing.

Three specifically mentioned they were not okay with skin contact, such as showering, and two of those did not want it used on lawns or public parks.

4. *Please explain any concerns YOU may have regarding future water supplies in your area. (53 responses)*

Respondents gave multiple answers to this question.

- Waste/Lack of conservation:** 34%
- Droughts/Other shortages:** 30%
- Population growth:** 23%
- Sustainability/Lack of firm future supply:** 23%

Other concerns mentioned included an increase in rates, zebra mussel infestations, cleanliness of potable supply, restrictions, and infrastructure.

5. *How could water reuse address the concerns you describe in question 4? (52 responses)*

Respondents gave multiple answers to this question.

- Conservation of/Ensure freshwater supplies:** 81%

Survey participants also stated water reuse could address their concerns by reducing water rates, alleviating restrictions, and simply being beneficial overall. Three people (6%) did not think it would help.

6a. *Water managers should consider public input when planning for future water supplies.*

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	= 29	45.3
<b>Agree</b>	= 31	48.4
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	= 0	0
<b>Disagree</b>	= 0	0
<b>Neutral</b>	= 4	6.3

*b. Public education programs should be developed and offered so the community can obtain a better opportunity of how reused water can be utilized as part of their total regional water supply.*

		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Strongly Agree</b>	=	39	62
<b>Agree</b>	=	19	31
<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	=	1	2
<b>Disagree</b>	=	1	2
<b>Neutral</b>	=	2	3

*7. Are you the type person who would attend community meetings?*

		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Yes</b>	=	21	33
<b>No</b>	=	13	20
<b>Only if interested in topic</b>	=	30	47

*8. Would you attend a meeting discussing water reuse as a water supply strategy?*

		<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Yes</b>	=	50	78
<b>No</b>	=	14	22

*8a. If no, why not?*

Of the 14 participants that said “no,” only 12 responded to this question.

**Time/Busy:** 33%

**No communication/discussion during meetings or forced agenda:** 25%

**Boring or not important enough use of time:** 17%

**Not staying in community/doesn't feel need to input since living in apt:** 17%

**Untruthful/not factual:** 8%

**Limited transportation:** 8%

*9. Age group:*

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>18-29:</b>	9	14
<b>30-45:</b>	20	32
<b>46-59:</b>	20	32
<b>60+:</b>	14	22

*10. Male or Female?*

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Males:</b>	33	52
<b>Females:</b>	30	48

*11. How many people live in your home?*

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>1 person:</b>	14	22
<b>2 people:</b>	18	28
<b>3 people:</b>	14	22
<b>4 people:</b>	14	22
<b>5 people:</b>	4	6

**12. How long have you lived at this residence?**

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>&lt;1 year:</b>	7	11
<b>1-5 years:</b>	30	47
<b>6-10 years:</b>	12	19
<b>11-15 years:</b>	4	6
<b>16-20 years:</b>	3	5
<b>&gt;20 years:</b>	8	12

**13. Own/rent? (63 responses)**

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Own:</b>	41	65
<b>Rent:</b>	22	35

**14. Is your residence connected to city water or well water?**

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Wells:</b>	2	3
<b>City:</b>	62	97

**15. City sewage or septic?**

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Septic:</b>	2	3
<b>City:</b>	62	97

**16. What is your highest level of education?**

	<u>N</u>	<u>%</u>
<b>Some high school:</b>	1	1.6
<b>High school/GED:</b>	3	4.7
<b>Some college:</b>	14	21.9
<b>Bachelor's:</b>	20	31.3
<b>Master's:</b>	19	29.6
<b>Doctorate:</b>	7	10.9