

February 13, 2020

# The WaterHub® - Sustainable Utility Management Through Water Reclamation and Reuse

Bob Salvatelli

# Eco-Engineered Reuse Systems



RISK  
MITIGATION



FINANCIAL  
SAVINGS



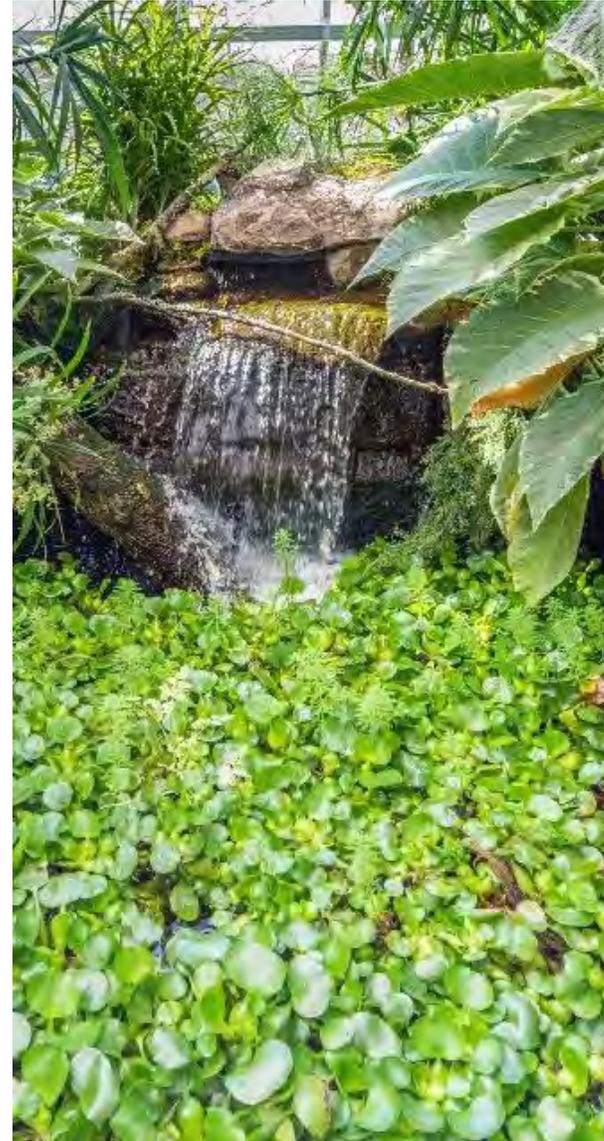
ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESPONSIBILITY



SOCIAL  
RESPONSIBILITY



Living, Learning Laboratory

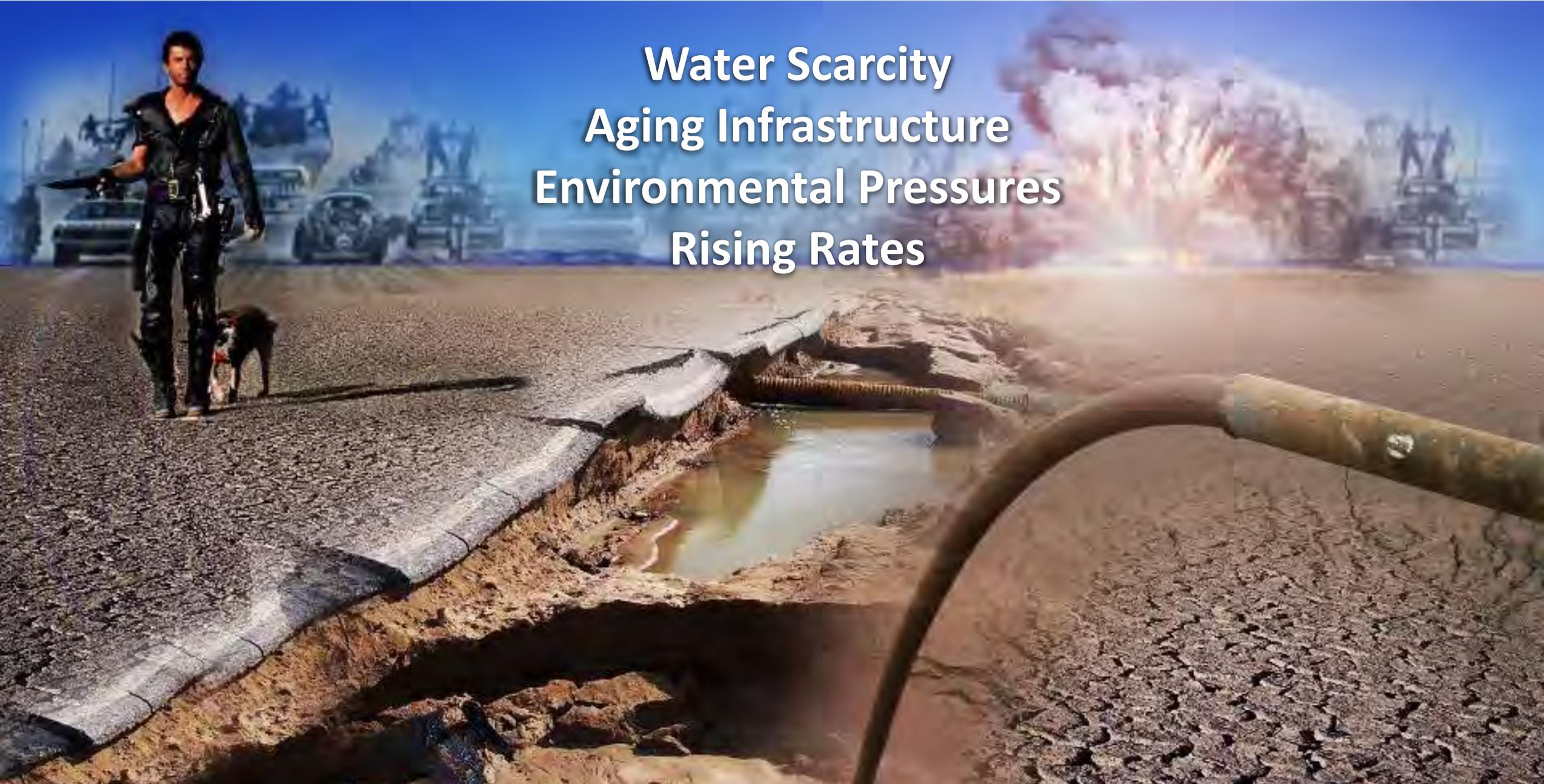


Changing the Paradigm of Water Reuse

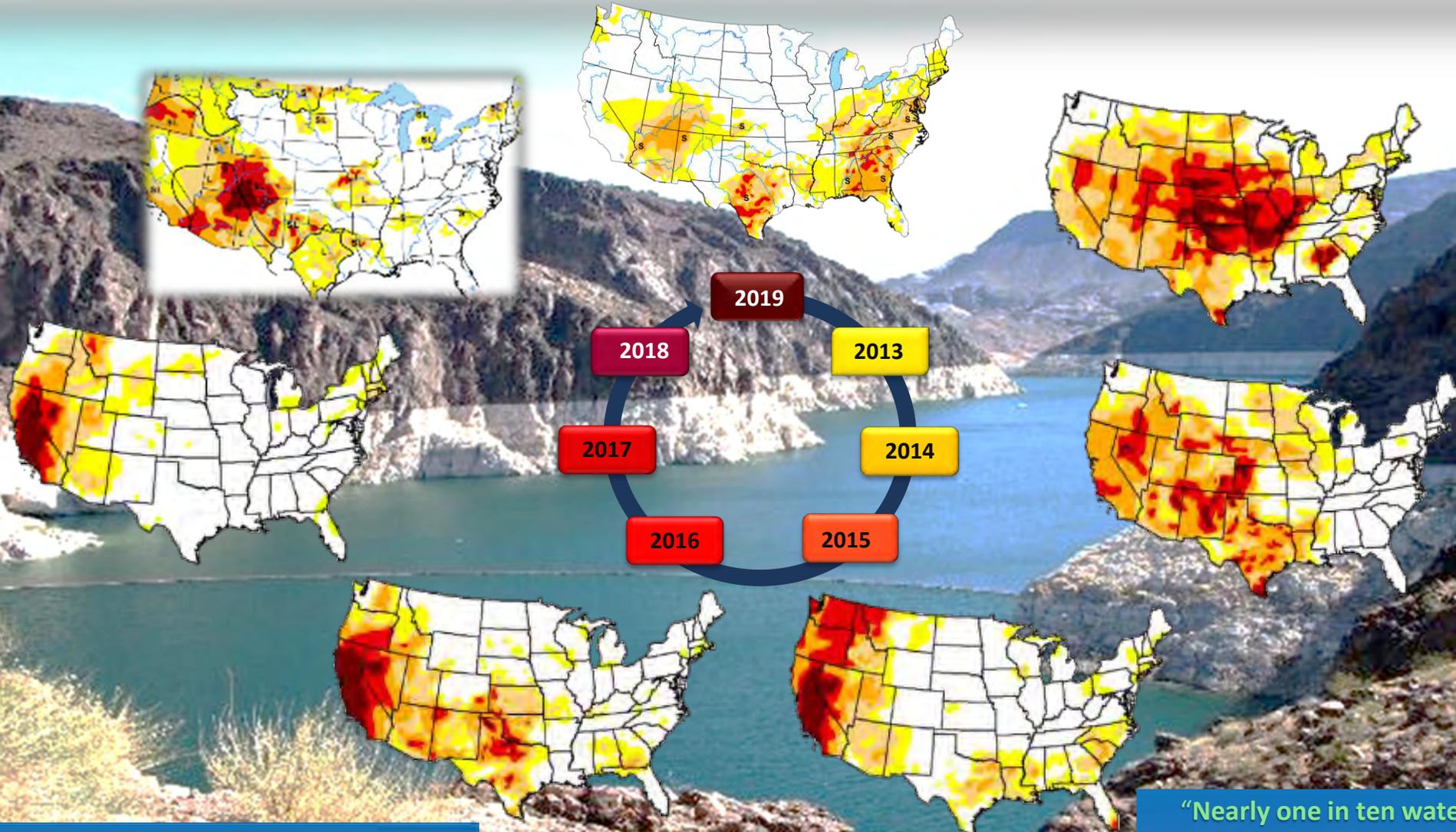


# The Water Apocalypse

Water Scarcity  
Aging Infrastructure  
Environmental Pressures  
Rising Rates



# The Cycle of Drought



“Water Managers in 40 states expect water shortages in some part of their state **within the next 10 years.**”  
- US Government Accountability Office

How will you *prepare* for recurring droughts?

“**Nearly one in ten watersheds are stressed.** By midcentury, we expect to see less reliable surface water supplies in the United States. This is likely to create growing challenges for agriculture, electrical suppliers, and municipalities.”  
- NOAA

# Fixing A Failing System

“Through strategic, sustained investment, bold leadership, thoughtful planning, and careful preparation for the needs of the future, America’s infrastructure will be improved and restored.”

- American Society of Civil Engineers, 2017 Report Card for America’s Infrastructure

## Suggested Solutions...

- Raise Awareness for the True Cost of Water
- Increase Costs for Water and Wastewater Services
- Develop and Harness New Technologies
- Increase Private Financing
- Implement Water Reuse & Expand Water Recycling

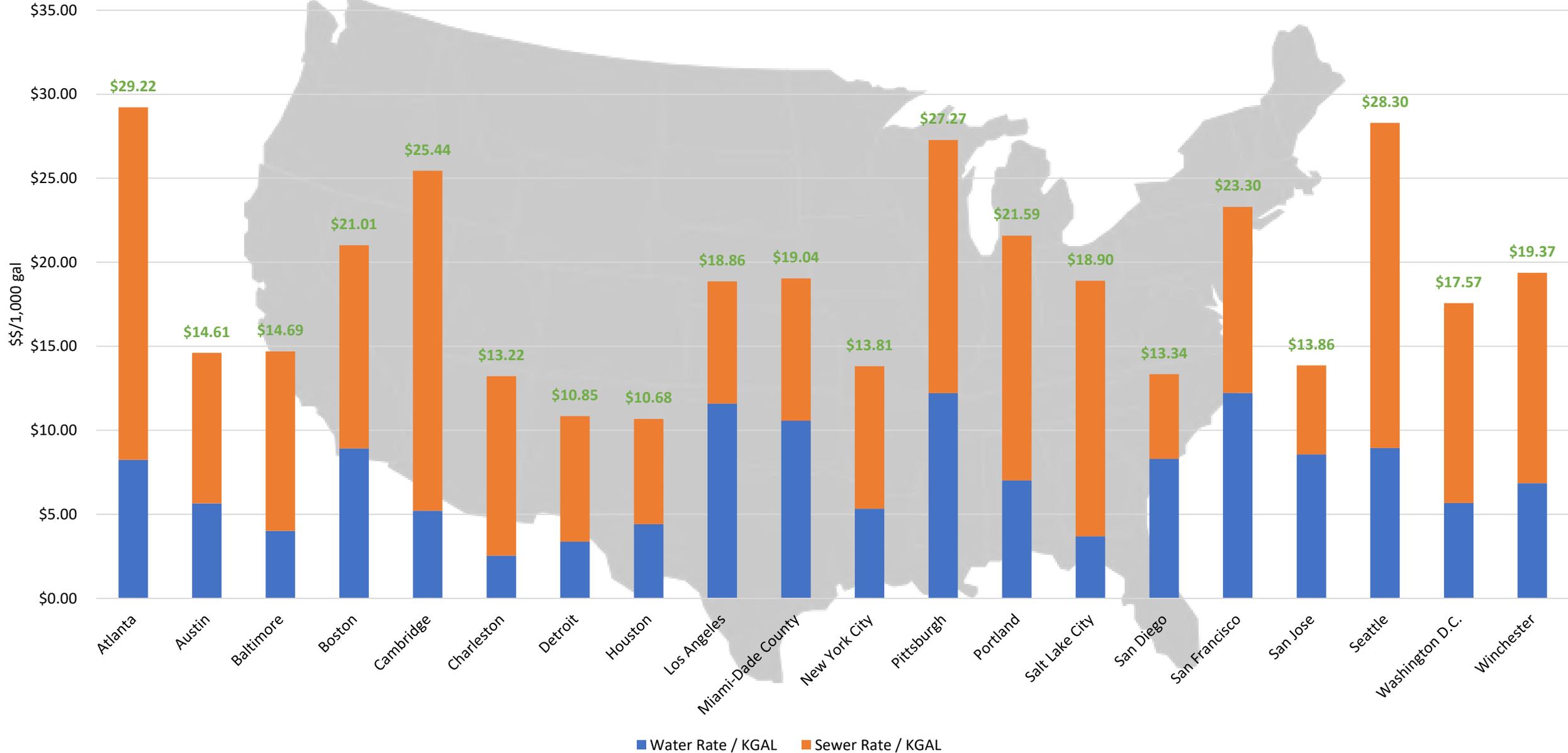


### OVERVIEW

The nation’s 14,748 wastewater treatment plants protect public health and the environment. Years of treatment plant upgrades and more stringent federal and state regulations have significantly reduced untreated releases and improved water quality nationwide. It is expected that more than 56 million new users will be connected to centralized treatment systems over the next two decades, and an estimated \$271 billion is needed to meet current and future demands. Through new methods and technologies that turn waste into energy, the nation’s 1,269 biogas plants help communities better manage waste through reuse.

# National Water & Sewer Rates

Water and Sewer Rates for 20 Major U.S. Cities



# CAMPUS GROWTH

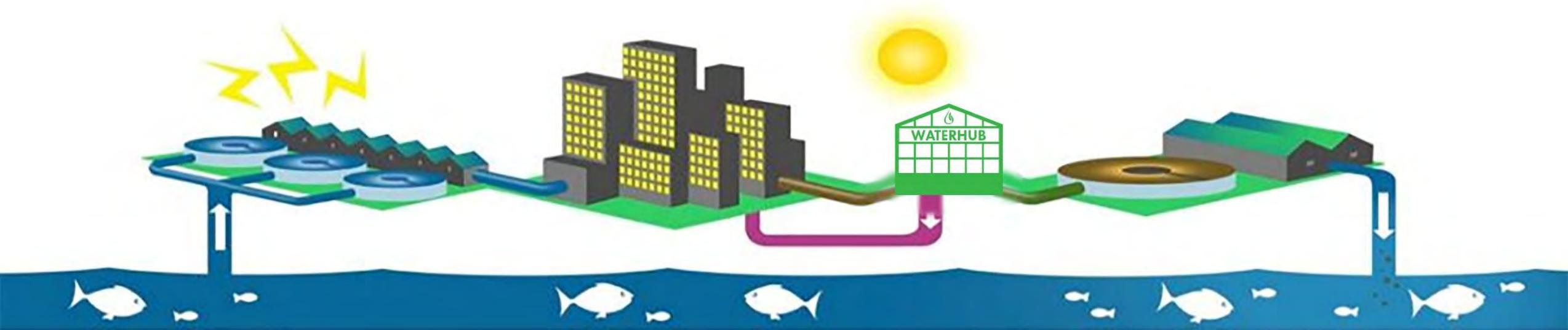


# The WaterHub<sup>®</sup>: Decentralized Reclamation & Reuse

Before



After



# Unique Development Approach

Operating Lease | DBO Agreement | Performance Contract

**ZERO**  
CAPITAL EXPENSE  
—AND—  
DEVELOPMENT RISK  
TO THE END USER

## Benefits

- No up-front capital
- Innovative technologies
- Leverages superior credit rating
- Lifecycle savings
- Long-term pricing stability
- No O&M responsibilities
- SW bears majority of risk



1. FEASIBILITY & PLANNING



2. ENGINEERING & DESIGN



3. CONSTRUCTION



4. COMMISSIONING & START-UP



5. FACILITY OPERATIONS

# Water Processing Agreement



## Client Benefits

- Utility Plant Operational Resiliency (N+1 Water Supply)
  - Campus Sustainability Initiative
  - Guaranteed Savings over Business-as-Usual
  - Hands-Off Operations
- 



## Developer Risk

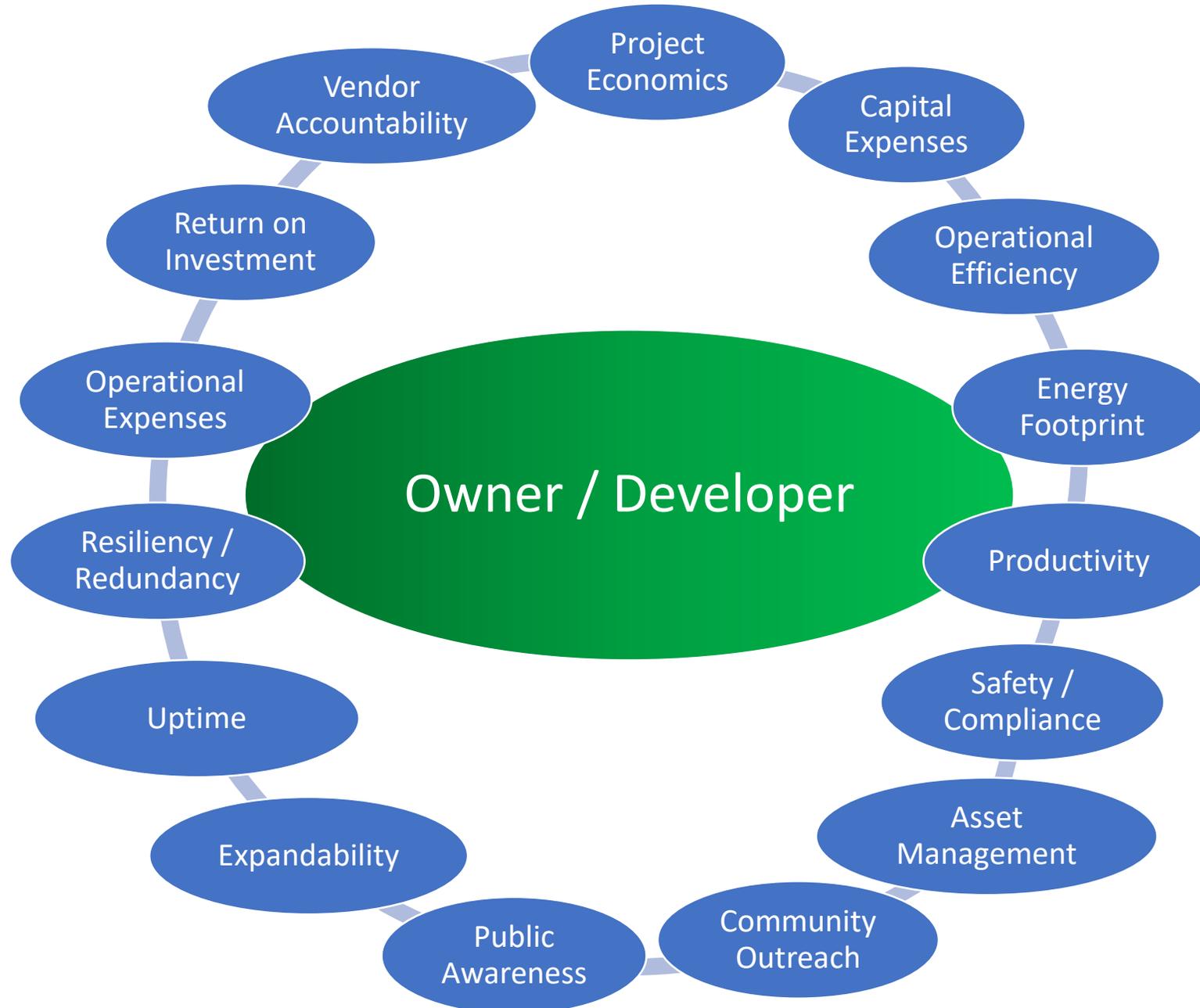
- Proper System Engineering & Design
  - Construction / Development Costs & Bonds
  - Facility Operational Cost
  - Facility Maintenance Cost
  - Production of Compliant Reclaimed Water
  - Any Escalation of Long-term water / sewer costs
  - Long-term Upkeep of Plant
- 



## Client Responsibility

- Minimum Annual Purchase of Compliant Reclaimed Water (Based on historical water use)
  - Land Lease and Pipeline Easement
  - 30 Year Operating Agreement
-

# Owner / Developer Mindset



# Preliminary Assessment Data Request

## • Water Use ( 3 years)

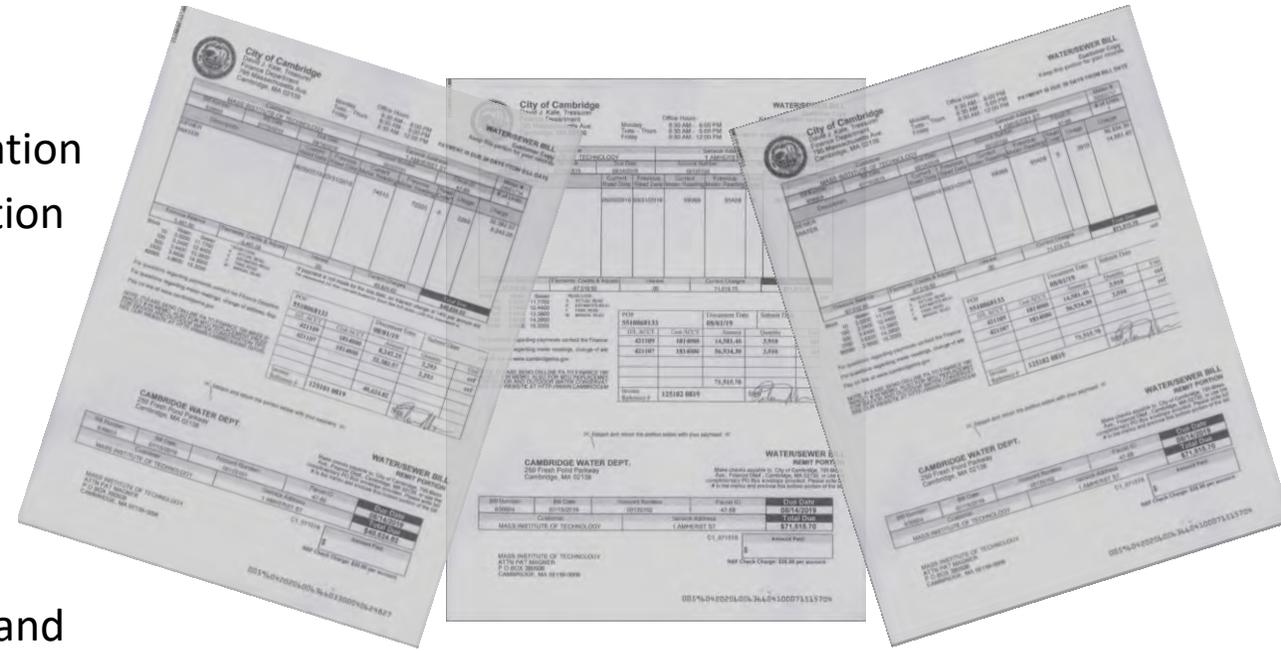
- Total campus inbound water by Month and Location
- Chiller Plant/Cooling Tower Make-Up by Month and Location
- Boiler Make-Up/ Power Block Usage by Month and Location
- Irrigation by Month and Locations
- Any Supplemental Sub-Metering Data

## • Economics (3 years)

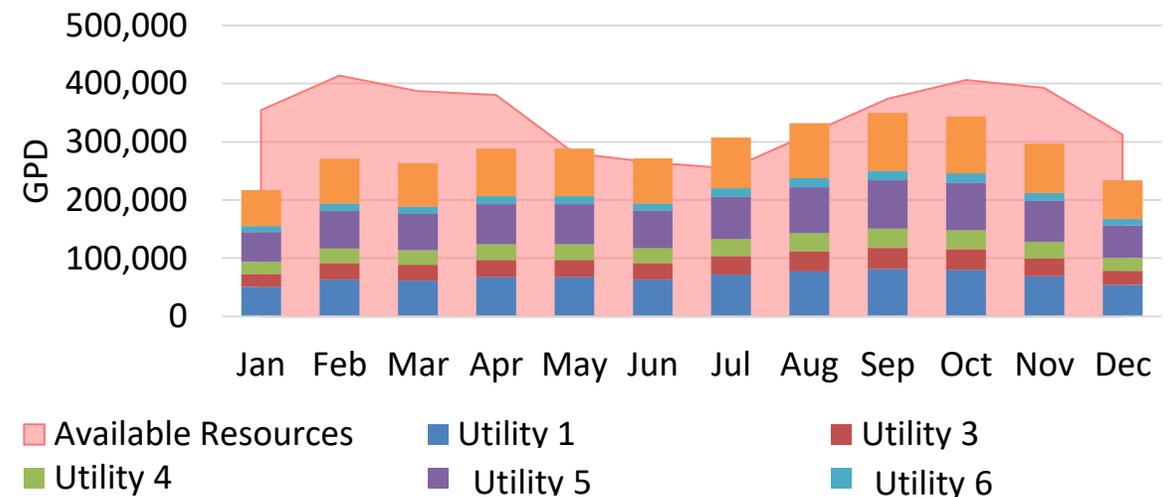
- Recent Water & Sewer Bills
- Internal OPEX Breakdown for Potable Water Production and Wastewater Pretreatment inclusive of:
  - Energy
  - Manpower
  - Chemical
  - Repair/Replacement

## • Wastewater and Quality Testing

- Current Industrial Discharge Permit
- Historical Groundwater Influent Quality Testing
- Wastewater Influent and Effluent Quality Testing
  - Industrial and Sanitary



Estimated Utility Demands By Location



# Feasibility Study Scope of Work

## Existing Conditions Assessment

- Water Balance & Demands
- Site & Infrastructure Review
- Utility Water Audit / Review
- Future Demand / Load Forecasts
- Water Supply Resiliency Review



## Supplemental Field Investigation

- Validate process / Cooling makeup
- Wastewater Flow Monitoring
- WW Characterization



## Establishing the Vision

- Opportunities & Constraints
- Campus Sustainability / Resiliency Goals
- Developing a Basis of Design for Systems

## Concept Design

- Site Plan
- Conceptual Layout & Design
- Water Supply Resiliency Assessment
- Preliminary Constructability Review & Budget
- Lifecycle Economics



# Supplemental Field Investigation



## TASKS:

- Review all 3<sup>rd</sup> party flow & water quality testing
- Administer supplemental field investigations where needed
  - Wastewater flow monitoring
  - End-use flow validation
  - Wastewater characterization
- Develop field testing reports summarizing results

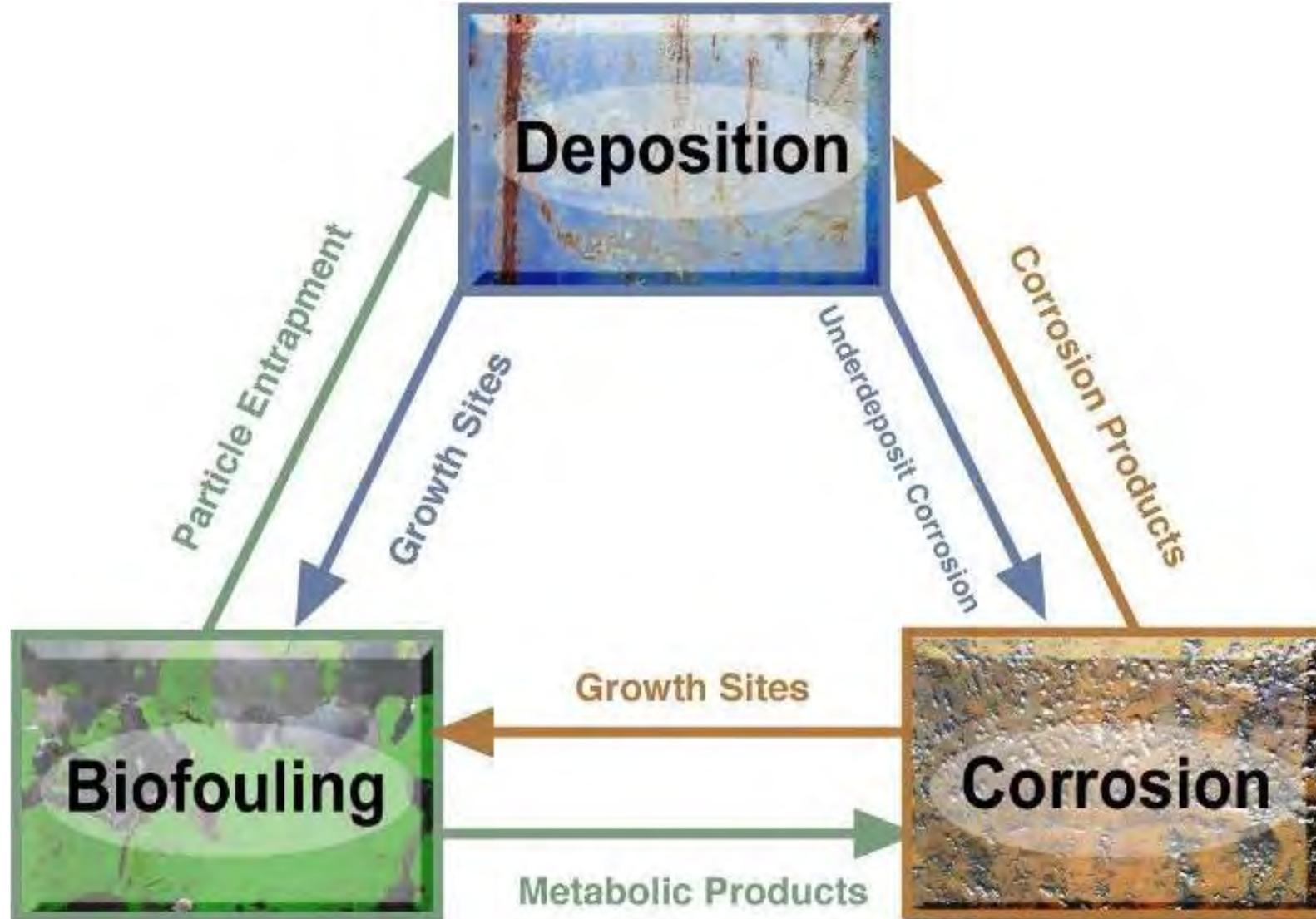
## FLOW MONITORING

- Seasonal variations in flow
- Diurnal patterns
- Reuse potential

## WASTEWATER CHARACTERIZATION

- Variability
- Treatability
- Contaminants of Concern
- Informs basis of design

# Understanding Water Issues



# Utility Water Audit



Equipment Inventory



Equipment Conditions



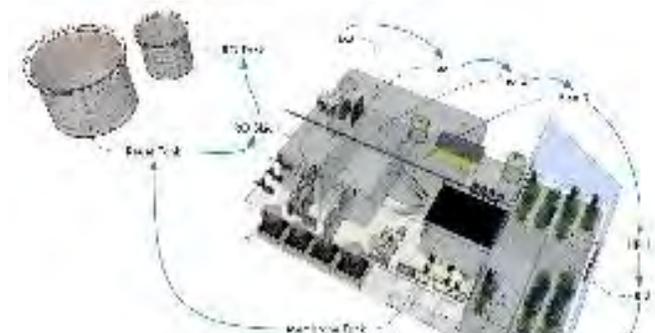
Operational Protocols



Treatment Program Admin



Reclaimed Water Modeling



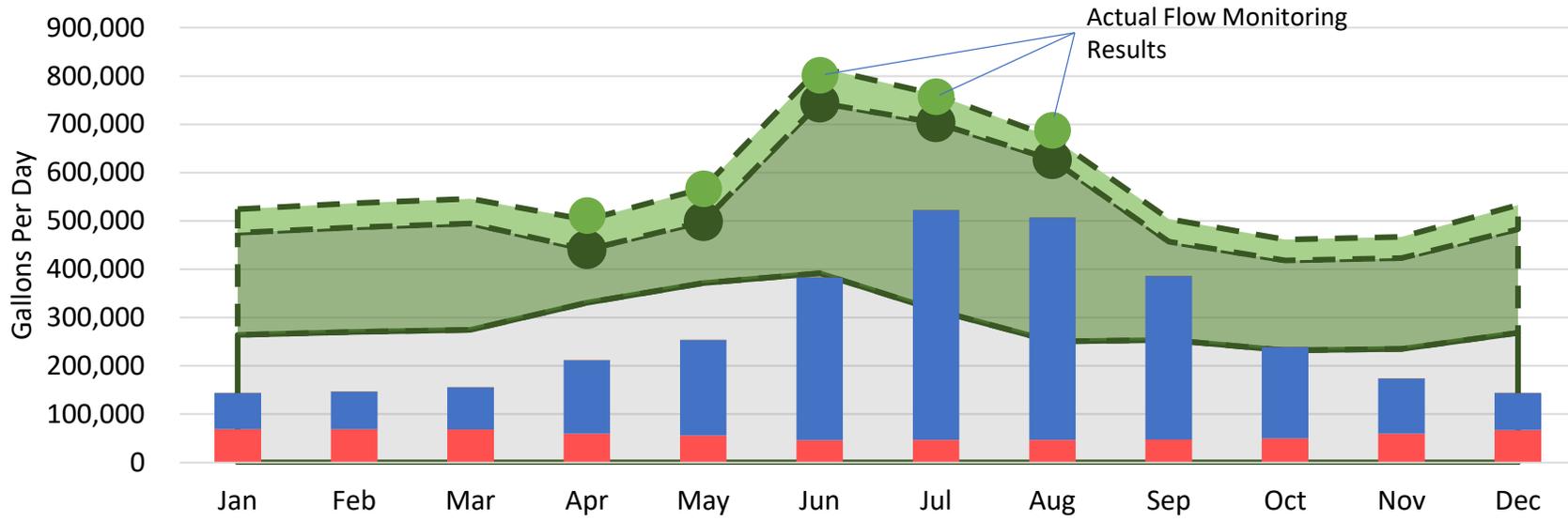
Treatment Process Design

## TASKS:

- Catalogue existing utility / process water equipment at targeted reclaimed water end use locations
- Assess process water equipment conditions (w/ Azure Water)
  - Corrosion Rates
  - Non-destructive testing
  - Inspection reports
- Review chemical treatment program administration / maintenance
  - Operator logs
  - Disinfection / Inhibition Program
- Validate operating loads and water demands / diurnal profiles
- Review district energy expansion / modification plans & assess future operating loads
- Establish baseline water quality characteristics

# System Design Basis

Targeted Demands vs Measured Wastewater Resources



- Campus Discharge Model
- Boiler Make-Up
- Campus Outfall Wastewater Resources
- Cooling Tower Make-Up
- North Rd Wastewater Resources
- Fire Suppression

Parameter	Unit	Influent	Effluent	Standard
BOD	mg/l	183.87	< 10	Class A
TSS	mg/l	151.71	< 5	Class A
pH	S.U.	7.22	6.5 - 8.5	Class A
Turbidity	NTU	72.44	< 2	Class A
Total Nitrogen	mg/l	36.0	< 10	Class A
Fecal Coliform	Col/100ml	--	Non-detect	Class A
Conductivity Tower	uhms	1,000	< 250	End Use
Conductivity Boiler	uhms	730 - 1,100	< 50	End Use

## FIELD INVESTIGATION:

- 7 Days of Composite Sampling
- 120 Days of Flow monitoring
- Ongoing to provide highest quality dataset
  
- Campus Outfall:
  - Avg Flow - 575k GPD
  - Est Annual – 190 MGY
- North Rd Outfall Avg:
  - Avg Flow - 56k GPD
  - Est Annual – 20 MGY

## EFFLUENT DESIGN:

- State Class A Standard
- Additional End Use Standards

# The WaterHub at Emory University



**OUTDOOR WETLANDS**



**INTERIOR HYDROPONICS**



**LABORATORY SPACE**

## **CLIENT TYPE**

Private University

## **LOCATION**

Atlanta, GA

## **HYDRAULIC CAPACITY**

440,000 GPD

## **FOOTPRINT**

Building: 3,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

Lower Site: 3,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

## **COMMERCIAL OPERATION**

May 2015

## **END USES**

Boiler Make-Up

Cooling Tower Make-Up

Toilet Flushing

## **TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED**

Hydroponic – MBBR

Reciprocating Wetlands

# The WaterHub at Emory University

## CAPABILITIES:

- Up to 400K GPD and 146M GPY Capacity
- Displaces Up to 40% of Total Campus Demand
- Reduces Up to 70% of Campus Wastewater
- Displaces 90% of Utility Water Demand
- Living, Learning Laboratory



## PERFORMANCE TO DATE

- 95% of City Water Displaced at Cooling Towers
- Averaging 7 Million Gallons per Month Campus Wide
- 280 Million Gallons of Water Delivered since May 2015
- 99% Up-Time Reliability
- Over 5,000 tours conducted

# The WaterHub – Living & Learning Lab



“ THE WATERHUB PROVIDES THE EXPERIENCE OF COLLECTING REAL DATA, INTERPRETING RESULTS AND WRITING REPORTS. FOR SOME STUDENTS, IT MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST HANDS-ON LAB EXPERIENCE THAT THEY’VE HAD. ”

- CHRISTINE MOE, DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR GLOBAL SAFE WATER, EMORY UNIVERSITY



## EDUCATIONAL FEATURES:

- Info / Educational Plaques & Signage
- Classroom & Lab Space
- Easy Access Water Quality Ports
- Public Operations Monitors

## NOTEWORTHY RESULTS:

- Over 4,500 tours held since May '15
- Used in graduate thesis studies
- Centerpiece of Student Docent Program
- Integrated into core coursework

## RESEARCH & CURRICULUM:

- Used in the following fields:
  - Biology
  - Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)
  - Journalism
  - Chemistry
  - Law
- New Courses Introduced:
  - Water and Sanitation in Developing Countries
  - Research Methods in WASH

# The Virginia WaterHub®



## CLIENT TYPE

Industrial Manufacturing

## LOCATION

Richmond, VA

## HYDRAULIC SIZING

650,000 GPD

## FOOTPRINT

Building: 8,200 ft<sup>2</sup>

Storage Tank: 1,200 ft<sup>2</sup>  
(24 ft. hgt. & 39 ft. dia.)

## COMMERCIAL OPERATION

July 2019

## END USES

Cooling Tower Make-Up  
Open-Aired Chiller Make-Up

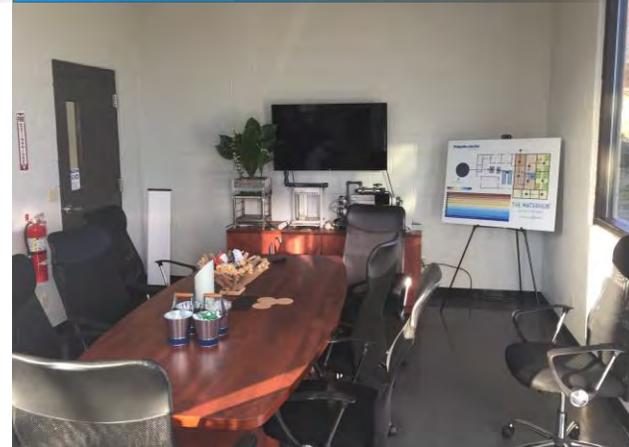
## TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED

- Hydroponic – MBR
- RO Polishing

RECLAIMED STORAGE TANK



MEETING SPACE



HYDROPONIC PLANTINGS



# The Virginia WaterHub®



## CAPABILITIES:

- Up to 650K GPD and 237M GPY capacity
- 40% reduction of consumed water
- 55% reduction of wastewater discharge
- Exceed corporate KPI (25%) in water reduction
- Sustainability featured in campus tour



## PROJECT GOALS:

- Conserve community water resources
- Provide leadership in water sustainability
- Relieve strain on local municipal infrastructure
- Insulate operational viability & supply chain



## The Virginia WaterHub®



## Central Plant



## Virginia WaterHub® Goals

- Conserve community water resources
- Provide leadership in water sustainability
- 40% reduction in consumed water
- 55% wastewater discharge reduction
- Relieve strain on local municipal infrastructure
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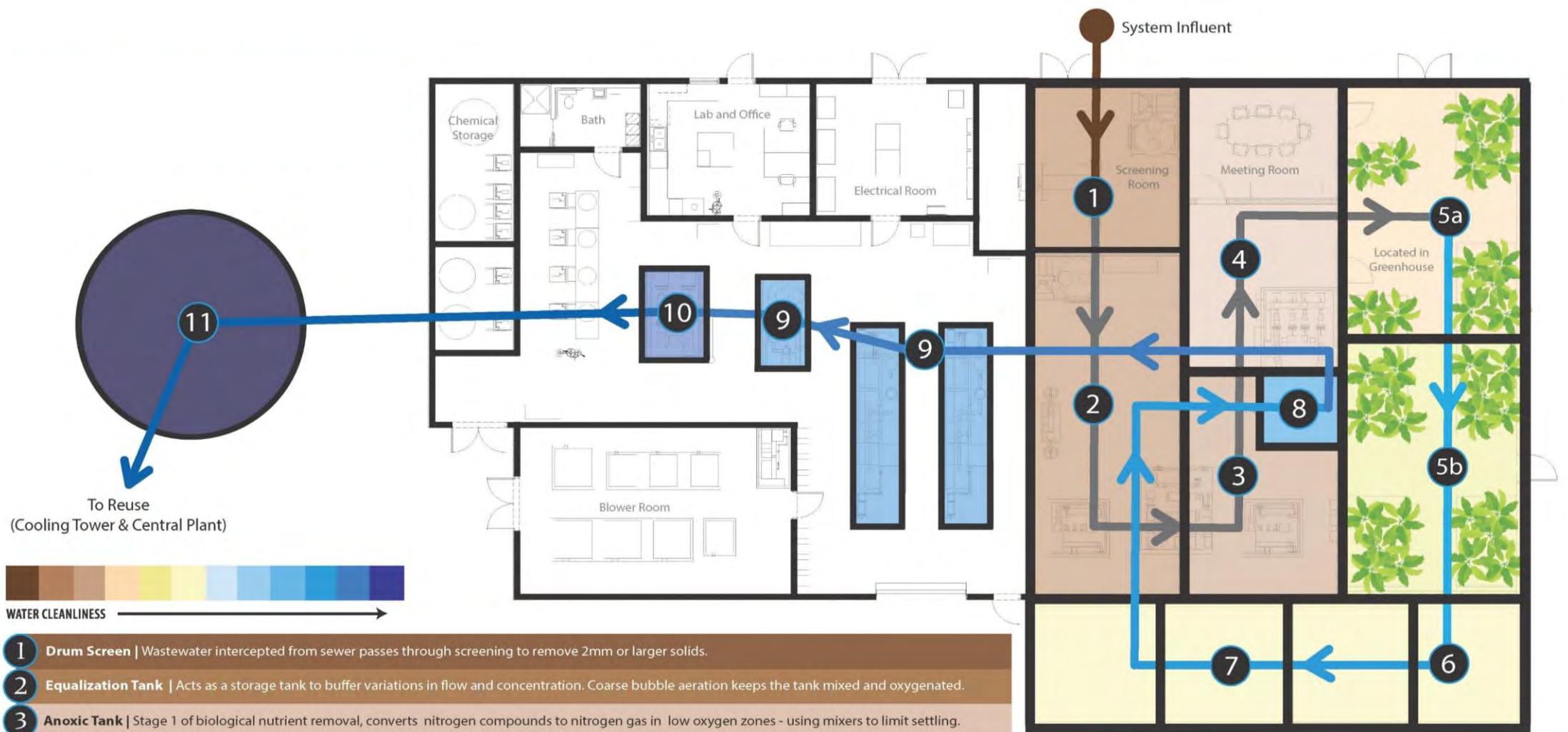
Outfall #006

Wastewater



Outfall #001

Extraction Pipe Route



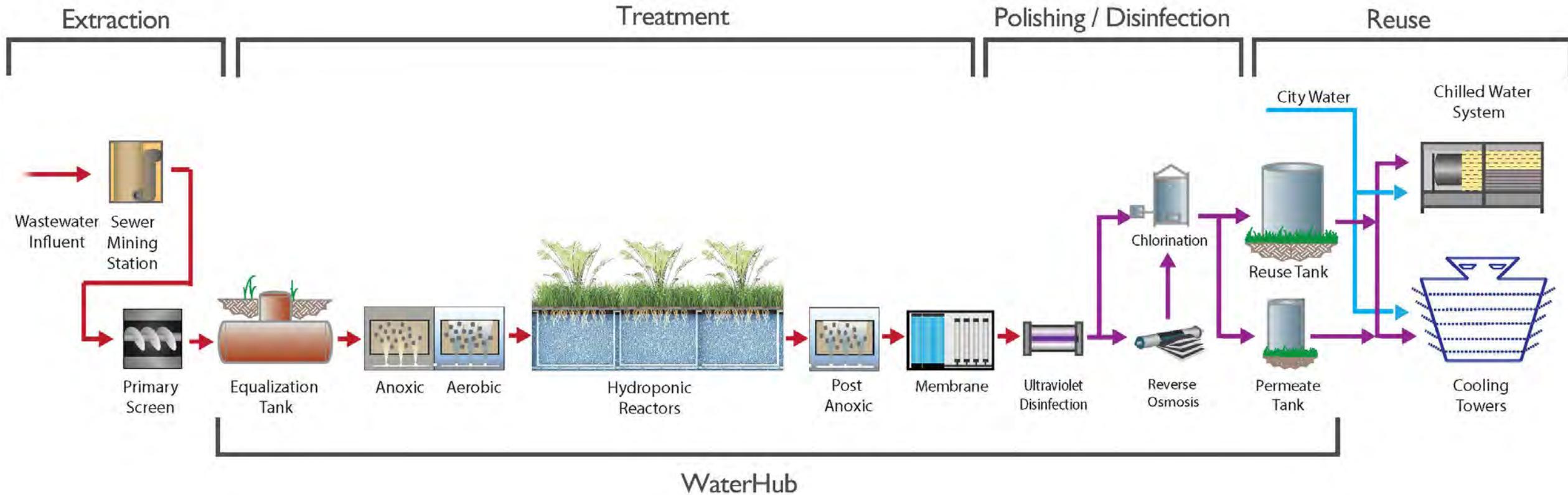
- 1 Drum Screen** | Wastewater intercepted from sewer passes through screening to remove 2mm or larger solids.
- 2 Equalization Tank** | Acts as a storage tank to buffer variations in flow and concentration. Coarse bubble aeration keeps the tank mixed and oxygenated.
- 3 Anoxic Tank** | Stage 1 of biological nutrient removal, converts nitrogen compounds to nitrogen gas in low oxygen zones - using mixers to limit settling.
- 4 Aerobic Tank** | Blowers and fine bubble diffusers provide mixing and oxygenation that support bacterial respiration to consume organic materials.
- 5 Hydroponic Reactor** | Specific plant species, suspended over aerobic tanks, grow roots into the reactor to provide additional surface area for fixed-film microorganisms.
- 6 Post Anoxic Flex Reactor** | The final biological treatment step is a flexible tank operated in either aerobic or anaerobic conditions to remove residual organics or nitrogen.
- 7 Submerged Membranes** | Water passes through a 0.5 micron membrane to remove biosolids. The rejected biosolids recycle to anoxic tank for continued microbial growth.
- 8 Permeate Tank** | Effluent from submerged membranes is stored here after passing through an ultraviolet disinfection (UV) system that inactivate pathogens.
- 9 Reverse Osmosis (RO)** | An RO system treats a side-stream of flow to remove residual minerals and blended into the effluent stream to achieve target conductivity levels.
- 10 Reclaimed Water Distribution Pumps** | Pumps designed to supply reclaimed water flow and pressure to industrial users.
- 11 Reuse Tank** | Tank to provide clean water storage and chlorine pathogen disinfection.

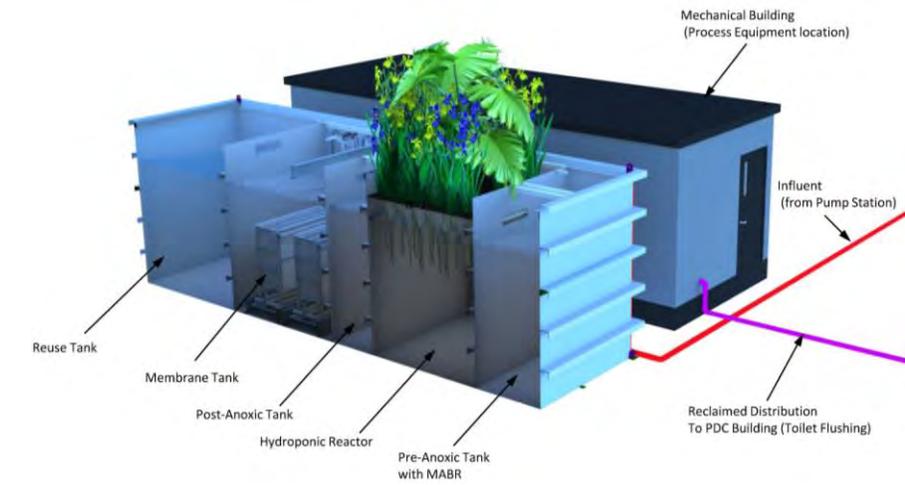
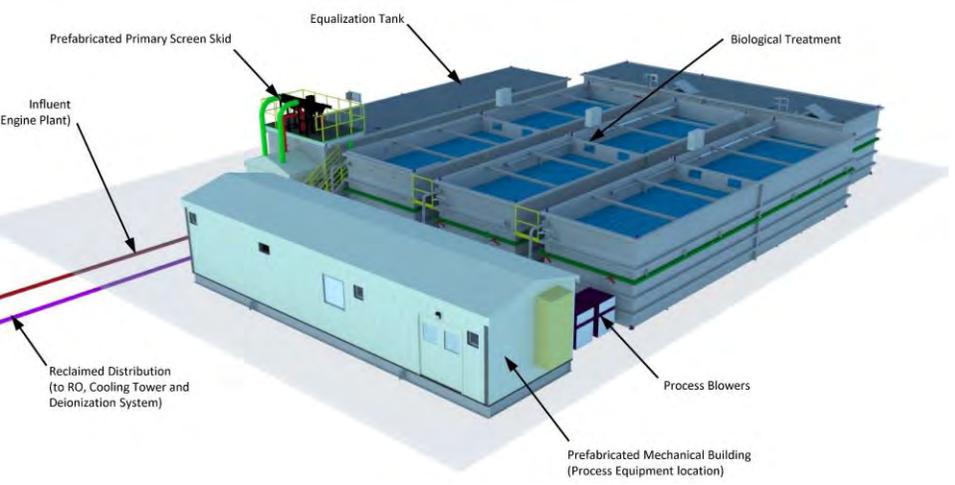
# THE WATERHUB®

## HOW IT WORKS

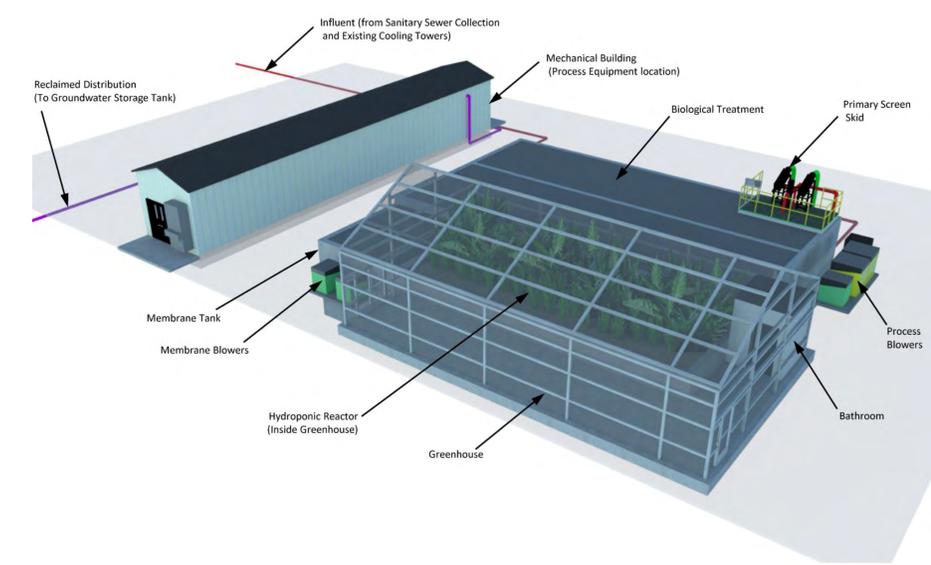


# The Virginia WaterHub® Process Design





# UPCOMING PROJECTS



# City of Austin PDC WaterHub®



## LOCATION

Austin, TX

## CLIENT

City of Austin

## PROJECT TYPE

Building-Scale Wastewater Reclamation & Reuse

## HYDRAULIC CAPACITY

5,000 GPD

## FOOTPRINT

800 ft<sup>2</sup>

## COMMERCIAL OPERATION

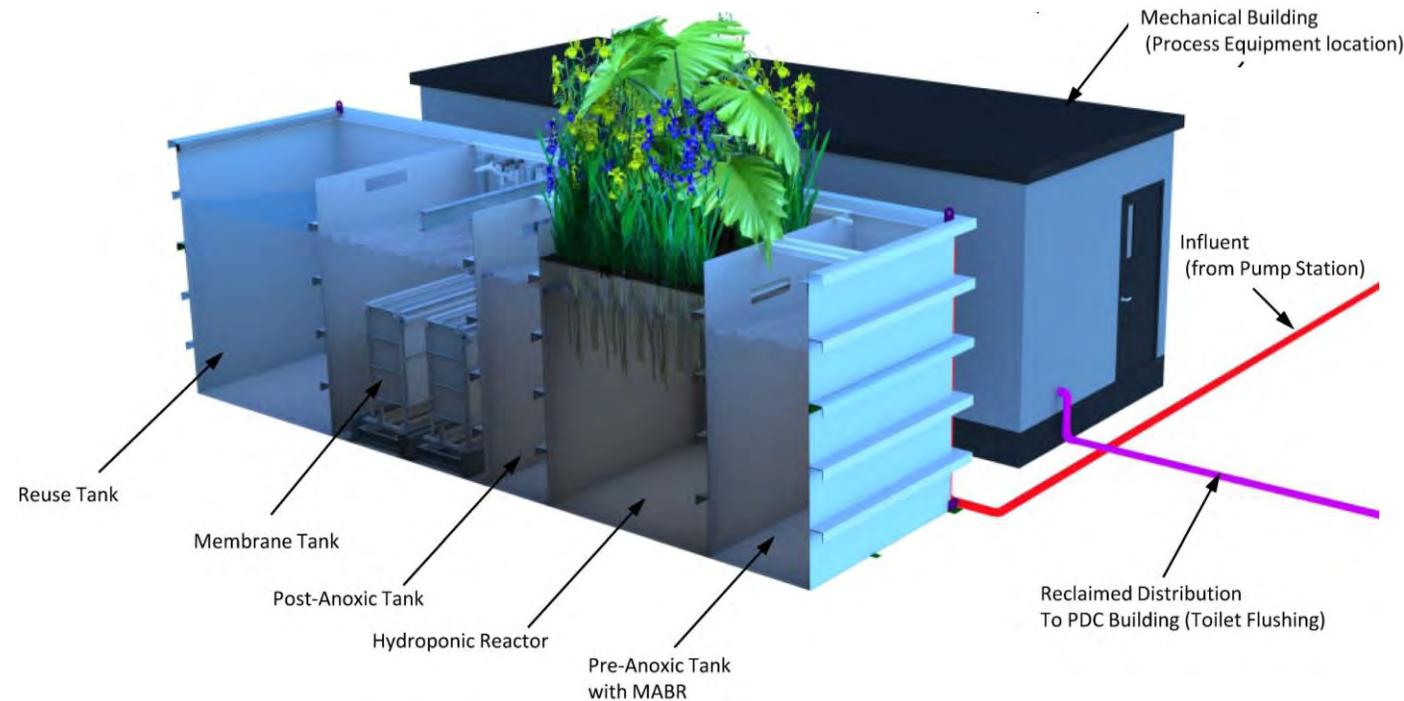
Summer 2021

## END USES

Building Toilet Flushing

## TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED

Tertiary: Membrane Bioreactor (MBR)  
Disinfection: Dual-Stage UV & Chlorine



# City of Austin PDC WaterHub®



# The WaterHub<sup>®</sup> at The University of Texas at Austin



## CLIENT TYPE

Public University

## LOCATION

Austin, TX

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

District-Scale Wastewater Reclamation and Reuse

## HYDRAULIC CAPACITY

1,000,000 GPD

## FOOTPRINT

15,000 ft<sup>2</sup>

## COMMERCIAL OPERATION

Spring 2021

## END USES

Cooling Tower Make-Up  
Boiler Make-Up

## TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED

Hydroponics  
Membrane Bioreactor (MBR)  
Reverse Osmosis



# Procurement Process at UT-Austin



Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts  
Glenn Hegar

## DBOO - District-Scale Water Reclamation and Reuse Facility

Status: Closed

Solicitation ID: 18UTL006

Response Due Date: 4/13/2018

Response Due Time: 2:00 PM

Agency Number: 721

Days Solicited: 21+ Days for Solicitation Notice

Solicitation Posting Date: 3/5/2018

Last Modified: 4/13/2018 2:00 pm

**Solicitation Description:** The University is seeking qualified teams indicating their interest and qualifications for the design, build, own and operation of a district-scale water reclamation and reuse system. This document provides preliminary project details to solicit information related to proposed technology, system design and cost from qualified respondents. The full project details and specifications will be presented in a Request for Proposal (RFP), which will be issued to prequalified Respondents only. A pre-submittal conference will be held at the time and location described below. March 19, 2018 at 2:00 PM local time The University of Texas at Austin Utilities and Energy Management Department 215 East 24th St, PPE Rm. 3.304 Austin, Texas 78712

**Class/Item Code:** 90922-Building Construction, Non-Residential (Office Bldg., Etc.)

### Attachments

#	Name	Description
1	ESBD_File_125545_DB RFQ.pdf	DBOO - RFQ
2	ESBD_File_125545_Addendum#1.pdf	Addendum#1
3	ESBD_File_125545_Exhibit H-Bldg Construction Revised 09182017.docx	HUBH
4	ESBD_File_125545_Exhibit h-Professional Services 08042017 #2.docx	HUBh

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR  
DESIGN/BUILD/OWN/OPERATE

*The University of Texas at Austin*  
*District-Scale Water Reclamation and Reuse Facility*  
RFQ No.: **18UTL006**

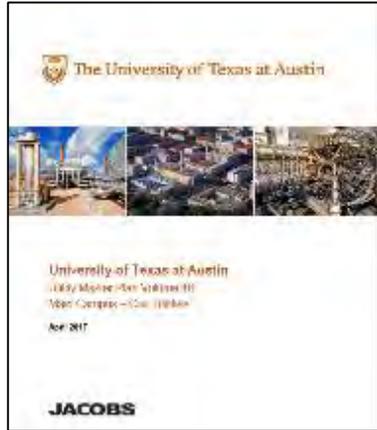
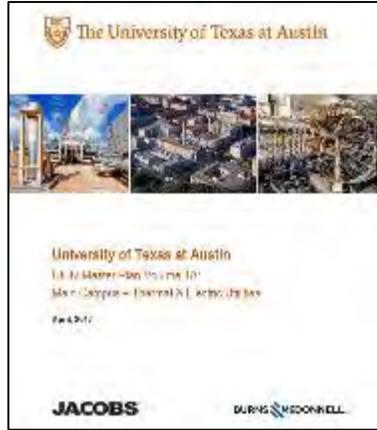
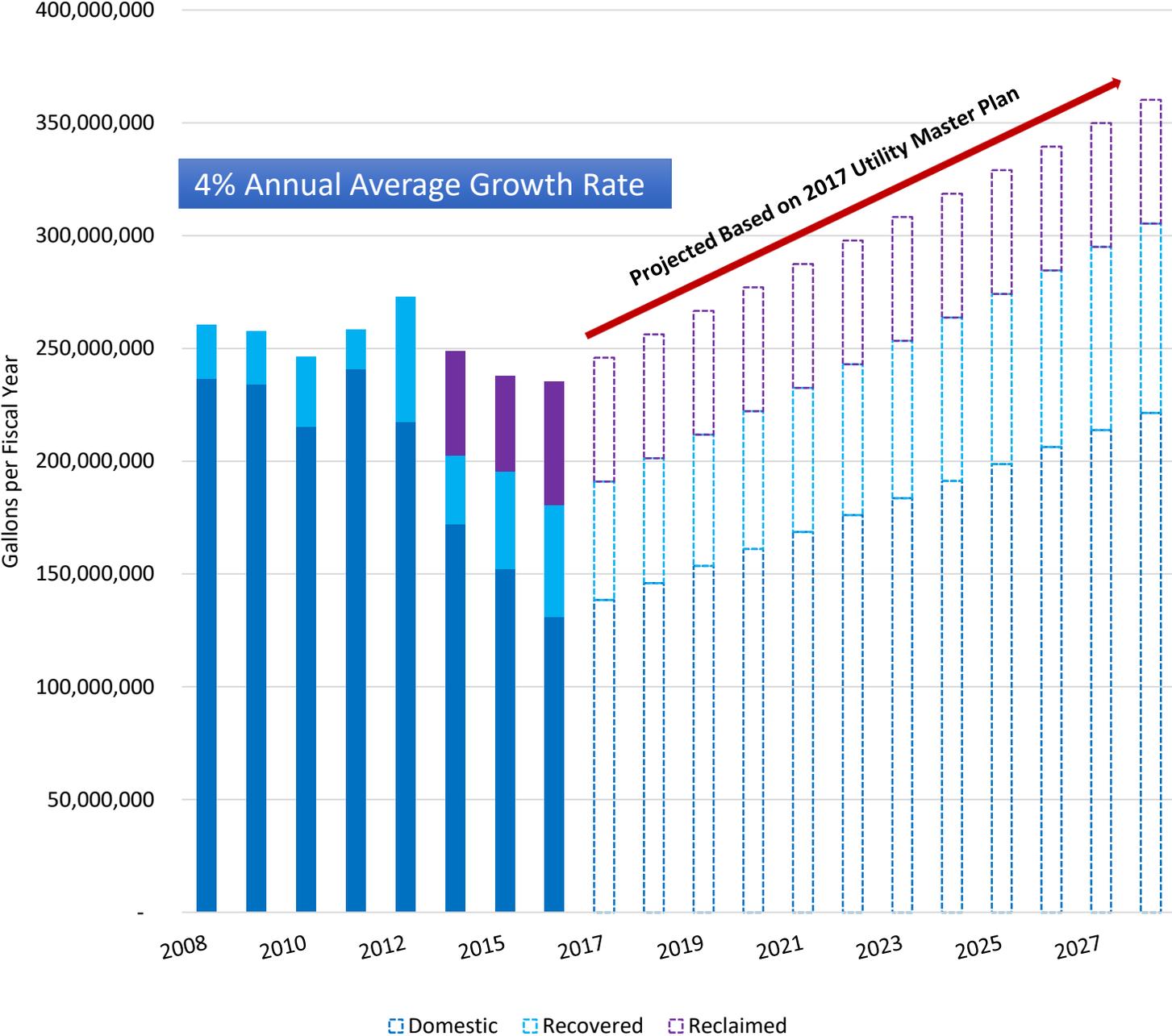
**RFQ SUBMITTAL DUE DATE:** *Apr. 13, 2018*

**RFQ ISSUE DATE:** *March 5, 2018*



Prepared By:  
**Ken Bonin, Contract Administrator**  
The University of Texas at Austin  
BFS - UEM  
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[ken.bonin@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:ken.bonin@austin.utexas.edu)

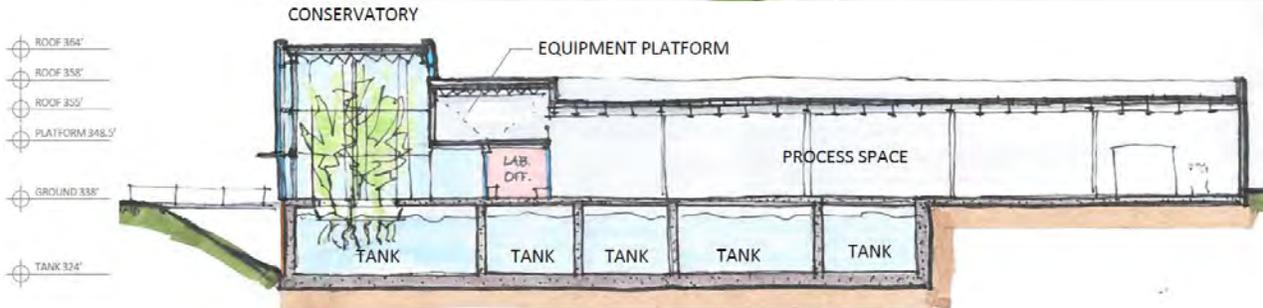
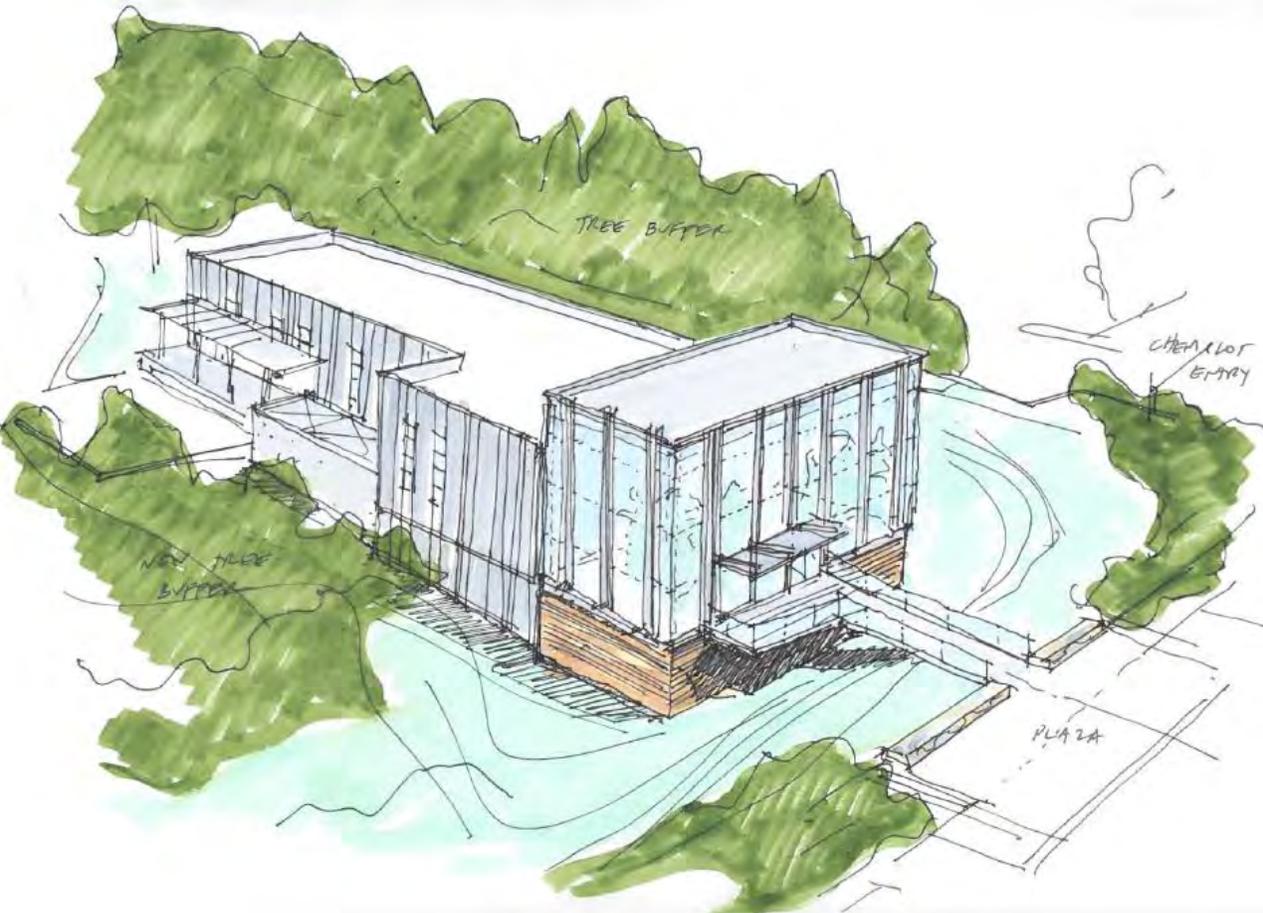
# Projected Chilling Station M/U By Source



## Projected Chilling Station Demands

- **Based on 2017 Utility Plan**  
(does not include Weaver PP)
- **2016 Demand**
  - 31,328 Peak Tons
  - 235 MGY cooling m/u
    - Domestic: 131 MGY
    - Recovered: 49 MGY
    - Reclaimed: 55 MGY
- **2028 Cooling Projections**
  - 53% Increase
  - 47, 675 peak tons
  - 360 MGY cooling m/u
    - Domestic: 221 MGY
    - Recovered: 84 MGY
    - Reclaimed: 55 MGY

# The WaterHub<sup>®</sup> at Duke University



## CLIENT TYPE

Private University

## LOCATION

Durham, NC

## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- District-Scale Wastewater Reclamation & Reuse
- Develop Sustainable Water Management District

## HYDRAULIC CAPACITY

600,000 GPD

## FOOTPRINT

9,400 ft<sup>2</sup>

## COMMERCIAL OPERATION

Spring 2021

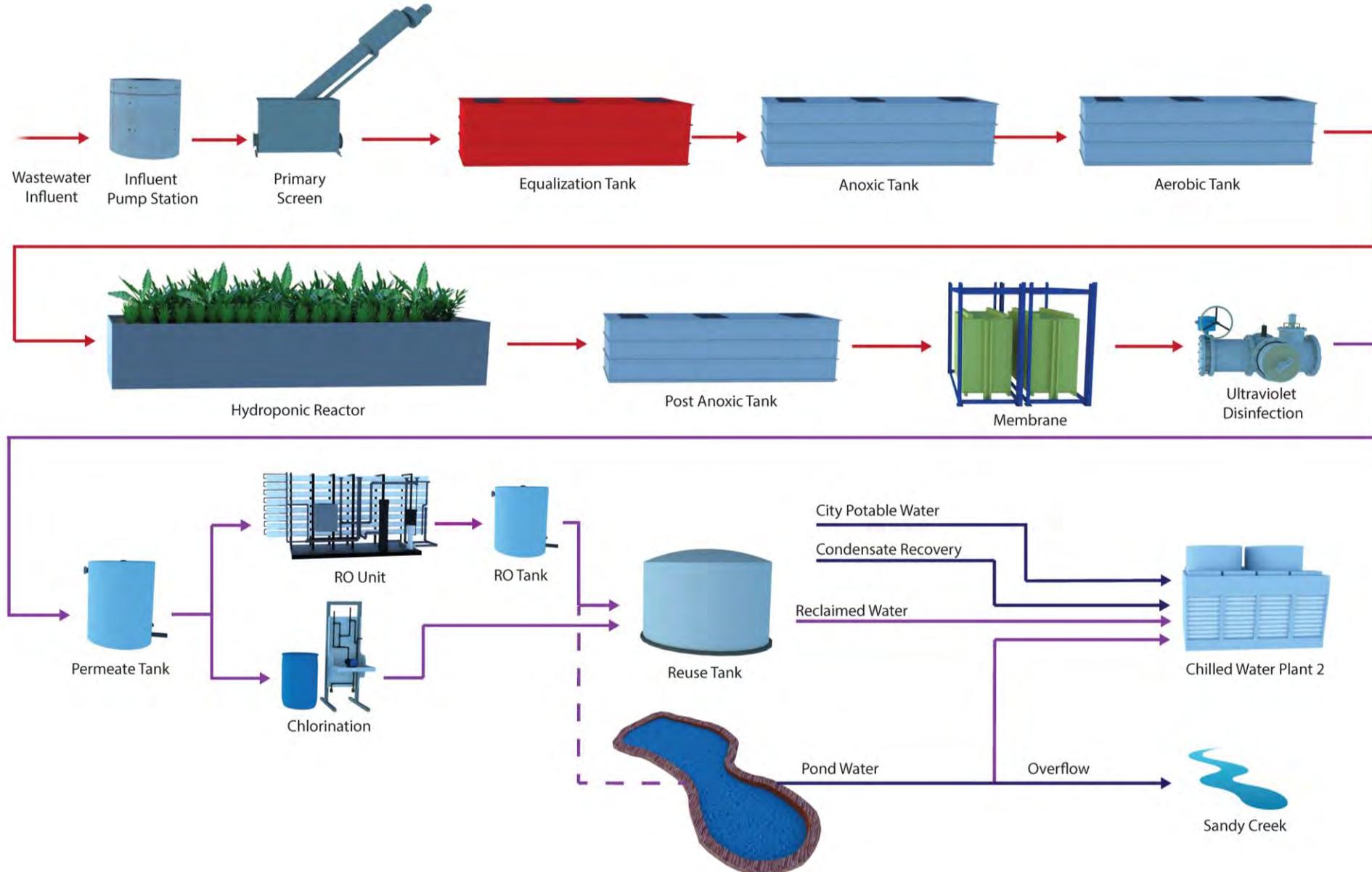
## GOALS / OUTCOMES

- Utility / Operational Resiliency
- Reuse 120 MGY
- 45% decrease in discharge

# The WaterHub<sup>®</sup> at Duke University



# The WaterHub<sup>®</sup> at Duke Process Design



# The WaterHub® at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital



## LOCATION

Atlanta, GA

## CLIENT

Piedmont Healthcare

## PROJECT TYPE

Campus-Scale Wastewater Reclamation & Reuse

## HYDRAULIC CAPACITY

250,000 GPD

## FOOTPRINT

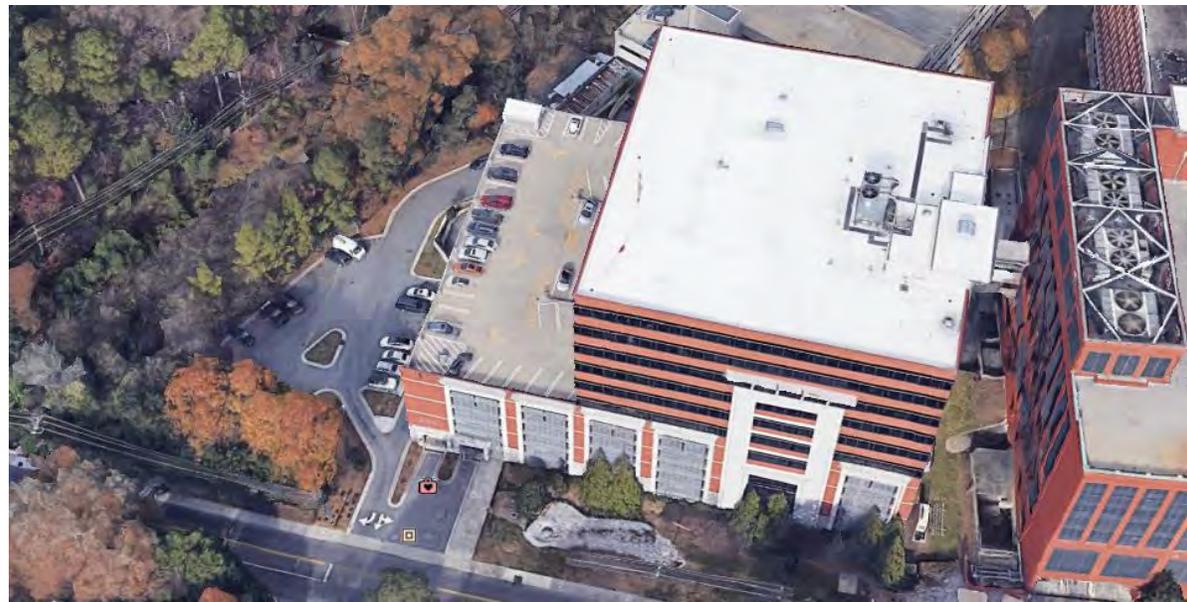
4,300 ft<sup>2</sup>

## GOALS

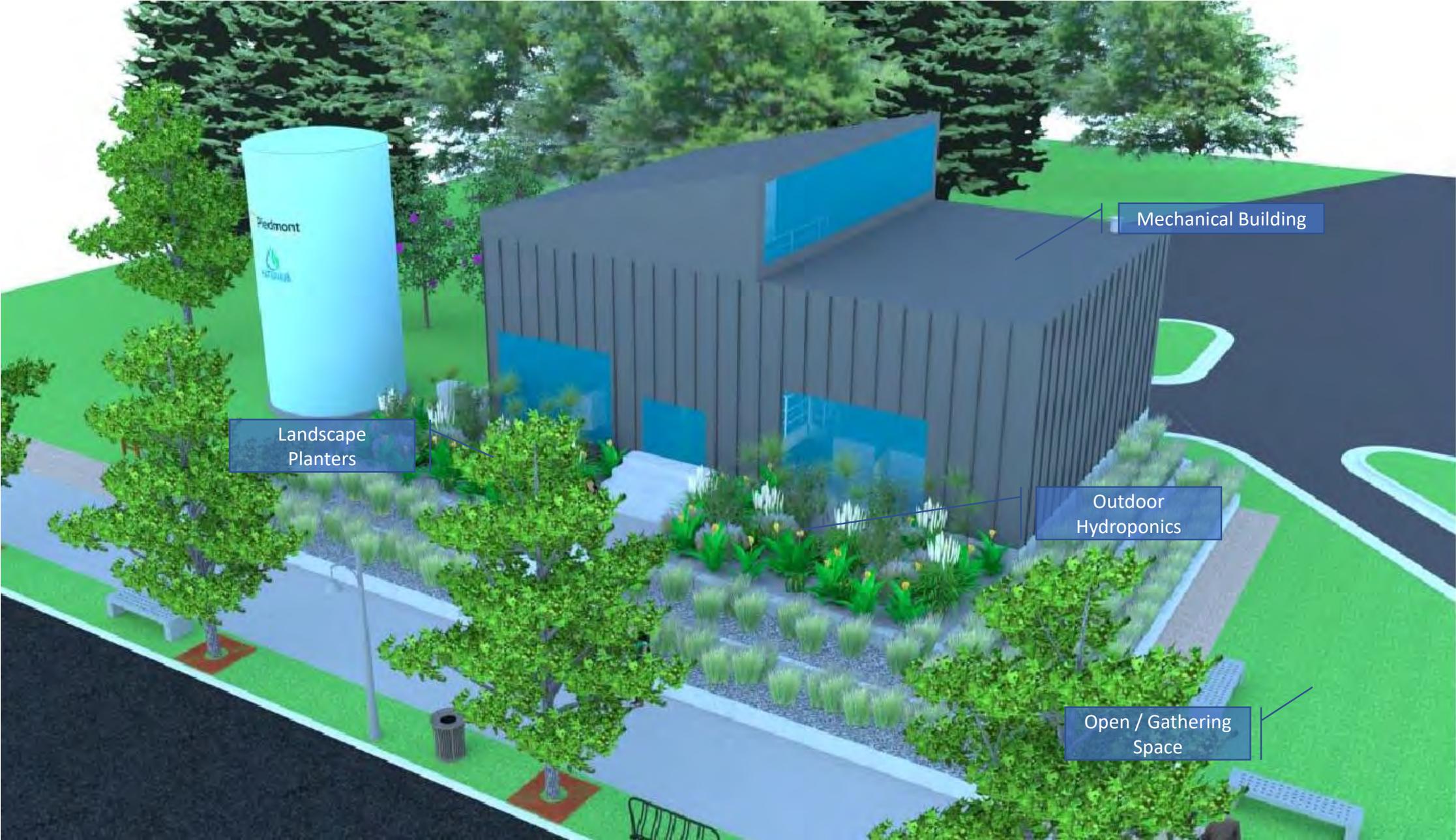
- Resilient Utility Operations
- Water Conservation
- 75% Decrease in Discharge
- Enable Future Development

## TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED

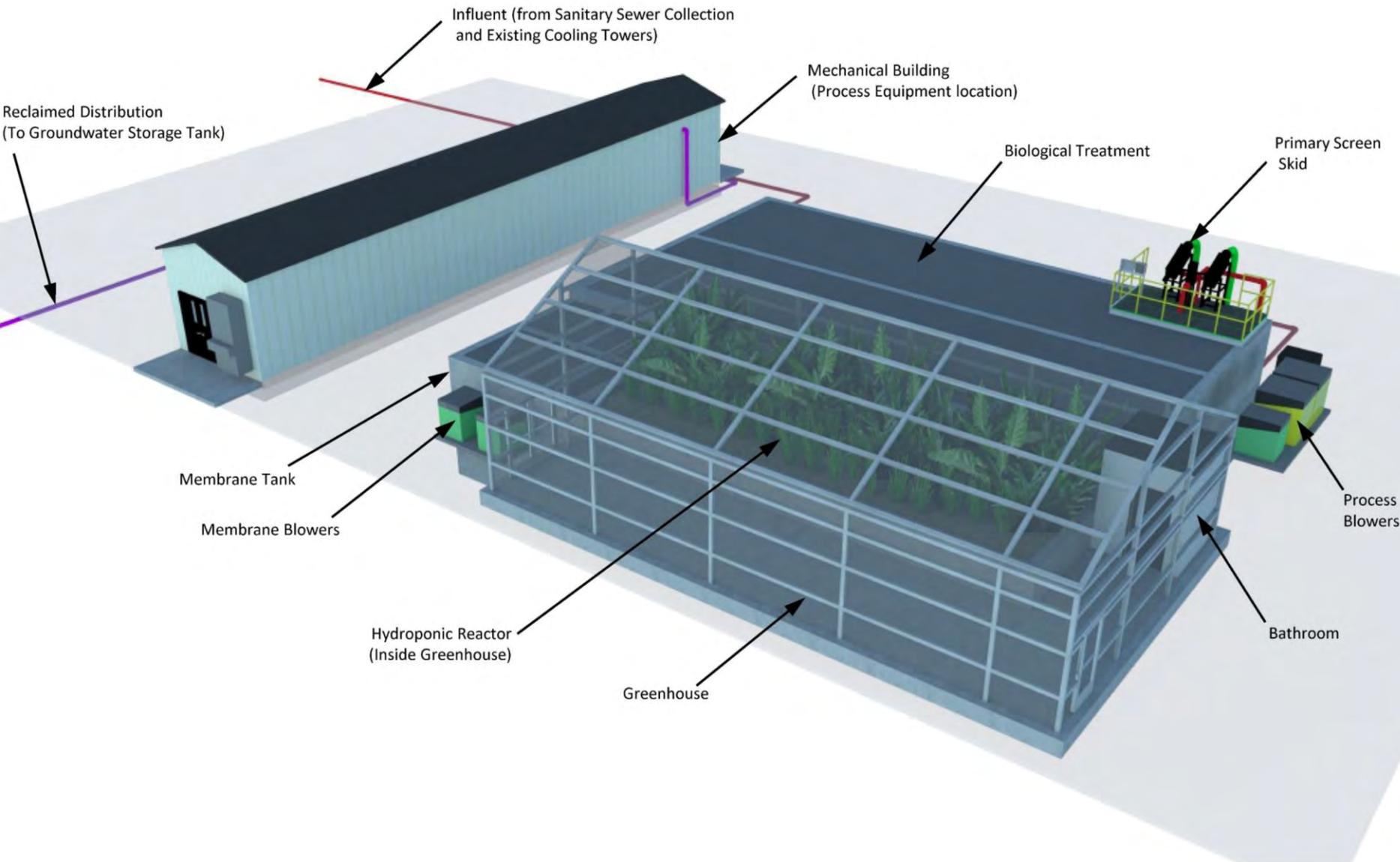
Outdoor Hydroponics  
Tertiary: Membrane Bioreactor (MBR)  
Disinfection: Dual-Stage UV & Chlorine



# The WaterHub<sup>®</sup> at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital



# The WaterHub® at Rocky Mount



## CLIENT TYPE

Automotive Manufacturing

## LOCATION

Rocky Mount, NC

## HYDRAULIC CAPACITY

75,000 GPD

## FOOTPRINT

5,500 ft<sup>2</sup>

## COMMERCIAL OPERATION

Winter 2019

## END USES

Boiler Make-Up  
Cooling Tower Make-Up  
Toilet Flushing

## TECHNOLOGIES APPLIED

Hydroponic – MBR

# The WaterHub<sup>®</sup> at Rocky Mount



## CAPABILITIES:

- 100% factory up-time/plant production
- Up to 75K GPD and 27M GPY capacity
- 34% reduction of consumed water
- 90% reduction of wastewater discharge
- 15M gallons of reused water annually



## PROJECT GOALS:

- Redundant (N + 1) water supply for utilities
- Drought protection
- Long-term economic savings
- Provide leadership in water sustainability
- Insulate operational viability & supply chain



# Lessons Learned: General

## Don't Underestimate Public Interest

- Tours, Program Space, Community Outreach
- 4,500 Tours at Emory University

## Facility Design Aesthetics

- Public access areas from Front to Back of House
- Pedestrian circulation through system
- Fully enclosed mechanical areas & better operator access

## Data Collection & Field Investigations

- Never “too much” operational, sampling & flow data
- Strong data collection investigations in preliminary engineering, save time and money down the road



# Lessons Learned: Process

## Pre-Fabrication

- Hydraulic “Sweet-spots” to more or less prefabrication
- Skids, Tanks, Operator Rooms



## Process Resiliency

- Equipment Redundancy (Primary screening, Influent Pumps, UV, etc.)
- Dual Process Trains
- You can't optimize what isn't measured
- WQ Sensors starting in influent wet-well



## Maintenance

- Removal & Maintenance of Influent Pumps from Wet Well
- Ability to Pump Backwards from Screen or EQ to flush influent lines
- Membrane / Filter Access, Location of Hoists



## Turn-Down

- Contingency planning for turn-down scenarios

# SUSTAINABLE WATER®

EXTENDING THE LIFECYCLE OF WATER

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[Bob.Salvatelli@sustainablewater.com](mailto:Bob.Salvatelli@sustainablewater.com)