



Water Reuse: From Ancient to Modern Times and the Future

Andreas N. Angelakis^{1,2*}, Takashi Asano³, Akissa Bahri⁴, Blanca E. Jimenez⁵ and George Tchobanoglous⁶

¹ Hellenic Union of Municipal Enterprises for Water Supply and Sewerage, Larissa, Greece, ² Department of Water Resources, Institute of Crete, National Foundation for Agricultural Research, Iraklion, Greece, ³ Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA, United States, ⁴ Department of Agricultural Engineering, Water and Forestry, National Agricultural Institute of Tunisia, Tunis, Tunisia, ⁵ Division of Water Sciences, UNESCO, Paris, France, ⁶ Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of California, Davis, Davis, CA, United States

From the beginning of the Bronze Age (ca. 3200–1100 BC), domestic wastewater (sewage) has been used for irrigation and aquaculture by a number of civilizations including those that developed in China and the Orient, Egypt, the Indus Valley, Mesopotamia, and Crete. In historic times (ca. 1000 BC–330 AD), wastewater was disposed of or used for irrigation and fertilization purposes by the Greek and later Roman civilizations, especially in areas surrounding important cities (e.g., Athens and Rome). In more recent times, the practice of land application of wastewater for disposal and agricultural use was utilized first in European cities and later in USA. Today, water reclamation and reuse projects are being planned and implemented throughout the world. Recycled water is now used for almost any purpose including potable use. This paper provides a brief overview of the evolution of water reuse over the last 5,000 years, along with current practice and recommendations for the future. Understanding the practices and solutions of the past, provides a lens with which to view the present and future.

Keywords: water reuse history, sewage farms, water reuse trends and challenges, water reuse criteria, water reuse categories, potable reuse, one water concept

INTRODUCTION

The more you look back in the past, the more you see into the future

Winston Churchill (1874–1965)

Water reuse is not a new technique or concept; knowledge on wastewater treatment and reuse has been accumulated along with the history of humankind. Land application of human waste is an old practice, which has undergone a number of development stages from ancient to contemporary times (Rose and Angelakis, 2014). Today, recycled water is used for nearly all purposes including potable reuse. In this paper, historical and current developments in water reuse are reviewed in three time periods: (a) in prehistoric to medieval times (ca. 3200 BC–1400 AD), (b) in early and mid-modern times (ca. 1400–1900 AD), and (c) in contemporary times (1900 AD–present). In light of information presented in the first three sections, the final two sections deal with the future including: (a) emerging trends and (b) issues and challenges in water reuse.

Water recycling from ancient to modern times is also the story of how water recycling evolved from ancient times to its decline with the development of intensified wastewater treatment methods

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Hellenic Open University, Greece
Antonios Zorpas,
Open University of Cyprus, Cyprus

*Correspondence:

Andreas N. Angelakis
info@a-angelakis.gr

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in the late 1800s and early 1900s to its rebirth due to population growth, the development of megacities, climate change, rapid developments in technology, and the fact that the amount of fresh water in the world is finite. The information presented is intended to promote a new vision of water reuse and to highlight the important role water reuse will play in meeting future water needs, especially as the population of the world continues to grow.

WATER REUSE IN PREHISTORIC TO MEDIEVAL TIMES (CA. 3200–1400 AD)

For most of the 200,000 years that modern humans (*Homo sapiens*) have dwelled on earth, they survived as hunter-gatherers (Vuorinen et al., 2007). As the population continued to increase, groups of people formed tribes for survival. In turn, with ever-increasing populations, tribes grouped together to form communities. The first human communities, which were relatively small, were scattered over wide areas and waste produced by them was returned to land and decomposed using natural cycles (Lofrano and Brown, 2010). Because the early communities were made up of nomadic hunter-gatherers, disposal problems were limited because communities moved when existing conditions became unlivable.

Prehistoric Times (ca. 3200–1000 BC)

With the establishment of permanent settlements about 10,000 years ago, a new era began in which an agrarian way of life was needed to support the inhabitants of the community. Until the birth of the first advanced civilizations in the Bronze Age, the disposal of human excreta was managed in an *ad hoc* manner, either on the surface of the ground or in holes dug in the ground covered after use as explained by the Mosaic Law of Sanitation (Deuteronomy, Chapter 23) (Lofrano and Brown, 2010). The growth of permanent settlements led to the development of collection systems for both wastewater and stormwater. The first

indications of the utilization of wastewater for irrigation and fertilization of agricultural lands extend back ca. 5,000 years to the Bronze Age civilizations (e.g., Minoan and Indus Valley) (Angelakis and Spyridakis, 1996; Asano and Levine, 1996; Levine et al., 2010; Tzanakakis et al., 2014). Minoans developed advanced sewerage systems to dispose of wastewater to rivers (e.g., Palaces of Knossos), to the sea (e.g., Palace of Zakros), or to agricultural land for irrigation and fertilization purposes (e.g., Palace of Phaistos and Villa of Hagia Triada). The end of the wastewater and stormwater collection system in the Palace of Phaistos, used to divert wastewater and stormwater to the farmland, is shown in **Figure 1A**. A cistern in the Villa of Hagia Triada used to collect and store water wastewater and drainage for agricultural purposes is shown in **Figure 1B**.

In the Indus Valley (modern-day Pakistan) similar advanced sewerage and drainage systems have been utilized dating back to ca. 2600 BC (Laureano, 2016). These systems, such as those in the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, are important because they made it possible to develop a thriving civilization in Indus Valley (Jones, 1967). In the city of Harappa, every house was connected to the main sewer ensuring the proper removal of the wastes. To insure that the system functioned properly maintenance, inspection holes were provided (Gray, 1940). Local drains were covered and connected to larger sewers used to transport the collected wastewaters for disposal to agricultural lands. Use of human and other wastes for aquaculture was also practiced as early as ca. 1100 BC in various regions in China during the Yin dynasty.

Although lost to history, it is reasonable to assume that the utilization of human waste as fertilizer evolved from observations of enhanced plant growth where animal and human wastes had been deposited either on or below the ground surface. Similar observations must have led to the use of human and animal wastes for aquaculture. As permanent settlements developed, wastewater collection systems evolved out of necessity of removing human and other accumulated wastes. Based on

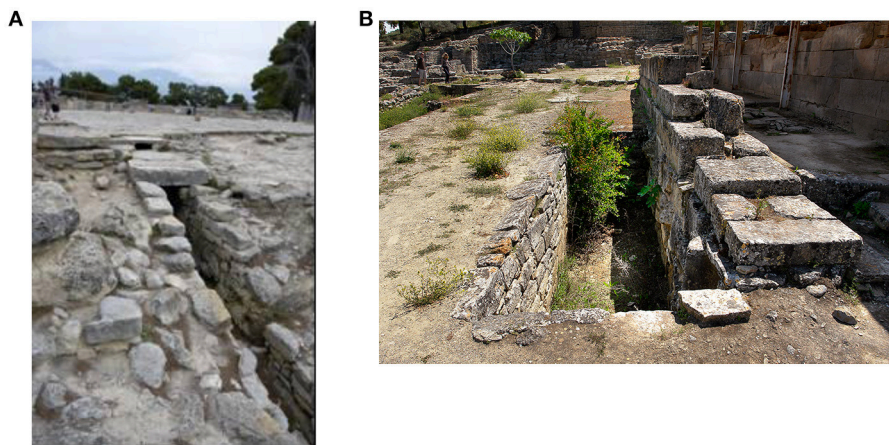


FIGURE 1 | Facilities used for water reuse in prehistoric times (A) water and wastewater conveyance facilities in the palace of Phaistos used to transport water to farmland and (B) cistern in the villa of Hagia Triada used for water storage for subsequent land application purposes.

observations of flowing water, the first wastewater collection facilities were open channels, which evolved into channels covered with flat stones (**Figure 1A**) and subsequently into closed conduits.

Historical Times (ca. 1000 BC–330 AD)

Early in Classical times, the Ionian philosophers recognized that all fresh water in the planet is recycled and reused. Their studies, and especially those of Anaximander (ca. 610–547 BC), on the meteorological phenomena enabled them to identify hydrological processes and broadly speaking the essence of water recycling (Paranychianakis et al., 2015). He reported that *rains are generated from the evaporation (atmis) that is sent up from the earth toward under the sun* (Hippolytus, Ref. I6, 1-7-D.559 W.10). Later, Aristotle (384–322 BC) understood the water phase change and the energy exchange required for this: *...the sun causes the moisture to rise; this is similar to what happens when water is heated by fire* (Meteorologica, II.2, 355a 15). He also recognized the water mass conservation by reporting that: *Even if the same amount of water does not come back every year and in a given place, yet in a certain period all quantity that has been abstracted is returned* (Meteorologica, II.2, 355a 26) (Koutsoyiannis and Angelakis, 2003).

Ancient Greeks were among the first to use wastewater in agriculture (Tolle-Kastenbein, 2005). In Greece, during the Classical period, wastewater originating from the public toilets and residences, along with stormwater, were removed through combined sewer and drainage systems in alley's or on side streets between houses. Archaeologists have found a sewerage and drainage system southeast of the Acropolis consisting of a central sewer which conveyed, by clay drainpipe, wastewater from surrounding houses and workshops (**Figure 2A**). Also, the great drain in the ancient *Agora* in Athens delivered rainwater and wastewater to a collection basin (see **Figure 2B**) (Antoniou, 2010). From that basin, stormwater and wastewater were conveyed through brick-lined conduits to the agricultural fields located in the area known today as *Elaionas* where it was used to fertilize and irrigated orchards and field crops

(Schladweiler, 2002; Yannopoulos et al., 2015). A similar system was found in the hill of *Pnyx*, where a series of drains were uncovered during archeological excavations (Kalavrouziotis et al., 2015).

The disposal sites for the wastes conveyed by the sewer and drainage systems were located downhill in agricultural lands. In addition, sewage and mainly the rainwater from Acropolis was led through an extensive drainage and sewerage system, to the south-east side of the hill where it was possibly reused in the workshops (Kollyropoulos et al., 2015). As noted previously, the beneficial effects of using human waste for fertilizer had been known since the Bronze Age.

Another water reuse example comes from ancient Greece (Hellenic Ministry of Culture Archaeological Receipts Funds, 2007). From the fifth century BC, cisterns were used to feed an extensive network of irrigation channels (**Figure 3A**). Many of these small cisterns ("pre-cistern," **Figure 3B**), were used as a settling basin before discharging to the large cisterns. In addition, various engineering projects are preserved, such as the building of dams on streams, waterproofing of natural depressions, indicative of the efforts made by engineers to make possible the collection of water, and reuse it efficiently to adjacent mines and, probably, to crops. Rainwater from Dionysus theater was also collected to the cisterns from where it was used in the downhill workshops (in the area where the Acropolis Museum is located).

During the Roman period (ca. 100 BC–330 AD), the physical scale of the sanitation technologies increased significantly. For example, large sewers, of which the *Cloaca Maxima* is the best known, were used for the removal of surface and underground waters from urban areas. They were not designed to serve as sewers as the Minoans and Indus civilizations had done in the past (ca. 2000 years before, Gray, 1940). With exception some connections in Rome, they were not expected to received excrements directly. But apparently in Roman cities excrements and other wastes were thrown outside in the streets. As a result, extensive street washing programs for cleaning purpose were implemented. One of the complaints of Frontinus, the Rome

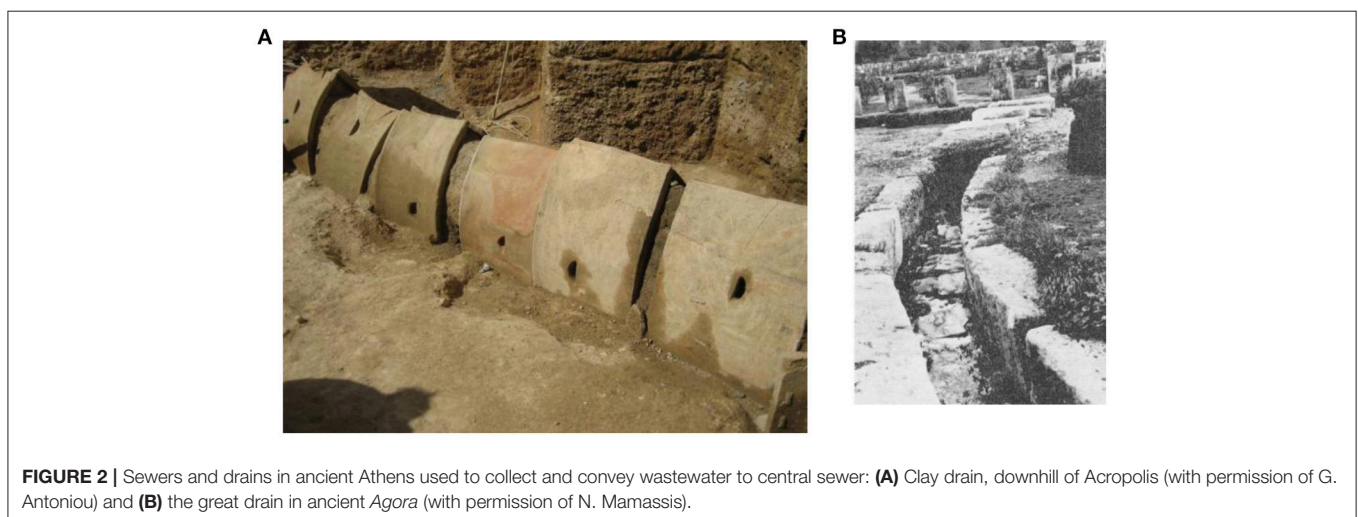


FIGURE 2 | Sewers and drains in ancient Athens used to collect and convey wastewater to central sewer: **(A)** Clay drain, downhill of Acropolis (with permission of G. Antoniou) and **(B)** the great drain in ancient *Agora* (with permission of N. Mamassis).

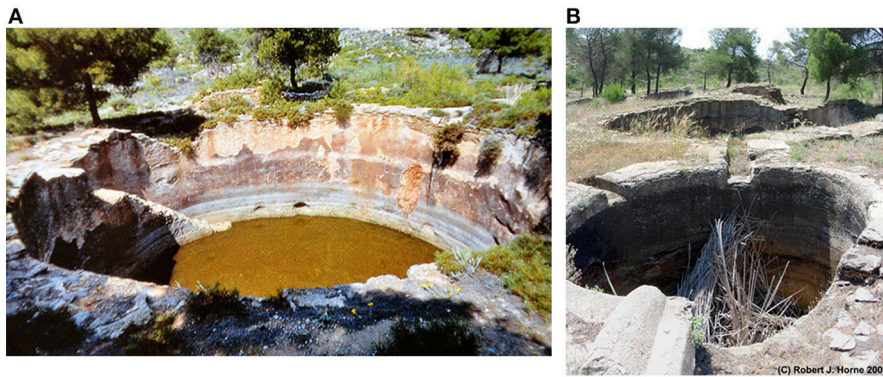


FIGURE 3 | Water cisterns used for water storage and treatment: **(A)** Cistern for collecting and storing rainwater and **(B)** a pre-cistern located ahead of the main cistern used to settle out large debris (Tzanakakis et al., 2014).

Water Commissioner at the time (*ca.* 100 AD), was that large quantities of the water supply of Rome were being diverted for street washing. On the positive side, the diverted water eventually ended up in the sewers and was used for agricultural irrigation outside the cities (Gray, 1940; Schladweiler, 2002). Also, in Rome, wastewater from a sewer network connected to houses was used for crop irrigation and fertilization (De Feo et al., 2014a,b).

In China and other Asian countries, agricultural use of human waste has been practiced for thousands of years. Semidry night soil (human feces and urine) was used to fertilize fields in ancient times, and the practice continues today (Khoury et al., 1994). Also, it is reported that the town of Shibam, in Yemen, was designed, since the third century AD, to facilitate the use of wastewater for both the irrigation and fertilization of crops in addition to disposal.

Medieval Times (*ca.* 330–1400 AD)

In Europe during Medieval times, water technology and knowledge made little progress. During this period, the emphasis was on wars rather than on civilization. Sanitation, in the best cases, reverted to the basics, becoming very primitive in most towns. As a result, disease outbreaks were commonplace; epidemics decimated towns and villages. In Europe, during Medieval times at least 25% of the population died due to cholera, plague, and other water born diseases (Schladweiler, 2002). Gradually, as populations expanded, the disposal of human feces became an issue in large cities during the Middle Ages. Waste disposal was for the most part unregulated. For instance, in Paris it was only in 1,530 that a municipal decree required property owners to construct cesspools in each new dwelling (Burian and Edwards, 2002). Generally, each neighborhood and community had a self-interested attitude toward water supply and municipal wastewater services. Citizens were willing to pay for sewers to drain their neighborhood, but only into the next one (Burian and Edwards, 2002). This vision was unfortunately exported to Australia and to the Americas once colonized.

Although there was turmoil in Europe during medieval times, some innovative ways to reuse water were developed and used in early Central and South America before colonization. The

Chinampa is one of these. *Chinampas* are a Mesoamerican agriculture practice that has been described as floating gardens. *Chinampas* do not need irrigation and are small but very high productive plots artificially built over wetlands, marshes, shallow lakes, or flood plains using sediments, manure, compost, and vegetation debris (Smith, 1996; Villalonga Gordaliza, 2007). *Chinampas* are considered to be the most productive and ecologically sustainable form of agriculture in pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica, as they reclaim solid and liquid wastes improving and protecting local biodiversity (Morehar, 2012). The exact origin of *Chinampas* is not well-known but Aztecs (*ca.* 1200–1500 AD) were among the first civilizations documenting its use in pyramid paintings. Here again, observation of the benefits of animal and human waste must have played an important role in the development of the *Chinampas* (Coe, 1964).

Aztecs that lived in the Valley of Mexico were distributed in hundreds of towns and their capital, Tenochtitlan, is where Mexico City is today. The Valley of Mexico had, at that time, seven major lakes and 12,000 ha of wetlands placed southeast where *Chinampas* were built. *Chinampas*, together with the local conventional agricultural, made it possible for inhabitants of the valley to be food self-sufficient, even though 1.5–3.0 million inhabitants lived in the valley (McCaa, 2000). In Tenochtitlan, when the Spanish arrived, the population was 250,000 (at that time in Paris and London the population was <20,000). *Chinampas* are still used today to feed part of Mexico City's population and are a UNESCO world heritage site. Other Aztec contributions to the management of water were: (a) the joint management of saline water and freshwater according to the water quality use needs; (b) the control of the lake levels to avoid urban floods; and (c) the joint management of urban used water and agriculture to ensure food security (Palerm, 1973).

WATER REUSE IN EARLY AND MID-MODERN TIMES (CA. 1400–1900 AD)

Sanitation practices re-emerged in the mid-nineteenth century following the great epidemics in several regions of the world.

During that period, authorities recognized the need for sanitation and this led to the development of effluent disposal and reuse practices, known as sewage farms to protect public health and to control water pollution (Stanbridge, 1976; US EPA, 1979). Engineered land application systems evolved from sewage farms during this period. At the same time, in many parts of the Orient, feces and urine separation was practiced.

Development and Implementation of Sewage Farms

The earliest documented application of wastewater to the land for agricultural use, occurred in what were known as “sewage farms,” first in Bunzlau (modern-day Poland), in 1531 and later in Edinburgh (Scotland) in 1650. In both locations, wastewater was used for beneficial crop production (Tzanakakis et al., 2014). With the rapid growth of cities “sewage farms,” involving irrigation and fertilization of agricultural lands, were viewed favorably as an appropriate solution for the disposal of large volumes of wastewater. Large “sewage farms” were established in rapidly growing cities of Europe and the USA at the end of eighteenth century and in Australia in the end of nineteenth century (see **Table 1**) (Reed et al., 1995; Tzanakakis et al., 2014). As reported in **Table 1**, some of

them are still in use. At the beginning of twentieth century sewage farms in France reached their highest usage in four different areas: Gennevilliers (900 ha), Achères (Achères plain, 1,400 ha), Pierrelaye (2,010 ha), and Triel (950 ha) using raw wastewater supplied by the Colombes pumping station in Paris (Kamizoulis et al., 2003; Jimenez and Asano, 2008; Lazarova et al., 2013).

In Mexico, drainage canals were built around 1890 to collect wastewater from Mexico City and to irrigate and fertilize agricultural lands in the Mezquital Valley. The scheme is now used to irrigate up to 90,000 ha of agricultural cropland and is the largest water reuse scheme in the world. An added benefit has been the recharge of groundwater in the region (Jimenez and Asano, 2008). During the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, many of the cities in Germany implemented sewers which discharged wastewater into a system of ponds and fields for direct recycling through sophisticated agriculture and aquaculture systems (Prein, 1990). In Copenhagen, the Capital of Denmark, the traditional dry sanitation system, linking agriculture with urban areas, was replaced in the early twentieth century by a sewerage and drainage system discharging untreated wastewater and rainwater into the Baltic Sea (Wrisberg, 1996).

TABLE 1 | Selected early land treatments and reuse systems.

Location	Date started	Type of land based system	Area (1,000 ha)	Flow (m ³ /d)
EUROPE				
Bunzlau, Poland	1531	Sewage farms		
Edinburgh, UK ^a	1650	Sewage farms		
Croydon-Beddington, UK	1860	Sewage farms	0.25	17.4
Paris, France	1869	Irrigation	0.64	30.3
Leamington, UK	1870	Sewage farms	0.16	3.4
Berlin, Germany	1874	Sewage farms	2.7	N/A
Milan, Italy	1881	Irrigation	3.5	
Wroclaw, Poland	1882	Sewage farms	0.80	10.6
Braunschweig, Germany	1896	Sewage farms	4.4	60.0
USA				
Augusta, ME	1876	Irrigation		
Calumet City, MI	1888	Irrigation	0.005	
South Framingham, MA	1889	Irrigation		
Woodland, CA	1889	Irrigation	0.07	15.5
Boulder, CO	1890	Irrigation		
Fresno, CA	1891	Irrigation	1.60	10.6
San Antonio, TX	1895	Irrigation	1.60	75.7
Vineland, NJ	1901	Rapid infiltration system	0.0026	3405.9
Ely, NV	1908	Irrigation	0.16	6.1
Lubbock, TX	1915	Irrigation		
OTHERS				
Tula (Mezquital) Valley ^b , Mexico	1896	Irrigation	90.00	
Melbourne, Australia	1897	Irrigation	4.16	189.3

Adapted from Metcalf and Eddy Inc. (1991); Jimenez and Asano (2008), Reed and Crites (1984), Angelakis et al. (2017), and Tzanakakis et al. (2014).

^aThe value of wastewater as a fertilizer was well-recognized in 1650.

^bThe initial irrigated area was of < 2,000 ha but currently is of 90,000 ha after reaching a maximum of 110,000 ha in 1995.

History of Separation and Recycling of Urine and Feces

Since the beginning of the twenty-first century, there is renewed interest in developing urine separation systems and a number of systems have been developed and tested. However, it should be noted that the separation of urine from feces at the source is not a new development. It has been practiced for thousands of years in different regions of the world and it is varying from country to country. For example, in China the objective has been to reuse the nutrients present in human excreta for fertilizing agricultural lands. Similarly, urine was separated and collected in simple toilets as described by Antoniou et al. (2016). In other regions of the world, the main purpose for separation of urine has been to obtain a dry, manageable and hygienic fecal fraction. For example, in Yemen, with warm climate, urine is separated in simple toilets and allowed to trickle down onto an outside wall of buildings where it quickly evaporates (Johansson et al., 2000). Also, in Shibam, Yemen, toilets had two outlets; one in front and the other in the back for separating the urine from the feces since ca. 750 AD (Laureano, 2016).

In Korea, the separation of feces and urine has been practiced for more than 600 years, during the Joseon dynasty (1392–1910). The feces and urine were used as fertilizers, to minimize the pollutant loads discharged in the environment. Different containers were used for each waste, e.g., urine jars which were usually situated nearby rooms for easier access. The collected urine and other wastes were fermented to serve as agricultural fertilizers. The different fermentation stages of urine were made possible through the use of several urine jars, which were stored in an organized method (Han and Kim, 2014). The containers for feces and urine called *ojum-janggun* and *ddung-janggun* were used to carry separated urine and feces are illustrated in Figure 4.

In Danish and Swedish cities urine-separating toilets were used for hygienic reasons since the middle of nineteenth century. Their design was very similar to the toilets used today. Because most of the nutrients in household wastewater and biodegradable solid waste are present in urine, its separation contributed not only to solving hygienic problems but also to a decrease in the

emission of eutrophication agents and an increase in their reuse (Antoniou et al., 2016). However, the use of urine separation toilets diminished early in the twentieth century.

Engineered Wastewater Treatment Systems

The development of modern methods of sewage treatment can be traced back to the mid nineteenth century in England and Germany. The large population in London and the limited area available for treatment in sewage farms, broad irrigation, or intermittent filtration led to renewed interest in more intensive methods of treatment before discharging the treated effluent to land and hence to freshwater bodies. Methods of treatment that were used included large septic tanks, contact beds, and trickling filters. Where sufficient land was available intermittent sand filters were also used.

WATER REUSE IN CONTEMPORARY TIMES (1900 AD-PRESENT)

The advent of twentieth century brought significant technological and scientific innovations along with a significant growth in the implementation of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) that could handle large volumes of wastewater for direct discharge to waterways and the ocean. These plants were adopted widely by most of the major urban centers around the globe, as they were compact and did not require large areas for treatment compared to sewage farms (Metcalf and Eddy Inc., 1991; Jimenez and Asano, 2008; Lazarova et al., 2013). However, with the construction of mechanized WWTPs and discharge to rivers or the ocean, interest of reclaiming nutrients and organic matter to fertilize and improve soil characteristics diminished. In the latter part of the twentieth century and the first part of the twenty-first century, water reclamation and reuse has regained popularity because of population growth, urbanization, the growth of megacities, climate change, the increasing need for water in a variety of applications, and because of the development of water reclamation technologies able to produce water of almost any quality desired including water of quality equal to or higher than drinking water.

The purpose of this section is to consider modern water reuse practice. Subjects considered include: (a) the importance of modern technology, (b) changing views of water reclamation and reuse; (c) water reuse applications; (d) review other non-domestic sources of wastewater for reuse; (e) understanding and quantifying unplanned potable reuse, (f) health and environmental issues; and (g) review development of water reuse criteria. Emerging trends in water reuse and future challenges in water reuse are considered in the following two sections, respectively.

Importance of Modern Technology

Some important technological developments that have brought about the renewed interest in wastewater reclamation include: the availability of reliable microfiltration, ultra filtration, and reverse osmosis membranes; the use of ozone coupled with biological

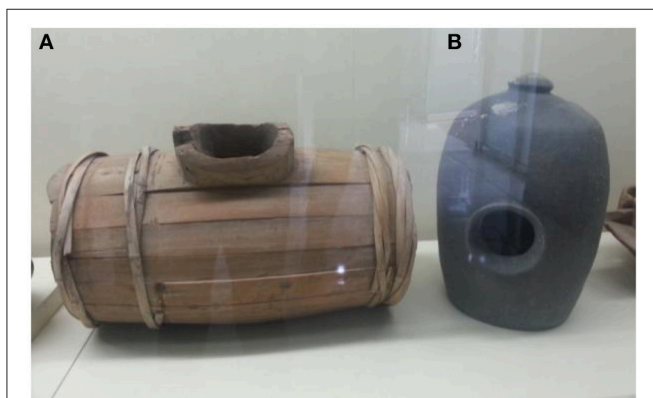


FIGURE 4 | Containers used for the storage of feces (A) and urine (B) called: *ojum-janggun* and *ddung-janggun*, respectively, exhibited at Goyang exhibition hall for sanitation in Gyeonggi-Do, Korea (with permission of M. Han).

filtration, low, medium, and high energy UV disinfection; high energy UV advanced oxidation. These treatment processes, can now be used to remove acute toxicity (e.g., microorganisms) and chronic toxicity (e.g., chemical constituents). Further, because multiple treatment processes are now available for any given constituent, the multiple barrier concept, which involves the use of redundant treatment processes or other activities, in parallel or series, is applied to reduce the risk from a given constituent (e.g., pathogenic microorganisms). In addition, instrumentation and monitoring equipment have also contributed to the reliability of advanced water treatment facilities.

Changing Views of Water Reclamation and Reuse

Many things have changed in the water reclamation and reuse field in the contemporary period (1900 AD-present), but especially so during the last three decades. One of the most relevant changes is the recognition of the importance of reclaimed water in an integrated water resources management plan. Reclaimed water has become a new, additional, alternative, reliable water supply source right at the doorstep of metropolis for numerous uses in the diverse environment. This approach has even been recognized by the United Nations through the World Water Development Report 2017 (UNESCO, 2017) focusing on wastewater as a resource. Moreover, successful stories on water reuse have expanded the frontier from agricultural and landscape irrigation and restricted urban uses to a variety of uses including potable reuse (Crook, 2010; Mujeriego, 2013; Tchobanoglous et al., 2014).

Water Reuse Applications

Historically, agricultural irrigation has been and continues to be the largest use of untreated wastewater. Early on, direct irrigation was used. Sewage farms were developed as the quantity

of wastewater increased. Subsequently, more intense forms of wastewater treatment were developed to deal with the ever-increasing quantities of wastewater to protect the environment. With the intensification of wastewater treatment processes, the quality of the effluent improved, which made reclaimed water suitable for a greater variety of agricultural applications. The development of more restrictive effluent discharge standards in the United States has led to further improvement in effluent quality, making the use of reclaimed water suitable for a variety of different applications. Health protection, as discussed subsequently, initially centered on microbiological quality, has expanded to a wider and more comprehensive view of chemical quality, particularly in association to “emerging” contaminants which are of key importance for potable reuse.

Water Reuse Categories

The principal water reuse categories are summarized in **Table 2**. The reuse categories in **Table 2** are also ranked in relative order of total usage, as practiced in the United States. Agricultural and landscape irrigation has expanded from earlier restricted uses to unrestricted irrigation of food crops eaten raw, when wastewater has been treated properly. With improved effluent water quality, there has been a global trend to diversify water reuse practices beyond agricultural and landscape irrigation, to recreational and environmental use, industrial reuse, groundwater recharge and potable reuse (IPR and DPR, respectively) (Zhang et al., 2017). Potable reuse is considered in the following section.

Religious Concerns in Islamic Countries

To address religious concerns in some Islamic countries, Fatwas (legal ruling on an issue of religious importance) have been issued in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and in the UAE (CLIS, 1978). It should be noted that in these fatwas, sewage may be used for irrigation resulted that the impurities present in the raw wastewater are

TABLE 2 | Water reuse categories, typical applications, and major constraints and concerns.

Category	Typical applications	Major constraints and concerns
Agricultural irrigation	Crop irrigation; commercial nurseries	Seasonal demand, need for winter storage
Landscape irrigation	Parks; freeway medians, golf courses	Point of use often far away from the point of water reclamation
Industrial recycling and reuse	Cooling water, boiler feed water, process water, high quality water for electronics manufacture	Constant demand, but site specific
Recreational and environmental uses	Lakes and ponds, streamflow augmentation, snow production for skiing and snow melting in cities	Site specific
Non-potable urban uses	Fire protection; toilet flushing; car washing; street cleaning; water for cooling	Requirement for dual piping systems; limited demand, cost
Groundwater recharge	Groundwater replenishment; seawater intrusion barrier	Requires suitable aquifer or reservoir between the points of water reclamation and reuse
Unplanned potable reuse	The addition of treated or untreated wastewater to drinking water sources such as rivers, lakes, or groundwater aquifers (see discussion in following section)	Uncontrolled by existing regulations, variable effluent quality, variable available dilution
Planned potable reuse, indirect and direct	Augmentation of drinking water supplies (see discussion in following section)	Availability of environmental buffer, health, risk issues, cost of engineered storage buffers, social acceptance, existing drinking water regulations are inadequate

Adapted from Tchobanoglous et al. (2003).

removed. One example of a water reuse project studied in an Islamic society is the United States Agency for International Development's (US AID) Reuse in Industry, Agriculture and Landscaping (RIAL) project in Jordan. In this project, farmers have been engaged in the beneficial use of treated wastewater in agriculture. Such projects have been successful because they have addressed not only technical and economic, but also institutional and cultural issues (US AID, 2008). The RIAL projects led to the development of the first Water User Association in Jordan for the operation, maintenance, and management of treated wastewater-based irrigation systems and the introduction of the use urban wastewater effluent for the first time in this country.

Other Non-domestic Water Sources for Reclamation and Reuse

Historically, wastewater, derived from wastewater collection systems, has been the principal source reclaimed water. However, population growth and urbanization combined with limited reliable water resources have also contributed to the consideration of a wider range of potential water sources for reclamation and reuse. Other potential sources of wastewater for reclamation and reuse are identified in **Table 3**. Many of the potential water sources, identified in **Table 3**, are most suitable for decentralized wastewater management systems (see subsequent discussion). For example, in the late 1970's, a complete onsite wastewater recycling system was developed to produce drinking water. A number of these systems were installed at individual homes in Colorado (USA), during the period from 1976 through 1982 (Tchobanoglous et al., 2011).

Understanding and Quantifying Unplanned Potable Reuse

It is estimated that over 80% of the world's wastewater and over 95% in some under developing countries is released to the

environment without treatment. Typically, untreated wastewater is either discharged to rivers or streams where it is diluted and transported downstream or infiltrated into aquifers, where the constituents in raw wastewater can impact freshwater supplies (UNESCO, 2017).

The downstream use of a water source, for drinking water, that is subject to upstream wastewater discharges is referred to as unplanned potable reuse (also known as *de facto* potable reuse). In some cases, reclaimed water represents a significant portion of the total flow in many receiving waters. Some notable examples include the Santa Ana River in southern California; the Platte River downstream from the City of Denver, Colorado; the Ohio River near the City of Cincinnati, Ohio; and the Occoquan Watershed located southwest of Washington, DC, as well as many major rivers in Europe. In some drinking water treatment plants, especially under low-flow conditions, a large fraction (up to 75%) originated as wastewater effluent from upstream communities (Dalezios et al., 2018). As the world's population continues to grow, and greater stress is placed on water supplies, understanding the extent and implications of unplanned (*de facto*) PR on the design of water treatment plants will be important in protecting public health.

In addition to discharges to rivers, numerous cases have been documented where untreated wastewater applied to land for agricultural use has resulted in unplanned recharge of groundwater aquifers, from which water is withdrawn for human consumption. Locations where such unplanned groundwater recharge has occurred include Egypt, Mexico, Peru, and Thailand. In Mexico, a large flow of wastewater from Mexico City is discharged to the arid Tula Valley (also known as the Mezquital Valley) where a total of 500,000 inhabitants are supplied water this way (Jimenez and Asano, 2008). Recently, a study has been completed in which the degree of unplanned agricultural water reuse in selected EU river basins in Spain, Italy, and France has been documented. This study is considered a first quantitative

TABLE 3 | Other potential water sources for reclamation and reuse^a.

Water source	Description
Blackwater	Wastewater originating from toilets and/or kitchen sources (i.e., kitchen sinks and dishwashers).
Graywater	Wastewater collected from non-blackwater sources, such as bathroom sinks, showers, bathtubs, clothes washers, and laundry sinks.
Wastewater (local)	Water from combined graywater and blackwater sources, which is not discharged to a collection system (e.g., wastewater from a residence served with a septic tank or seepage pit).
Roof runoff	Precipitation from rain or snowmelt events collected directly of a roof surface that is not subject to frequent public access.
Stormwater	Precipitation runoff from rain or snowmelt events that flows over land and/or impervious surfaces (e.g., streets, parking lots, and rooftops). Runoff from roofs with frequent public access is defined herein as stormwater.
Condensate	Water vapor that is converted to a liquid and collected, the most common source in buildings being air conditioning, refrigeration, and steam heating.
Shallow groundwater	Groundwater located near the ground surface in an unconfined aquifer and, therefore, subject to contamination from infiltration of surface sources.
Foundation water	Shallow groundwater collected from drainage around building foundations or sumps.
Blended water	Various combinations of water derived originally from blackwater, graywater, wastewater, roof runoff, stormwater, condensate, or foundation water. In many areas, ordinances do not allow the combination of roof runoff and/or stormwater with wastewater as part of the wastewater collection system due to documented concerns associated with sanitary sewer overflows and/or treatment and hydraulic capacity at the publicly owned treatment works. Blended water, however, is the purposeful aggregation of water for use as a non-potable water supply.

^aAdapted from Sharvelle et al. (2017).

attempt to estimate the degree of *de facto* reuse in European river basins, showing a wide range of impacts from discharged wastewater among the river basins; also, varying with season Drewes et al. (2017).

Health and Environmental Issues

While there is no reliable epidemiological evidence that the use of reclaimed water for any of its applications (see **Table 1**) has caused a disease outbreak in the USA, potential transmission of infectious disease by pathogenic organisms is the principal concern in water reclamation and reuse. This concern is true particularly in developing countries where untreated or inadequately treated wastewater is used widely (Angelakis and Rose, 2014). In addition, the production, distribution, and use of reclaimed water that is regulated inadequately may result in adverse environmental impacts.

Sources of Constituents of Concern in Water Reuse

Health and environmental issues associated with water reclamation and reuse are related to wastewater treatment, reclaimed water quality, chemical and microbiological constituents that may be present in the reclaimed water, health risk assessment, and public perception and acceptance. Reclaimed water derived from municipal wastewater comes from a variety of sources including households, schools, offices, hospitals, and commercial and industrial facilities. Thus, untreated municipal wastewater typically contains a variety of biological and chemical constituents that may be hazardous to human health and the environment. In many developing countries, the irrigation of vegetable crops with untreated or inadequately treated wastewater is a major source of enteric diseases and other waterborne diseases. The situation is different, however, in the United States and other industrialized countries where reliable wastewater treatment and health-related water reclamation and reuse criteria and regulations dictate the feasibility and acceptability of water reuse.

Development of Water Reuse Criteria, Guidelines, and Regulations

Historically, as noted previously, water reuse evolved from observation, necessity, and opportunity. These factors remain the same for the contemporary period (1900-present). Although agricultural irrigation with low quality wastewater was practiced in some areas of Europe as well as the United States in the late 1800s, there were no significant criteria or restrictions on the practice until the early part of the twentieth century. As urban areas began to encroach on sewage farms and as the scientific basis of disease became understood more widely, concern about the health risks associated with irrigation using wastewater grew among public health officials. Public health concerns led to the establishment of regulations and/or guidelines for the use of reclaimed water for agricultural irrigation, which was the first reclaimed water application to be regulated (Paranychianakis et al., 2015). Subsequently, regulations have been developed for a variety of water reuse applications.

The timeline of water reuse criteria and regulations is shown in **Table 4**. Establishing criteria for water reuse is a challenge because of the absence of comprehensive international regulations and/or guidelines, and of a scientific consensus on the approach that should be adopted to issue such criteria. Existing guidelines and/or regulations are typically based on treating wastewater to control negative impacts on man and the environment rather than focusing on the opportunities for promoting its reuse. The research priorities should be directed toward the development of new criteria and regulations that will enhance the beneficial reuse of all types wastewater.

EMERGING TRENDS IN WATER REUSE

It is estimated that by 2050 the world population will increase by an additional 2 billion people (e.g., a city of about 145,000 every day) (Reiter, 2012). This population growth—coupled with industrialization and urbanization—will result in an increasing demand for water and will have serious consequences on the environment. Wastewater treatment and reuse will play a vital role in future urban planning. Although there will be many different approaches to dealing with future population growth, three major trends with respect to water reuse stand out: (a) potable reuse (PR), (b) integrated wastewater management (IWM), and (c) integrated water and wastewater management.

Potable Reuse

Perhaps the most important future trend in the field of water reuse, especially in large metropolitan areas, is PR. As the name implies, PR involves the reuse of wastewater for human consumption following various treatment interventions. Today, wastewater is no longer viewed as a waste requiring disposal, but as a *renewable recoverable source of drinking water, resources, and energy* (Tchobanoglous, 2012). The purpose here is to introduce PR and to highlight some of the issues involved. Because the body of literature related to PR has increased dramatically, the following reports, all available on the internet, are recommended (Tchobanoglous et al., 2011, 2015; Mosher et al., 2016; NWRI, 2016; Sharvelle et al., 2017). It should be noted that the US EPA acknowledged the importance of and highlighted the increased interest in pursuing potable water reuse, in its recently issued 2017 Potable Reuse Compendium (US EPA and CDM Smith, 2017) as a supplement to the previously published Guidelines for Water Reuse (US EPA/USAID, 1992; US EPA, 2004, 2012).

Definitions and Terminology for Potable Reuse

When discussing PR, one of the problems is terminology. Water reuse definitions and terminology in common use in the literature and newly adopted terminology in California are reported in **Table 5**. While the meanings are essentially the same, the abbreviations are not. Hopefully, this situation will be corrected in the future. As reported in **Table 5**, there are two types of planned PR: (a) indirect potable reuse (IPR), and (b) direct potable reuse (DPR). The two different types of PR are illustrated in **Figure 5**. In IPR (see **Figure 5A**), advanced treated water is introduced into an environmental buffer (e.g., groundwater aquifer or surface water body) to assure the safety

TABLE 4 | Timeline of water reuse criteria, regulations, and standards worldwide^a.

Year	Description
<1918	Before 1918, wastewater was applied to the land for irrigation and disposal purposes in various regions since the Bronze Age, but no indices for any criteria have been found. Common sense practices probably applied as protection measures
1918	California State Board of Public Health set up the first water reuse regulations for the irrigation of crops consumed cooked (California State Board of Health, 1918).
1973	WHO releases water reuse guidelines aimed mainly for developing countries including quality thresholds (100 FC/100 mL) and treatment requirements (WHO, 1973)
1977	Italy regulates water reuse for irrigation describing extensive treatment processes (CITAI, 1977)
1978	California water reuse regulations (Title 22) provide limits for unrestricted irrigation (2.2 TC/100 mL) (State of California, 1978)
1978	Israel issues regulations for water reuse in irrigation defining treatment requirements, quality limits (unrestricted irrigation: 12 FC/100 mL in 80% of samples; 2.2 FC/100 mL in 50% of samples), crops and additional barriers
1983	State of Florida: No detectable <i>E. coli</i> /100 mL for crops consumed raw (US EPA, 2004)
1983	Sanitation and Disease-Health Aspects of Excreta and Wastewater Management, (Feachem et al., 1983)
1984	State of Arizona: Standards for virus (1 virus/40 L) and Giardia (1 cyst /40 L) (US EPA, 2004)
1985	Water Quality for Agriculture. FAO Irrigation and Drainage Paper 29 (Rev. 1) Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome, Italy (FAO, 1985)
1986	UNDP/World Bank Report: A theoretical epidemiological model was developed for quantitative risk assessment (Shuval et al., 1986)
1989	WHO first revision of water reuse guidelines (unrestricted irrigation: 1,000 FC/100 mL; <1 nematode egg/L) based on the conclusions of the previous reports (WHO, 1989)
1989	Tunisia issues standards for water reused in irrigation based on FAO (1985) and WHO (1989) guidelines for restricted irrigation (<1 nematode egg/l) and a multi-barrier approach (INNORPI, 1989; OJTR, 1989)
1991	French recommendations for water reuse based on WHO guidelines (Circular no 51 of July 22, 1991, of the Ministry of Health)
1992	US EPA publishes guidelines for water reuse to guide states to set up their own criteria (US EPA/USAID, 1992)
1996	Mexico changes its standards to control wastewater discharges moving from a vision to control pollution in rivers to consider the water quality need for the next use of water, i.e., reuse. For agricultural reuse a value of 1,000 FC/mL combined with either 1 Helminth egg (HE)/L for unrestricted irrigation or 5 HE/L for restricted one were set (Jiménez, 2005)
1999	Revised Israel regulations: Unrestricted irrigation <1 FC/100 mL and a multi-barrier approach (Fine et al., 2006)
1999	Australian guidelines were published defining four microbiological qualities of recycled water corresponding to the intended uses (NHMRC, 1999)
2000	State of California regulations are revised to include additional applications of recycled water (State of California, 2000; Asano and Cotruvo, 2004)
2003	WHO State of the Art Report on Artificial Recharge of Groundwater with Recycled Water (Aertgeerts and Angelakis, 2003)
2003	Revised Italian regulations for water reuse (Ministry Decree no 185/2003)
2004	US EPA revises its guidelines of water reuse to include IPR (US EPA, 2004)
2005	Cyprus issues criteria for water reuse in agriculture (Decree no 296/03.06.05)
2006	WHO releases its second revision of water reuse guidelines on Treated Wastewater in Agriculture: Risk analysis and management, which adopt a quantitative risk assessment methodology (WHO, 2006)
2006	Australian guidelines for water recycling: Managing health and environmental risks (NRMMC-EPHC, 2006)
2006	Portugal releases regulations for water reuse (Portuguese Standard NP 4434)
2007	Spain issues water reuse regulations (Royal Decree 1620/2007)
2008	Guidelines for Series of Standard on Water Reuse in China (2008).
2010	France sets water reuse criteria (OJFR, 2010).
2011	National Health and Medical Research Council and National Resource Management Ministerial Council: Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (Khan and Anderson, 2018).
2011	Greece issues water reuse regulations (Hellenic Ministry of Environment, Energy and Climate Change (2011).
2013	EU Commission assigns to the working group "Program of Measures" the development of a strategy for the maximization of water reuse in EU. This action may initiate the development of EU-based criteria
2013	ILSI publishes its criteria to reuse water in the food and beverage industry (Cotruvo et al., 2013).
2014	California Department of Public Health issues regulations for potable water reuse through aquifer recharge (CDPH, 2014)
2014	Revised French water reuse regulation (OJFR, 2014)
2015	ISO Standards (Guidelines for agricultural irrigation). Developed by ISO in collaboration with CEN (5 water qualities, the stringent: thermotolerance coliforms ≤ 10 /100 mL) (ISO, 2015).
2016	Guidelines for Integrated Water Resources Development and Management in India (2016).
2017	World Health Organization, Geneva, Potable Reuse: Guidance for Producing Safe Drinking Water (WHO, 2017)
2018	EU minimum water quality requirements for irrigation and aquifer recharge (Alcalde-Sanz and Gawlik, 2017). An EU legislative proposal will be shortly published.

^aAdapted from Angelakis et al. (2017) and Paranychianakis et al. (2011, 2015).

TABLE 5 | Terminology and definitions for potable reuse.

Term	Definition
WATER REUSE TERMINOLOGY IN COMMON USE IN THE LITERATURE	
<i>De facto</i> PR	The downstream use of surface water as source of drinking water that is subject to upstream wastewater discharges (e.g., also referred to as unplanned PR or indirect PR). Although common in many parts of the country, <i>de facto</i> PR is not officially recognized by the US. EPA.
Direct PR (DPR)	There are two forms of DPR. In the first form, advanced treated water (ATW) is introduced into the raw water supply upstream of drinking water treatment facility. In the second form, finished drinking water from a AWTF permitted as a drinking water treatment facility is introduced directly into a potable water supply distribution system.
Indirect PR (IPR)	The introduction of advanced treated water into an environmental buffer such as a groundwater aquifer or a water body before being withdrawn for potable purposes (see also <i>de facto</i> PR). IPR can also be accomplished with tertiary effluent when applied by spreading to take advantage of soil aquifer treatment.
WATER REUSE TERMINOLOGY ADOPTED IN CALIFORNIA ON OCTOBER 2017 (ab 574)	
Direct PR (DPR)	The planned introduction of recycled water either directly into a public water system or into a raw water supply immediately upstream of a water treatment plant.
Raw water augmentation (RWA)	The planned placement of recycled water into a system of pipelines or aqueducts that deliver raw water to a drinking water treatment plant that provides water to a public water system
Treated drinking water augmentation (TDWA)	The planned placement of recycled water into the water distribution system of a public water system, as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code.
IPR for groundwater recharge (IPRGR)	The planned use of recycled water for replenishment of a groundwater basin or an aquifer that has been designated as a source of water supply for a public water system
Reservoir water augmentation (ReWA)	The planned placement of recycled water into a raw surface water reservoir used as a source of domestic drinking water supply for a public water system, as defined in Section 116275 of the Health and Safety Code, or into a constructed system conveying water to such a reservoir.

Adapted, in part, from Tchobanoglous et al. (2015).

of the advanced treated water by providing sufficient retention time and to lose its identity by blending with other local water before being withdrawn for potable reuse.

In DPR (see **Figure 5B**), advanced treated water is used to augment a raw water supply by blending with other water before the combined stream is treated in a drinking water treatment plant. If the advanced water treatment facility is also permitted as a drinking water plant, finished water could potentially be introduced directly into the potable water distribution system. In DPR, the optional engineered storage buffer (ESB) may be used to: (a) provide a water storage containment facility of sufficient volumetric capacity to retain ATW for a specified period of time until process or system corrections can be made, if there is a plant failure; (b) prevent blending of ATW that does not meet water quality standards with other sources of raw water; and (c) to prevent the addition of finished ATW that does not meet water quality standards to the drinking water distribution system (Tchobanoglous et al., 2011). Representative examples of each type of potable reuse are described in **Table 6**.

Issues in PR

The principal concerns with PR are related to public health. More specifically, acute toxicity related to pathogenic microorganisms (i.e., enteric virus, *Giardia*, and *Cryptosporidium*) and chronic toxicity related to known and unknown chemical constituents found in wastewater. Extensive research has been conducted on the methods and technologies that can be implemented to protect

public health. Based on the available technologies and operating strategies, public health protection can be assured. It is certain that new and improved treatment technologies will continue to be developed. The biggest challenge will be to assess whether constituents identified at extremely low concentration, using new and improved analytical techniques, are of any health concern.

Integrated Wastewater Management

In most wastewater collection and treatment systems, wastewater is transported through the collection sewers to a centralized WWTP at the downstream end of the collection system near to the point of dispersal to the environment. Because centralized WWTPs are generally arranged to route wastewater to these remote locations for treatment, water reuse in urban areas is often limited by the lack of dual distribution systems (Tchobanoglous et al., 2014). The infrastructure cost for storing and transporting treated water to the point(s) of use are often prohibitive, rendering reuse uneconomic. Thus, in the future urbanized world, greater use will be made of decentralized wastewater management systems which can be implemented at or near the point(s) of waste generation and reuse.

An alternative to the conventional approach of transporting reclaimed water from a central WWTP is the concept of decentralized (satellite) treatment at upstream locations with localized reuse and/or the recovery of wastewater solids. A pictorial view of an IWM system is illustrated in **Figure 6**. Along with decentralized treatment and PR, sewer mining (removal of

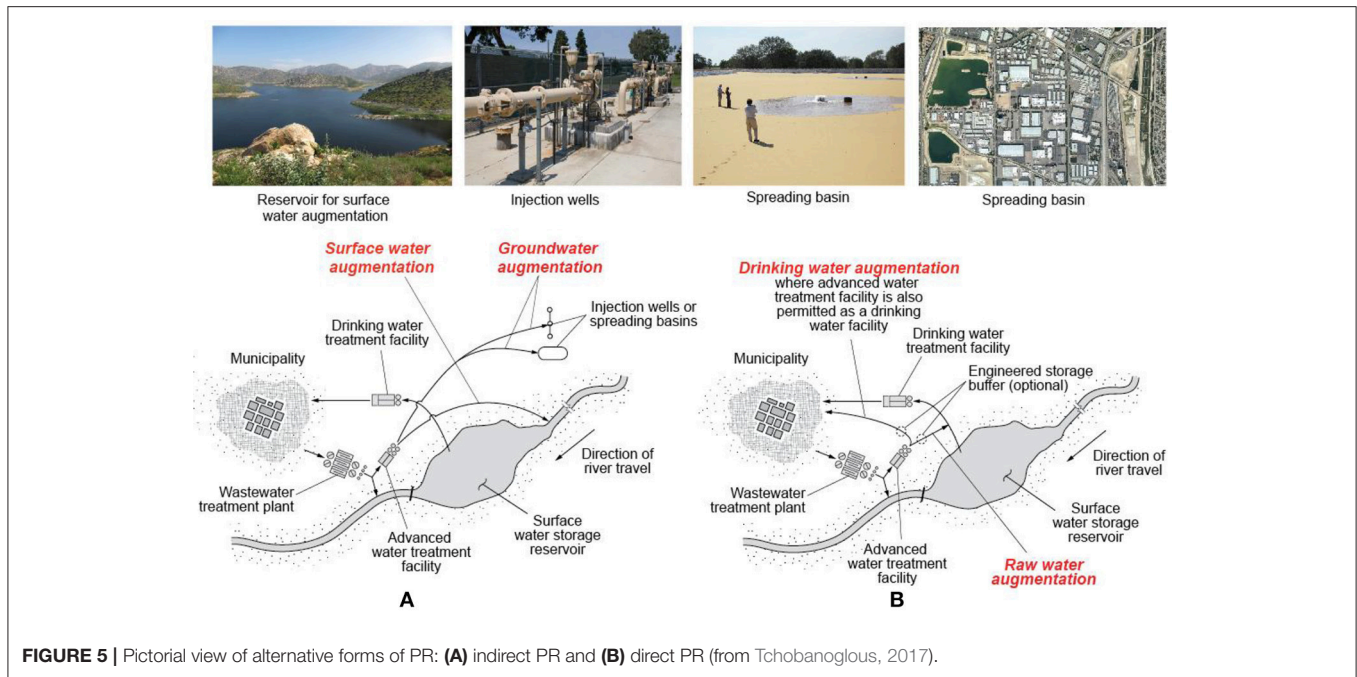


FIGURE 5 | Pictorial view of alternative forms of PR: (A) indirect PR and (B) direct PR (from Tchobanoglous, 2017).

TABLE 6 | Representative examples of successful potable reuse projects^a.

Project		
Entity	Type ^b	Description
Orange County Water District Ground Water Replenishment System (GWRS), California	IPRGR	Currently, GWRS, in operation since 2008, is the largest water reclamation facility of its kind in the world employing the latest advanced treatment technologies. Purified water from an advanced treatment process is infiltrated into the groundwater aquifer by means of spreading basins. Blended purified water and groundwater serves as a water supply source for Orange County, California.
Singapore NEWater	ReWA	Based on the success of a demonstration program, NEWater was first introduced into surface water reservoirs in 2003. Currently, surface water augmentation with NEWater is about 5 percent. The original plan called for a greater percentage, but industrial demand for high quality recycled water increased, reducing demand for potable water.
Upper Occoquan Sewage Authority	ReWA	Since 1978, water from a full-scale reclamation facility has been discharged to the Occoquan Reservoir. The reservoir is the major water source for more than 1.4 million people in Northern Virginia.
Big Spring, Texas	RWA	Filtered secondary effluent is treated with advanced treatment. The advanced treated water is blended with raw water in a transmission line. The blended water is treated in a water treatment plant before distribution.
City of Windhoek, Namibia	TDWA	Since 1968, highly-treated reclaimed water has been added to the drinking water supply system. The blending of reclaimed water with potable water takes place directly in the pipeline that feeds its potable water distribution network.

^aAdapted from Tchobanoglous et al. (2011).

^bIPRGR, IPR for groundwater recharge; ReWA, reservoir water augmentation; RWA, raw water augmentation; TDWA, treated drinking water augmentation.

wastewater to a large collection system for local treatment and reuse with solids processed at a central or regional WWTP) as shown on Figure 6 is also an integral feature of IWM. Two of the largest decentralized wastewater management systems in the United States are operated by the City of Los Angeles and the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County.

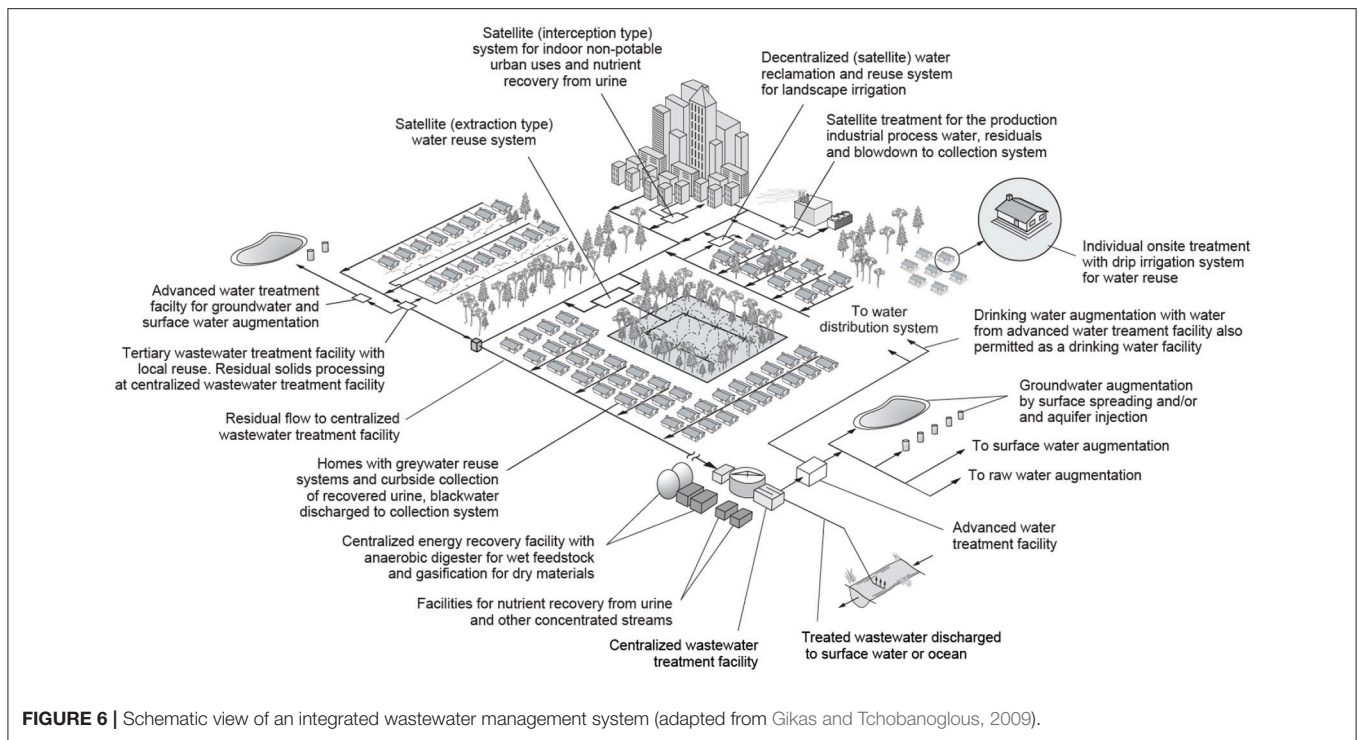
Integrated Water and Wastewater Management

Another trend in the environmental engineering and water resources field is the use of the term *one water* to describe all forms of water. The implications of the *one water*

concept for municipalities would be to merge, what are now typically, individual water and wastewater departments, into one department. By merging the two departments it is reasoned that more thoughtful, rational and cost-effective solutions can be developed to meet future water needs.

FUTURE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

In the next decade, a number of issues and challenges will need to be resolved to optimize water reclamation and reuse. Important issues include (a) how to couple advanced wastewater treatment facilities with seawater desalination facilities, (b) the development



of more effective techniques and methods incorporating risk assessment to assess human and environmental health effects of wastewater constituents, and (c) the development of appropriate water reclamation and reuse regulations, applicable to many different situations, that both help to promote reuse as well as regulate it. Further, based on recent studies it was found that users of recycled water are mainly interested in the quality rather than in the origin of water (Paranychianakis et al., 2015).

Coupling Advanced Wastewater Treatment With Desalination

In megacities, located on or near coastal areas, the opportunity to couple advanced wastewater treatment facilities with seawater desalination facilities will offer additional opportunities for PR. Operationally, the effluent from the advanced treatment facility would be combined with desalinated water and treated in a membrane type water treatment plant permitted as a drinking water plant. Because both water sources are of high quality, the combined flow would be easy to treat. The advantage this scheme offers is that drinking water could be used locally, thus avoiding the need for environmental buffers (e.g., groundwater or surface water) and long pipelines to deliver dilution water.

Another approach that has been used is to integrate seawater desalination and advanced wastewater treatment facilities to produce high quality water for industrial uses. Typically, brine from the advanced wastewater treatment facility is blended with seawater and desalinated. Use of water produced in this integrated approach increases the amount of water available for

potable and other uses. In Japan, as well as Singapore, high quality water from advanced wastewater treatment facilities is used in industrial applications.

Incorporating Risk Assessment in Evaluating Human Health Effects of Wastewater Constituents

An integrated approach is needed that combines risk assessment and risk management of water related diseases as well as health effects of chemicals and unknowns. The WHO provided a framework for the development of health-based criteria for water- and sanitation related microbial hazards as well as illness resulting from water related exposure to toxic chemicals (Fewtrell and Bartram, 2001). This approach facilitates the management of disease in an integrated, holistic fashion and not in isolation from other disease or exposure routes. Disease outcomes from different exposure routes can be compared by using a common metric, such as disability adjusted life years (DALYs). For carcinogenic chemicals in drinking water, WHO guideline values have been set at a 10^{-5} upper excess risk which is also about 1×10^{-6} DALY (1 μ DALY) per person per year (WHO, 2004). These guidelines were extended in 2017 to cover PR (WHO, 2017). Australia was the first country to develop national water quality guidelines specifically for drinking water augmentation. These guidelines incorporated WHO guidelines and were applied to PR schemes in Brisbane, Queensland, Perth, and Western Australia (Law, 2016). Recently, the guidelines have been followed-up with the development of detailed protocols for the validation of treatment performance for a number of key advanced water treatment processes (Khan and Anderson, 2018).

However, worldwide, the application of the risk assessment approach remains limited.

Develop Appropriate Water Reuse Policies, Criteria, and Regulations to Protect Health and the Environment

Although a large variety of water reuse criteria exists there is little standardization throughout the world. Efforts for more consistency among different international regulations and/or guidelines related to water quality should be fostered. At the same time, efforts should be made to align legislation produced to protect the environment in a way which allows effective water reuse. For the sake of integrated water management and to gain public understanding and acceptance, water reuse criteria should be part of a set of consistent water regulations applying to all forms of water reuse.

What is needed is the development of comprehensive, flexible, and efficient regulatory framework based on a realistic risk assessment. In some cases (e.g., EU-Mediterranean States), the existing national regulations for recycled water need to be updated considering new knowledge to address in a realistic way the potential risks arising from pathogens and trace organics to encourage water reuse by avoiding unnecessarily restrictive regulations (Paranychianakis et al., 2015). The possibility of establishing criteria by water use category independently of the water source or origin (e.g., *one water* concept) has been proposed by Paranychianakis et al. (2015). In this context, it is also important to keep in mind difference between developing and developed countries. Initially, a step by step approach is advisable in which improving current risk situation is better than having over restricted not enforceable legislations.

CONCLUSIONS

Starting from the historical tradition of land disposal and irrigation, water reuse has evolved into a myriad of applications,

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with PR representing one of the last frontiers. As in historical times, the modern practice of water reuse has evolved through observation, necessity, and opportunity. The development of megacities has rendered the traditional concept and use of a single WWTP for all wastewater untenable; also, limiting reuse applications. Decentralization is a necessity which is inevitable. However, with decentralization will come many more opportunities for local water reuse. New technologies that are now being implemented as well as those under development will usher in a new day in conventional and advanced wastewater treatment. Combining advanced treated water with desalinated water will be an attractive option in megacities. New scientific breakthroughs will lead to enhanced understanding of the significance of criteria found in both water and wastewater and their significance to human health. New regulations will be needed to reflect this enhanced biological and chemical understanding. To meet future water resource management and water reuse challenges effectively, cities must embrace the *one water* concept.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All of the authors contributed collaboratively to the preparation of the final version of the manuscript.

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