

Title: Advancing Potable Reuse to Secure Colorado's Future

Authors(s) and Affiliation(s): Austa Parker, Denver Water and Laura Belanger, Western Resource Advocates

Format: Oral Presentation

Description (max 500 words):

Interest in water reuse for a diversity of potable and nonpotable uses continues to gain traction in communities in Colorado and around the U.S. As we adapt to growing populations, climate change and limited new water supply options, Colorado is helping lead the way to increase how fully consumable water supplies can be maximized through water reuse. To help spur opportunities, several recent regulatory changes have increased the ways that we can use non-potable, or purple pipe, recycled water in Colorado. There is also growing momentum to advance potable reuse. This presentation will cover the drivers behind expanding potable reuse, an introduction to a regulatory framework for potable reuse, an update on a collaborative WaterReuse Colorado project to develop direct potable reuse (DPR) regulations and the critical importance of public acceptance and ongoing outreach and education towards that end. If successfully implemented, DPR would provide an option to help Colorado communities optimize reusable water supplies, which would help to alleviate pressure on streams, the West Slope and agricultural sources.