

Proclamation



Jane Castor, Mayor

WHEREAS, safe, clean, and sustainable water resources are essential to Florida's environment, economy, citizens, and visitors, and although water supplies are finite, the state's population and need for water resources continue to increase; and

WHEREAS, water reuse provides a means for conserving and augmenting Florida's precious water resources and is key to the state's sustainable water future, and Florida has established the encouragement and promotion of water reuse as state objectives in Chapters 373 and 403 of the Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, Florida has risen to be a national leader in water reuse, reusing approximately 900 million gallons of reclaimed water per day, with more than 50 percent of the wastewater treated, and it conserves freshwater supplies and recharges our freshwater resources, and Florida's permitted reuse capacity is more than 2.4 billion gallons per day, and

WHEREAS, May, typically a dry month when water demands are high, is a good time to educate the public on the value of reuse and how they can help save Florida's precious water resources, and WaterReuse Florida, the State Section of the WaterReuse Association, has proclaimed the week of May 19-24, 2024, as **Florida Water Reuse Week**; and

WHEREAS, WaterReuse Florida, in coordination with the Florida Water Environment Association and Florida Section of the American Water Works Association Utility Councils, established the Potable Reuse Commission (PRC) through a two-year consensus driven partnership; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa Water Department has joined with WaterReuse Florida, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, and the Southwest Florida Water Management District in encouraging and promoting water reuse and conservation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Tampa has been using reclaimed water at the Howard F. Curren Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant since 1979, the MacKay Bay Refuse to Energy Plant starting in 1985, in the South Tampa Area Reclaimed Water (STAR) area beginning in 2003, and at Tampa International Airport since 2009, and is dedicated to encouraging the efficient and effective use of reclaimed water.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jane Castor, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the city of Tampa, Florida do hereby proclaim May 19-25, 2024, as

“FLORIDA WATER REUSE WEEK”

in the city of Tampa, Florida and call upon each citizen and business to help protect our precious water resources by practicing water conservation and use reclaimed water in an efficient and effective manner.

Dated in Tampa, Florida, this 4th day of April 2024.



Jane Castor

Mayor