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**CALIFORNIA SETS LANDMARK WATER POLICY WITH ADOPTION OF THE NATION'S FIRST STATEWIDE DIRECT POTABLE REUSE REGULATIONS**

**December 19, 2023 (Sacramento, CA)** – Moments ago, the California State Water Resources Control Board adopted the nation's first statewide Direct Potable Reuse regulations. Direct potable reuse allows a local community to treat its wastewater to highly pristine drinking water and add that new source of drinking water directly back into the water supply distribution system. With today's approval of Direct Potable Reuse regulations, on top of the previously approved regulations for adding recycled water to groundwater or a reservoir, California now has a comprehensive suite of regulations that will provide communities with numerous alternatives to improve regional water supply in the face of climate change.

Most cities in California use water once, then dispose of it as a waste, at tremendous environmental and economic cost. California must reduce its reliance on water from overtapped and sensitive ecosystems that are under increasing stress during the growing climate crisis. Investments in wastewater recycling, particularly in regions that still import the majority of their water supplies from heavily constrained watersheds like the Bay-Delta, Colorado River, and Mono Lake, will increase water supply reliability and assist in ecosystem restoration efforts. The improved water treatment that is at the heart of increased recycling efforts will also help clean up coastal water quality.

California Coastkeeper Alliance was the proud co-sponsor of Assembly Bill 574 (Quirk), which required the State Water Board to adopt the direct potable reuse regulations by the end of 2023.

Water recycling programs create sustainable, local sources of water that are nearly droughtproof. As the state's Water Resilience Portfolio highlights, "recycled water is a sustainable, nearly drought-proof supply when used efficiently, and the total volume of water California recycles today could triple in the next decade." With the approval of amended DPR regulations, California can greatly increase water recycling while safeguarding public health, improve climate resiliency, and better protect aquatic life in inland waters, bays and estuaries and coastal waters.

"Today's landmark approval is a real breakthrough to help California communities reuse wastewater," says Sean Bothwell, Executive Director for California Coastkeeper Alliance. "Direct potable reuse provides a nearly drought-proof, sustainable water supply that will become a game-changer for local water supply resiliency in the face of climate change. Water is one of California's most precious resources. It's time for us to stop the practice of using water once and throwing it away."

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**ABOUT CALIFORNIA COASTKEEPER ALLIANCE** - California Coastkeeper Alliance represents Waterkeepers programs statewide as they fight for drinkable, swimmable, fishable waters for all Californians. CCKA defends and expands California's protective legislation and strengthens the function of our State Water Board. For more information, visit [www.cacoastkeeper.org](http://www.cacoastkeeper.org) or @CA\_Waterkeepers on social media.