

Proclamation

WHEREAS, safe, clean and sustainable water resources are essential to Florida's environment, economy, citizens, and visitors; and

WHEREAS, although Florida's water supplies are finite, the state's population and need for water resources continues to increase; and

WHEREAS, water reuse provides a means for conserving and augmenting Florida's precious water resources; and

WHEREAS, Florida has established the encouragement and promotion of water reuse as state objectives in Chapters 373 and 403, 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, more than 55% of the wastewater treated, to conserve freshwater supplies and recharge our freshwater resources; and

WHEREAS, Florida's permitted reuse capacity is more than 1.5 billion gallons per day (approximately 60 percent of Florida's total permitted capacity for all domestic wastewater treatment facilities); and

WHEREAS, May, typically a dry month when water demands are high, is a good time to educate the public on reuse how they can help save Florida's precious water resources through water reuse; and

WHEREAS, WaterReuse Florida, the state section of the WaterReuse Association, has proclaimed the week of May 18-24, 2025, as Florida Water Reuse Week; and

WHEREAS, Polk County 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, Polk County has implemented a water reuse program and encourages efficient and effective use of reclaimed water; and

Therefore, May 18-24, 2025, hereby proclaimed: **Water Reuse Week** in the State of Florida. Polk County, Florida is calling upon each citizen and business to help protect our precious water resources by practicing water conservation and to use reclaimed water in an efficient and effective means.

