

Permitting Innovative Management Practices and Water Reuse Through the NPDES Program

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Water Reuse Program

Office of Science and Technology

2023 National NPDES Permitting Meeting

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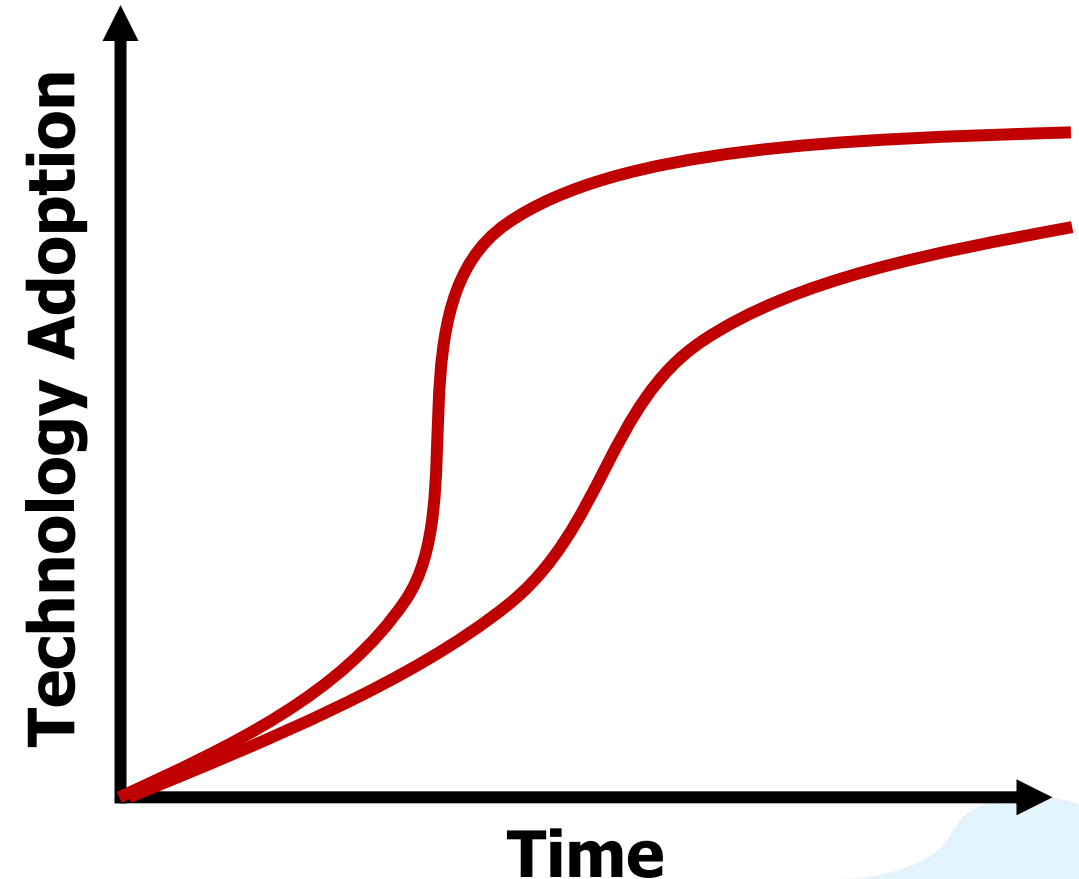
WATER REUSE PROGRAM

*Advancing reuse for a water
secure future*

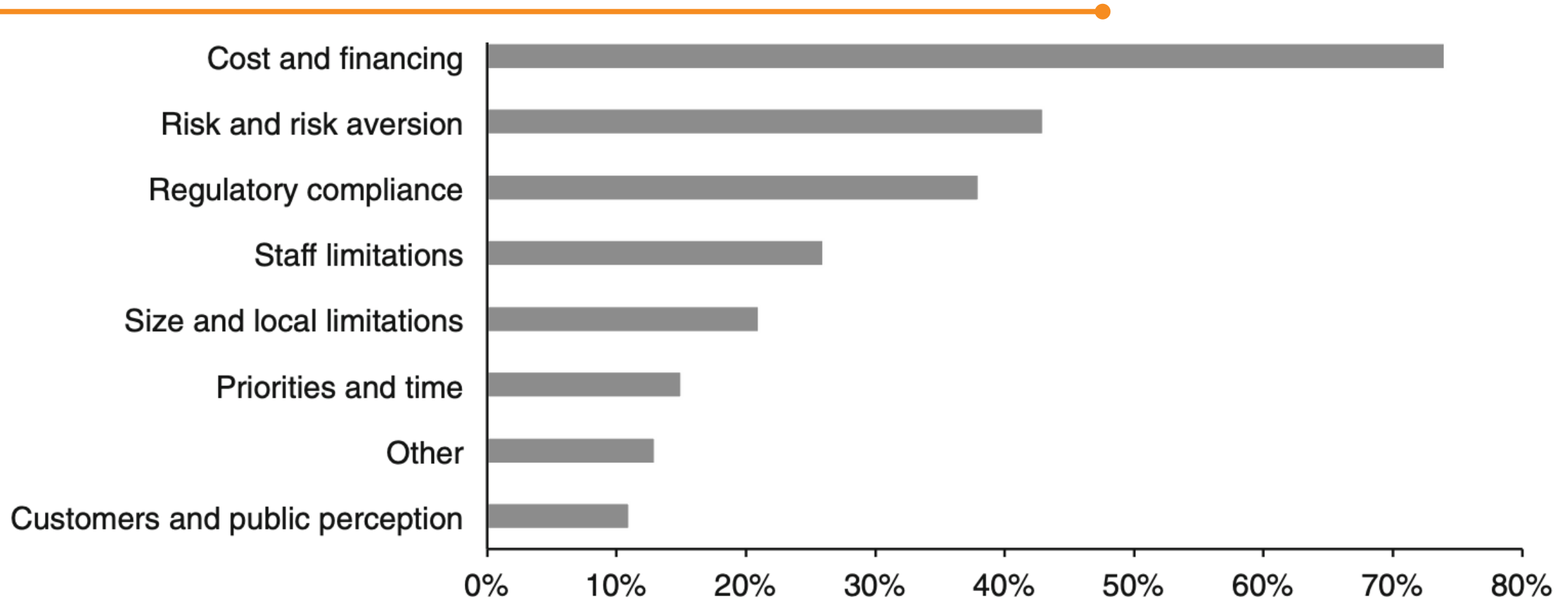
Mission: Expand water reuse expertise and knowledge within EPA and across the federal government to serve as a resource hub to help build **technical, financial, and institutional capacity** for enabling communities of all sizes to incorporate reuse as part of a **resilient water management strategy**.

CAN WE SPEED “INNOVATION”?

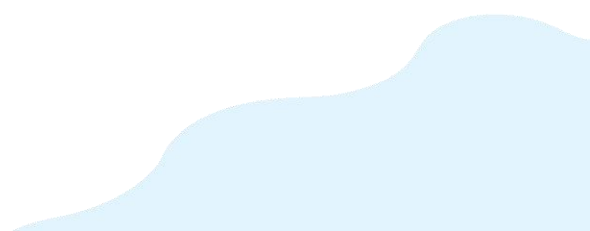
- Innovation: the development, application, diffusion, and utilization of new knowledge, management practices, and technology
- What is standard practice in one state may be innovative in another
- Regulatory compliance is a perceived barrier to innovation
- **Effective permitting of innovative practices is essential to widespread adoption**



PERCEIVED BARRIERS TO INNOVATION



PROJECT GOALS

1. Develop useful tools and frameworks to support improved permitting practices
 2. Engage with key leaders in the regulatory and utility community to move towards a more innovation-friendly culture of permitting
 3. Preserve the integrity of the NPDES program
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CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE UTILITY-REGULATOR RELATIONSHIPS

Clarity

The relationship establishes explicitly and mutually understood expectations regarding the utility's and regulator's respective responsibilities and goals

Capacity Building

The relationship builds knowledge and abilities for both the utility and the regulator

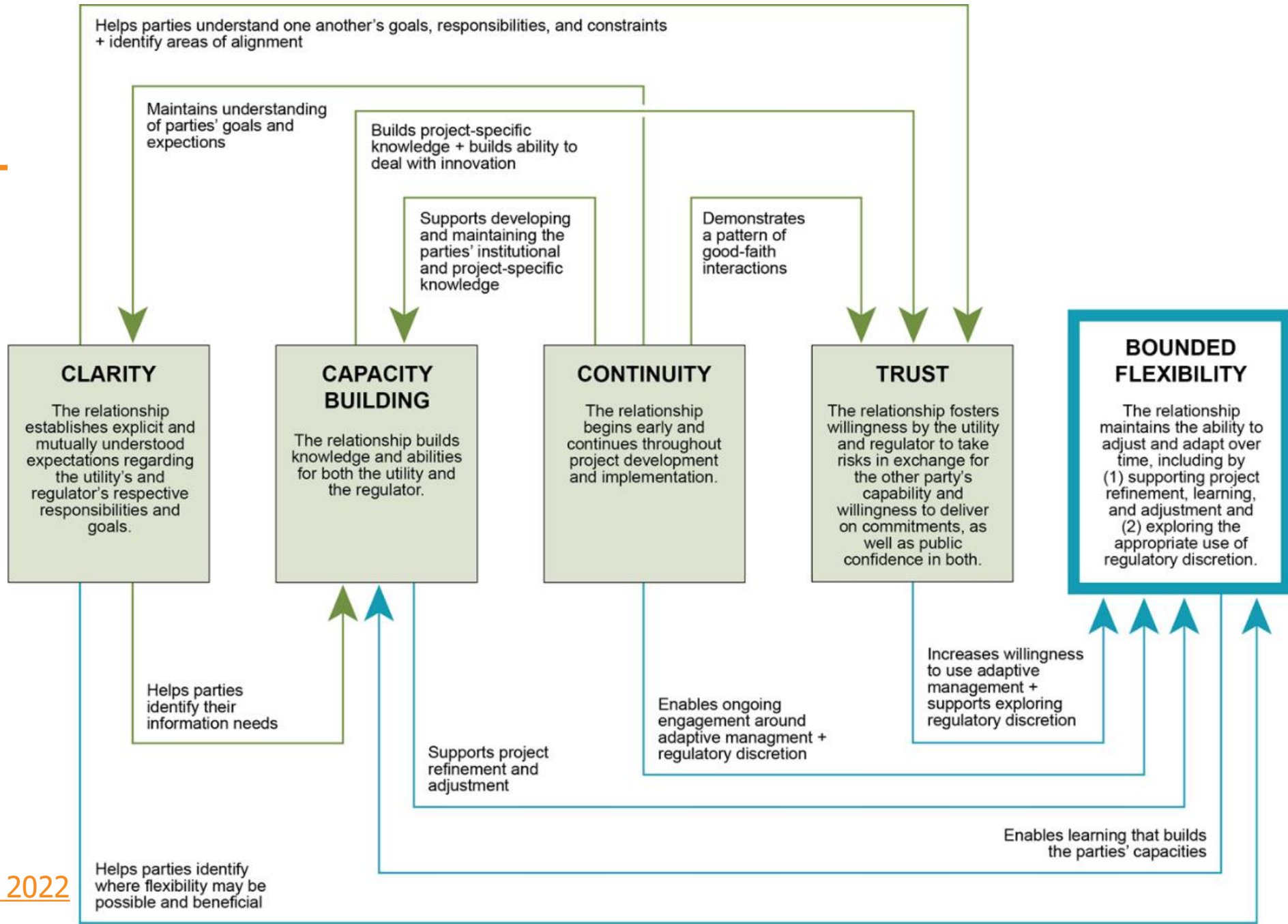
CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE UTILITY-REGULATOR RELATIONSHIPS

Continuity

The relationship begins early and continues throughout project development and implementation

Trust

The relationship fosters willingness by the utility and regulator to take risks in exchange for the other party's capability and willingness to deliver on commitments, as well as public confidence in both



FROM HYPOTHESIS TO REALITY

- Engage utility and regulator leaders to ground-truth the proposed conceptual framework
- Refine ideas based on feedback through an expert workshop
- Collaborate with thought leaders to disseminate these ideas
- Lay groundwork for permit writer training
- Overarching goal: bending the curve towards more effective permitting of innovative practices



PROJECT TEAM



Mike Kiparsky

Director, Wheeler Water Institute, Center for Law, Energy & the Environment



Felicia Marcus

William C. Landreth Visiting Fellow at Stanford University's Water in the West Program

Dave Smith

Water Innovation Services

EPA Team

- Justin Mattingly – OST
- Kevin Weiss – OWM
- Caroline Oswald – OWM
- Mark Compton – OWM

Partnering Organizations

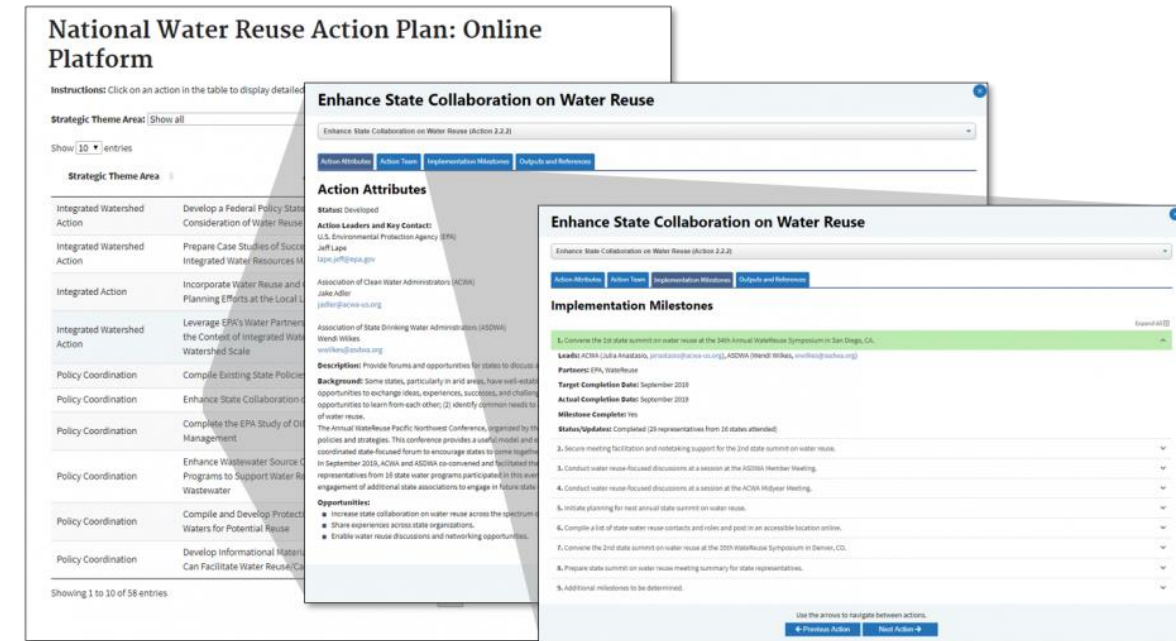
- Association of Clean Water Administrators
- WaterReuse Association

LEARN MORE! – WRAP ONLINE PLATFORM

Sign up for our newsletter!

waterreuse@epa.gov

- Repository for all active actions
- Provides background and opportunities to be gained
- Identifies leaders and partners
- Captures milestones and progress
- Helps form the pipeline of new actions and collaboration



<https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/national-water-reuse-action-plan-online-platform>



THANK YOU!

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<https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse>

