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## The Emergence and Implications of Non-Potable Water Use in Irrigation

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## Topics

- Key drivers of demand for non-potable irrigation
- Trends in non-potable irrigation
- Challenges of non-potable water in irrigation
- Future of non-potable irrigation

# Drivers of demand for non-potable irrigation

## The world's water crisis



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## Widespread drought conditions



Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

#### Released Thursday, August 16, 2012 Author: Michael Brewer/Liz Love-Brotak, NOAA/NESDIS/NCDC

#### http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/

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## **Increasing regulation**

- New Green Codes requiring use of non-potable and/or reclaimed water
- Stronger regulation in particular markets
  - US: California, Florida, Texas, Arizona
  - Worldwide: Australia, Israel, Spain
- Anticipate similar levels of regulation across the US





## **Increasing Water Costs**

**Residential Water Bill Increases (Past 12 Years)** 

- Atlanta, GA 233%
- San Francisco, CA 211%
- Wilmington, DE 200%
- Philadelphia, PA 164%
- Portland, OR 161%

## **Trends in non-potable irrigation**

## **Widespread applications**

- Golf courses
- Municipal landscaping
- Sports Fields

- Dust control
- Agriculture
- Wetlands restoration





## **Public agency adoption**

### City of Sydney

- Supplies 1 billion gallons of recycled water a year to irrigate farms, golf courses, sports grounds and parks
- Award-winning
  Pirrama Park, with
  sustainable solar
  panels and rain water
  harvesting



## **Residential adoption**

### Gladden Farms Marana, AZ

 1,500 homes equipped with purple valve boxes for future non-potable water system

### City of Tampa

 Distributes treated wastewater for residential landscape irrigation



## **On-site reclamation**

- Sydney Olympic Park Water Reclamation and Management Scheme (WRAMS)
  - Locally integrated approach to water conservation based on rainwater harvesting, wastewater reprocessing and reducing water demand



## Challenges of non-potable water in irrigation

### Do you know your water source?



## **Challenges of non-potable water**

- Availability
- Public skepticism
- High in chlorine, saline

- Seasonal fluctuations
- Dual piping expense vs. potable water



# The future of non-potable irrigation

## **Emerging irrigation technologies**

- Continued purple identification
- Manufacturer investments in reclaimed-resistant materials
  - Valves
  - Spray heads
- Expansion of irrigation systems to include water harvesting equipment
- Innovation in intelligent control systems



## **Broader adoption**

 Broader adoption, particularly by public agencies and homeowners

#### Singapore

Aiming to increase desalinated water to 30% of total water supply by 2060



## **Drivers of broader adoption**

- Increasing regulation, with new Green Codes requiring non-potable irrigation in new construction
- Decreased or subsidized pricing
- Irrigation technologies that can withstand variety of non-potable water sources
  - Graywater systems
  - On-site reclamation
  - Desalination

## A look at the future The Nature Conservance



30,000 gallon underground clater

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## Thank you

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