EQUINOX CENTER

Healthy Environment Strong Economy Vibrant Communities

H2Overview Project: The Potential of Purified Recycled Water reveals:

- Recycled potable water, as produced by **indirect potable reuse (IPR)*, would be a strong, viable addition to the region's diversified water portfolio**.
- **IPR** provides a local, reliable water supply that is **less vulnerable to interruptions** such as earthquakes, wildfires or legal challenges to water rights **that could restrict San Diego's access to imported water.**

COST ADVANTAGES:

- **IPR on average costs less per unit than desalination or non-potable recycled water.**
- **After advanced treatment, recycled water can be added to the existing drinking water infrastructure, making it a less expensive option than recycled non-potable water** (for most districts)**.** Currently, the cost to construct a second pipe system to distribute non-potable recycled water is $2 million per mile.

SAFETY:

- **Recycled water has been safely used for human consumption for a number of years** in Long Beach, Los Angeles, Orange County, Virginia, Scottsdale, Las Vegas and Singapore.
- Testing on populations where IPR is in use has **not determined any significant health risks.**
- Studies show that **IPR's advanced treatment creates purified water with fewer contaminants** than San Diego County's existing imported water supply.

OTHER FACTORS:

- Energy is used to treat and distribute all water sources, so the availability and cost of energy make energy use an important factor. **IPR uses significantly less energy than desalinated sea water or imported water,** although the energy use is somewhat higher than non-potable recycled water.
- **Business sectors, such as life sciences and clean tech, can confidently expand** based on a reliable, high quality water source.
- IPR **reduces the amount of potentially harmful pollutants being released into rivers, bays and the ocean** by diverting wastewater from treatment plants and further purifying it for reuse.

** IPR is **Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR)**, also known as **advanced treated water, purified water** or **recycled water.** The process purifies treated water to be potable, and then diverts it to either a groundwater source or a surface water reservoir. The water is treated again before it is added to the existing drinking water infrastructure.*