

## Bear Creek Watershed Association

Approved June 11, 2014

### Draft Policy 25- Water Reuse and Conservation



---

#### Statement of Basis and Purpose

The statement of basis and purpose in the *Bear Creek Control Regulation* No. 74 (5 CCR 1002-74) states:

*One of the parties to the hearing requested that the Bear Creek Watershed Association study the costs and benefits of expanding the implementation of water reuse methods in this watershed. Inclusion of requirements to study water reuse was determined to be beyond the authority of the Commission. In adopting this revision to the regulation, the Commission recognized the intent of the Bear Creek Watershed Association to pursue the development of a policy for use in the Association's review of applications for site approval of domestic wastewater treatment facilities. This policy will address potential water reuse and other relevant environmental issues.*

The BCWA incorporated the consideration of such issues as *water reuse, water conservation, water rights utilization, stream flow, water quality, other environmental factors and economics* in the site application review process (BCWA Policy 2 - Site Application Review). The BCWA site application review process is consistent with the *Colorado Regulation 22 Site Location and Design Approval Regulations for Domestic Wastewater Treatment Works* (5 CCR 1002-22, WQCC 2009a).

The BCWA previously used the Denver Regional Council of Governments 2011 *Clean Water Plan* as the supporting 208 planning document and adhered to the policies adopted in that plan. The Water Quality Control Division is now the 208 planning agency. The WQCD has adopted a “master” Statewide Water Quality Management Plan (April 2011), which serves as an overlying water quality management plan for the Bear Creek Watershed. This state document incorporated by reference the 2011 DRCOG *Clean Water Plan*. As such, the BCWA continues to adhere to many policy directions relevant to the watershed as developed by DRCOG and recognized by the WQCD. The *Clean Water Plan* stated:

*The Clean Water supports the concept of wastewater reuse for non-potable uses, future potable use, or as a method for additional pollutant removal, as appropriate. It can also be used in some situations to fulfill water rights and augmentation plans. Reuse is an efficient means of preserving water resources in areas where those resources need to be protected. Reuse of wastewater for water rights or augmentation purposes should be carefully reviewed in relation to downstream water supplies as related to potential health hazards and environmental risks. The quantity and quality of wastewater for reuse should be determined during the planning process.*

#### Policy Positions

1. When the BCWA determines the wastewater treatment needs, the BCWA primary goal is to recommend reasonable, feasible and economical wastewater service to any particular

*Bear Creek Watershed Association  
32-years of Watershed Management*

area. Consideration is given to the impact the treatment system will have on receiving waters, the ability to meet water quality standards, the impact a discharge may have on downstream dischargers, and other relevant environmental issues.

2. The BCWA will also consider when ever feasible in the site application review process such issues as water reuse, wastewater reuse for non-potable uses, water conservation, water rights utilization, stream flow, environmental factors and economics.
3. The BCWA recognizes that conservation and wastewater reuse programs are essential strategies that will be used to help meet the unmet future water supply demand in the watershed. The BCWA acknowledges that conservation and wastewater reuse programs have the potential to alter (for better or worse) surface water and groundwater quality.