



POLICY
FOR REUSE OF
TREATED
WASTE WATER



Government of Gujarat

PREAMBLE

Water is a critical resource for social and economic development of any region besides being elixir of life. Water resources are getting depleted due to adverse changes in climatic conditions, scanty and erratic rainfall, increasing industrialization, population growth, exploitation of ground water, increasing demand for domestic purposes etc. This problem is getting amplified due to uneven natural distribution (availability) of water resources in different regions of the state mainly due to diverse topography.

The Government of Gujarat has launched a scheme titled “Swarnim Jayanti Mukhya Mantri Shehri Vikas Yojana” (SJMMSVY) for undertaking various infrastructure development projects and plans for providing basic services in urban areas and Rurban Infrastructure Development Plan for rurban areas. Further, the Govt. of Gujarat is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) such as the “Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation” (AMRUT), the “Swachh Bharat Mission” (SBM), the “Smart City Mission” and the “Shyama Prasad Mukherji Mission” for Rurban regions which are supplementing the sanitation infrastructure. All these schemes are augmenting the collection system of municipal sewage and its treatment capacity in the state leading to need for comprehensive policy on reuse of treated waste water.

The policy for promotion of use of Treated Waste Water is prepared with a vision to maximise the collection & treatment of sewage generated and reuse of treated wastewater on a sustainable basis, thereby reducing dependency on fresh water resources. Further, the policy promotes use of treated waste water as an economic resource.

To achieve this vision, the policy lays a time-bound and systematic plan with an ultimate goal of reusing Treated Waste Water fully by 2030.

The policy shall be in force from the date of its notification and shall subsume the already notified policy i.e. “Gujarat State Policy for Promotion of Waste water Recycle and Reuse”, dated 15th June, 2017 of Urban Development and Urban Housing Development Department.

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1. BACKGROUND

Water is the most important natural resource required to sustain all life forms on Earth. Availability of water is undisputedly one of the most critical component for sustaining all economic activities in a state. Gujarat has limited availability of natural water resources due to its geographic location and diverse climatic conditions.

Gujarat occupies 6.39% of the country's geographical area, but has access to only 2.28% of its water resources. The availability of water is also constrained by imbalances in intra-state distribution. Out of 185 rivers, the State has only eight perennial rivers and all of them are located in the southern part of the state. Around 69% of the state's surface water resources are concentrated in central and southern Gujarat, whereas the remaining three-quarters of the State has only 31% resources.

Thus, Gujarat has a high portion of water stressed area i.e. 58.6% of the total area due to arid, semi-arid and saline conditions.

2. NEED FOR WASTE WATER REUSE POLICY

Given the background of very high stress on existing water resources and its distribution, Government of Gujarat is continuously looking for additional sources of water to supplement the limited fresh water sources available in the state. Thus it becomes imperative to explore option of reusing treated waste water and use it as source of water for various purposes.

Apart from the need of reducing the pollution of surface and ground water, world over the municipal waste water is increasingly seen as a water resource for reuse of water that can ideally be utilised for non-potable purposes. The treated waste water (TWW) produced by treating municipal sewage can provide a reliable source of water. Hence, there is an ardent need to adopt new perspective towards municipal waste water and its reuse.

In order to address the uneven distribution of water resources across the State, Government has launched schemes for inter-basin transfer of water such as 'Sujalam Sufalam Yojana', 'Sauni Yojana', 'Lift Irrigations schemes in Tribal areas' etc