Opening Address of Rafael Mujeriego
ASERSA Open Webinar Series
23 September 2020

Good morning, good afternoon and good evening to all of you, coming from such a large number countries of the world. Welcome to the second session of the ASERSA Open Webinar Series.

It is a pleasure to be here today, one more time, together with such a large number of long-time friends and colleagues from so many parts of the world.

As we announced during the inaugural presentation, the objective of our guest speakers is to SHARE with all of us the knowledge and the experience they have gained over several decades, in their task of making “water reclamation and reuse” an “everyday reality”, under the most diverse social, economic and environmental conditions.

Our warmest gratitude to all of them for the time and effort they have devoted to prepare and present the technical sessions of this Webinar.

Our today's guests speakers have offered to SHARE with us the knowledge and the experience gained while promoting the practice of water reclamation and reuse:

in one case, for the most traditional applications of agricultural and landscape irrigation, together with the new and leading edge applications of indirect potable reuse by groundwater recharge,

in a second case, for advanced water reclamation applications, requiring a water quality similar or higher than that used for drinking water supply, to be used for industrial supply in this case.

We trust that by SHARING the ongoing performance of those water reclamation projects, we will able to motivate others interested in water reuse to join the successful saga of leaders, visionaries and innovators that have been contributing over more than four decades to make water reclamation and reuse an essential component of water resources management, particularly in areas with water scarcity and unreliable water supplies.

The water reclamation and reuse projects that Inland Empire Utilities Agency is conducting is an emblematic example of the diversity of uses that reclaimed water can have, and of the metropolitan scope in which reclaimed water is produced, distributed and used.

The advanced water reclamation project operating in El Camp de Tarragona is one of the emblematic projects capable of producing reclaimed water of similar o higher quality than conventional drinking water. Although the current beneficial use is industrial water supply, this water treatment scheme is able to produce drinking water when necessary.

The experience gained by those two emblematic projects will certainly promote a public perception and approval of reclaimed water that is more favorable than that currently observed, and promote current regulations and the risks management plans required to ensure public health and environmental protection.

Both projects illustrate the way in which “circular economy”, “green economy”, “resource recovery” and “sustainable management of water resources” are been implemented, encompassing the scientific knowledge, the technological solutions, and the economic, financial and managerial models available….together with applicable regulations widely accepted and able to protect public health and the environment.

Al those that have participated in organizing this Open Webinar Series trust that the presentations that we are going to share today and in subsequent sessions will contribute effectively to crystalize those four basic components, as they are determining factors for a successful water reclamation and reuse project.

Finally, let me offer you a brief technical note on the units used by our Californian guest:

1 square mile ≈ 2,5 km^2

1 mgd ≈ 4000 m^3/d

1 acre-foot ≈ 1400 m^3