

Potable Reuse Pilots and Demonstrations: A Review of Flow, Treatment, and Costs

Luke A. Mulford, Emilie Moore, Dave MacNevin, Jennifer Ribotti (née Roque)

Significance of Demonstration Plant Capacity

The Hillsborough County Public Utilities Department is evaluating construction of an advanced water treatment demonstration facility; however, Florida’s regulations do not provide a straightforward minimum flow capacity for a facility to be classified as a full-scale demonstration. In fact, neither California nor Texas regulations provide specific guidance on the minimum capacity for a full-scale demonstration. This article looks at over 30 potable reuse tests, observing each system’s flow, treatment processes, and cost.

Florida has been a hot spot for testing of potable reuse, with more than a dozen Florida utilities (Table 1) having conducted pilots or demonstrations. While many of these projects focused on indirect potable reuse (IPR), utilities are increasingly viewing direct potable reuse (DPR) as a potentially viable alternative water supply. Florida utilities actively evaluating DPR include Hillsborough County, City of Daytona Beach,

City of Altamonte Springs, and Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA). Previous pilot studies focusing on IPR applications may have limited applicability for the more stringent requirements of DPR, since DPR facilities do not have the margin for process upsets that a large environmental buffer provides to IPR facilities. Therefore, a priority for DPR testing programs is to accumulate an extensive body of monitoring data that can be used as a basis of discussion with regulators for setting performance and treatment redundancy requirements for a future full-scale system.

The following factors should be considered when selecting the capacity of a demonstration plant:

- ◆ Produce water of equivalent quality to full-scale facilities
- ◆ Support development of full-scale design criteria and operational set points
- ◆ Support testing of multiple technologies to enable a price-competitive selection of full-scale equipment and consumables
- ◆ Provide access for tours by regulators, stakeholders, and the public

Luke A. Mulford, Ph.D., P.E., is water quality manager with Hillsborough County in Tampa. Emilie Moore, P.E., PMP, ENV SP, is senior project manager/Tampa area regional manager, and Dave MacNevin, Ph.D., P.E., is principal water reuse technologist with Tetra Tech in Tampa. Jennifer Ribotti (née Roque), P.E., is a project engineer at Tetra Tech in Orlando.

- ◆ Available site footprint

Demonstration Plant Capacities

Survey of Potable Reuse Test Programs

While the terms “pilot test” and “demonstration test” are commonly confused, full-scale equivalency appears to be the primary factor distinguishing demonstration programs from pilot programs. In general, potable reuse pilots tend to have smaller capacities, incur lower costs, and run for shorter durations, whereas potable reuse demonstrations tend to have larger capacities, incur higher costs, and run for longer durations. Pilot plants are more appropriate for lower-cost validation of alternative, innovative treatment trains, or narrowing down treatment alternatives for a follow-up demonstration. Demonstration plants are more appropriate for refinement of validated treated trains, operational training/response, space and visual impact for public tours, observing operation and maintenance costs, testing instrumentation and control, and providing flows in support of downstream testing (e.g., recharge wells, wetlands).

Absent regulatory guidance on capacity, the next best approach is to review the precedent from actual potable reuse test systems. Figure 1 shows the capacity of 28 potable reuse test systems (13 “demonstrations” and 15 “pilots”) across the United States from the past 30 years on a logarithmic scale in mil gal per day (mgd). Table 1 summarizes the details of several recent notable test programs for potable reuse and Table 2 provides a graphical summary of the treatment

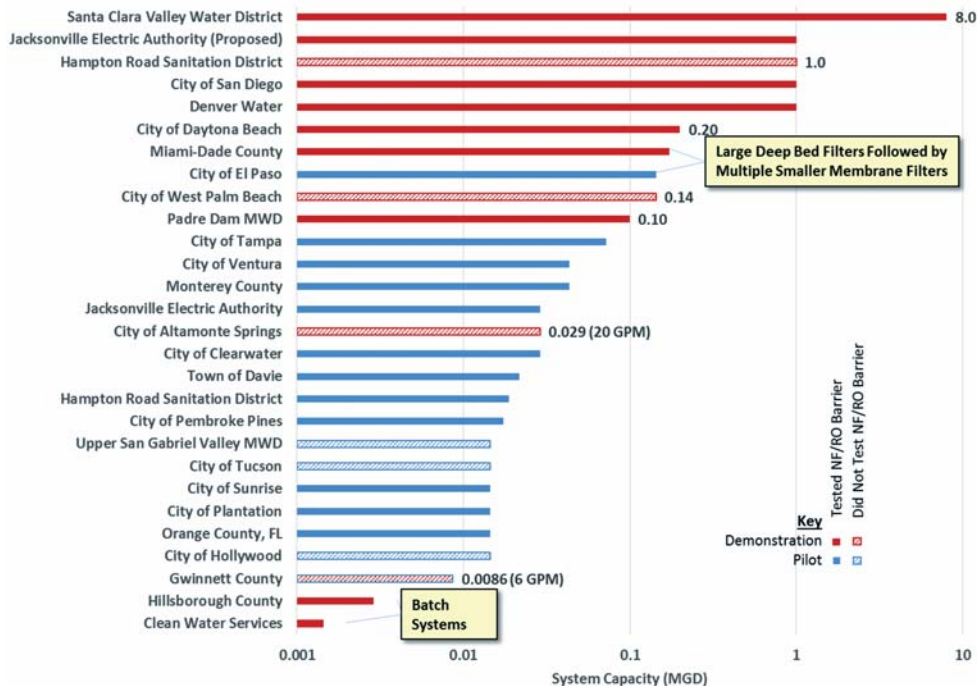


Figure 1. Capacities of Several Potable Reuse Pilot and Demonstration System in the United States

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trains tested by location at pilot or demonstration scale.

A review of potable reuse test system capacities suggests that 0.1 mgd is a capacity where other utilities have decided to use the term “demonstration.” Neither Florida or California,

nor Texas, have regulations mandating a required capacity for a “full-scale” demonstration plant. One way to look for the difference in capacity for demonstration plants and pilot plants is to review the size of current and historical potable reuse test systems. While this is not an exhaustive list of every single potable reuse test system in the U.S.,

it’s a large enough sample to be representative of industry views on demonstration capacities. More details about each of these test systems are provided in Table 1, including state, operational dates, treatment trains tested, and program costs.

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Table 1. Notable Potable Reuse Pilot and Demonstration Programs in the United States by Year Started

Sponsor	Program Name	State	Type	Operational Period	Capacity (each train)	Treatment Trains Tested	Pilot/Demo Program Cost (\$M)	Notes
Denver Water	Potable Reuse Demonstration Project	CO	DPR Demo	1985-1989, 5 Years Alternatives Testing 1990-1991 2 Years Demo Testing	1 MGD/0.082 MGD (57 GPM)	Preferred train tested during two-year period, two parts in sequence with different capacity First Part (1 MGD): Secondary effluent to lime, recarb, filtration, to second part Second Part (0.082 MGD): From first part to UV, GAC, RO (4”), air stripping, O ₃ , chloramination	\$10M (~1990)	“Ten year” project received funding from USEPA (20%). \$4 million whole animal health effects testing program, with no negative health effects “The Demonstration of Direct Potable Water Reuse: Lauer, 2015. “The Denver Project Technical Report (1979-1993)” WaterReuse. https://waterreuse.org/waterreuse-research/7920/
City of Tampa	Water Resource Recovery Project	FL	IPR Pilot	Jan. 1987-Jun 1989 (30 months)	50 GPM (0.072 MGD)	Four (4) Parallel Alternatives 1. Preaeration, lime, recarbonation, filtration, and disinfection 2. (*)Preaeration, lime, recarbonation, filtration, GAC, & disinfection 3. Preaeration, lime, recarbonation, filtration, RO (4”), and disinfection 4. Preaeration, lime, recarbonation, filtration, UF, & disinfection	N/A	Tampa Water Resource Recovery Project “Supplemental Treatment Pilot Plant”. Disinfection process was chlorine until 6/88 and ozone after 7/88”. (*)Treatment train (with ozone disinfection) selected for follow on toxicological studies.
City of West Palm Beach	Advanced Wastewater Treatment/Constructed Wetlands Demonstration Project	FL	IPR Demo	Jul. 1996-Jun. 1997 (12 months)	100 GPM (0.15 MGD)	AWT Treatment (Actiflo (Ferric Sulfate Coagulation))>Deep Bed Denitrifying Filters (Methanol)>Cl ₂ (HLD). Discharging to Two (2) Parallel Constructed Wetland Cells	N/A	After demonstration, phosphorus removal was moved to after DBFs to leave phosphorus in water to support denitrifiers.
Orange County	Advanced Reclaimed Water Treatment Pilot Study	FL	IPR/DPR Pilot	Mar. 2004-May 2005 & Jul. 2005-Apr. 2006 (21 months)	~10 GPM (est.)	UF+NF (4”) + UVAOP + Cl ₂	N/A	12 months at South WRF BNR Tertiary Treatment w/sand filtration 9 months at East WRF Advanced Secondary w/cloth filtration Observed varying microconstituent removal with loose NF, rejections varying primarily by molecular weight
City of Sunrise	Advanced Wastewater Treatment and Reuse Pilot Testing Program	FL	IPR Pilot	Apr. 2007-Oct. 2007 (7 months)	10 GPM	Three (3) Parallel Alternatives 1. BNR+MBR+RO (4”), (Bench-scale items: disinfection/oxidation (UV/O ₃)) 2. BNR+MBR (Bench-scale items: disinfection/oxidation (UV/O ₃)) 3. BNR+MBR (Bench-scale items: chemical phosphorus removal (alum and filtration), disinfection/oxidation (UV/O ₃))	N/A	Parallel testing of two RO units Much testing limited to bench-scale MWH 2008. “City of Sunrise, Florida, Southwest WWTF AWT and Reuse Pilot Testing Program, Final Report.” https://www.sfwmd.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reuse_pilot_swwwtf.pdf
City of Plantation	Advanced Wastewater Treatment Pilot Project	FL	IPR Pilot	Sep. 2007-Mar. 2008 (7 months)	10 GPM	Three (3) Alternatives 1. Primary effluent, MBR, including BNR with methanol & alum, RO (4”), & UV disinfection 2. Secondary nitrified effluent, deep bed denitrifying filter (with methanol), UF (with alum), RO (4”), UV disinfection 3. Secondary nitrified effluent, deep bed denitrifying filter (with methanol), UF (with alum), RO (4”), UV disinfection.	\$0.3M (2007)	Alt 1: 2.0 months Alt 2: 2.5 months Alt 3: 0.5 month Hazen 2008. “City of Plantation, Final Report, Advanced Wastewater Treatment Pilot Project.” https://www.sfwmd.gov/sites/default/files/documents/reuse_pilot_awt.pdf
Miami-Dade County	Coastal Wetlands Rehydration Demonstration Pilot Project	FL	IPR Pilot	Feb. 2009-Jul. 2009 (5 months)	120 GPM (Total)	HLD with deep bed sand filtration to Cl ₂ , MF, RO (4”), IX, UVAOP	\$1.7M (2009)	Deep bed sand filtration included in pilot since upgrades to South District WRF were incomplete IX for nitrogen removal Several vendors tested for each component : MF (5), RO (5), UVAOP (2), IX resin (2).
Town of Davie	Advanced Wastewater Treatment for Aquifer Recharge and Indirect Potable Reuse Pilot Study	FL	IPR Pilot	Jul. 2010-Jan. 2011 (7 months)	15 GPM	UF+RO (4”) + UV (UV disinfection at pilot scale, UVAOP at bench-scale only)	N/A	AECOM 2011. “Town of Davie, Advanced Wastewater Treatment for Aquifer Recharge and Indirect Potable Reuse Pilot Study.” http://sefluc.org/images/downloads/Meetings_and_Events_Attachments/aecom_davie_final_pilot_report_2011_sept.pdf
City of Pembroke Pines	Aquifer Recharge Pilot Plant	FL	IPR Pilot	Nov. 2010-Jan. 2011 (3 months)	12 GPM	MF+RO (4”) + UVAOP + remineralization (bench-scale)	N/A	N/A
City of San Diego	Pure Water San Diego Advanced Water Purification Facility Demonstration	CA	IPR Demo	Aug. 2011-Jul. 2012 (12 months)	1 MGD	MF/UF+RO (8”) + UVAOP	\$6.6M ¹ (2010)	https://www.sandiego.gov/water/purewater/purewatersd/reports
City of Hollywood	Effluent Recharge Treatment Pilot Study	FL	IPR Pilot	Jan. 2013-Nov. 2013 (11 months)	10 GPM	Deep bed filters, IX (for TOC/NH ₄), O ₃ , BAC, UV (NDMA destruction)	\$3.0M (2013)	Other trains were also tested. Hazen 2014. “City of Hollywood, Florida, Effluent Recharge Treatment Pilot Study: Final Report.” http://www.hollywoodfl.org/DocumentCenter/View/4065

Plants Using Reverse Osmosis/Nanofiltration Membrane Treatment

Most potable reuse demonstration plant capacities are greater than or equal to about 0.1

mgd, or ~70 gal per min (gpm). The largest potable reuse demonstration facility (8 mgd) is run by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and is known as the Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center (SVAWPC), which uses the advanced treated water for nonpotable pur-

poses. The flow of 0.1 mgd is a significant threshold value for demonstration of reverse osmosis/nanofiltration (RO/NF)-based treatment trains, since 70 gpm is the approximate flow produced by a full-scale (8-in.-diameter ele-
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Table 1. Notable Potable Reuse Pilot and Demonstration Programs in the United States by Year Started (continued)

Sponsor	Program Name	State	Type	Operational Period	Capacity (each train)	Treatment Trains Tested	Pilot/Demo Program Cost (\$M)	Notes
Western Reserve Land Conservancy (Moreland Hills, OH) Tangent Company	Tangent Watercycle™	OH	Onsite DPR Demo to Installation	2013-2016	250 GPD (EST.)	<i>Preliminary Purification:</i> Primary Treatment and Equalization, Secondary Treatment (BNR) (including acetic acid and sodium bicarbonate addition), tertiary filtration <i>Advanced Purification:</i> Ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis (4"), granular activated carbon, UV disinfection, mostly magnesium oxide or occasionally sodium hydroxide, calcium hypochlorite, granular activated carbon	N/A	Commercial Pilot by the Tangent Company who is marketing systems for onsite direct potable reuse 4/2013-7/2014: Initial pilot, water sent to drain field 08/2014-11/2015: Drinking and Cooking Restricted 12/2015-5/2016: Unrestricted use OH. S.B. 179 added "recycled" water as supply for private water systems (04/2014).
City of Clearwater	Groundwater Replenishment	FL	IPR Pilot	Jul. 2013-Jun 2014 (12 months)	20 GPM	Ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis (4"), UV advanced oxidation, membrane degasification, direct lime injection, chemical quenching	\$2.7M (2013)	Innovative testing of post-treatment technologies for mitigating impacts in the aquifer Pilot Funded with Matching Funds from SWFWMD
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District	-	CA	IPR Pilot	Aug. 2013-Jul. 2014 (12 months)	~10 GPM (est.)	Title 22 effluent, Ozone, biologically active carbon, soil aquifer treatment	\$0.3M ⁱⁱ (2013)	Filter Columns Simulating Soil Aquifer Treatment of Chlorinated or Ozonated Reclaimed Water. Ozonated water more effectively treated for CECs by SAT.
Monterey County (Monterey Peninsula Water Management District & Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency)	Pure Water Monterey	CA	IPR Pilot	Oct. 2013-Jul. 2014 (10 months)	30 GPM	Ozone, microfiltration, reverse osmosis (4"), UV advanced oxidation (bench-testing only)	N/A	Treating secondary effluent Preozonation improved MF run times by a factor of 4 to 8 by reducing membrane fouling, allowing for a higher MF design flux. http://purewatermonterey.org/reports-docs/engineering-report/
Santa Clara Valley Water District	Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center	CA	IPR Demo	Mar. 2014-Ongoing	8 MGD	Microfiltration, reverse osmosis (8"), UV disinfection	\$68M (2014)	The purified water produced by the SVAWPC is not currently used for potable (i.e., drinking) purposes, but instead is blended with tertiary-treated recycled water and used for a variety of non-potable purposes such as irrigation, cooling towers, and industrial applications.
City of Tucson	Potable Reuse Pilot	AZ	IPR Pilot	Oct. 2014-Apr. 2015 (6 months)	10 GPM	Soil aquifer treatment, sidestream nanofiltration (2.5"), ozone, biologically activated carbon	N/A	Treating secondary effluent Substitutes soil aquifer treatment for MF/UF Sidestream NF for lower cost salinity removal NF has lower feed pressure, higher recovery, concentrate more usable for irrigation
Padre Dam Municipal Water District	Advanced Water Purification East County	CA	IPR Demo	Apr. 2015-Feb. 2016 (11 months)	0.1 MGD	Part 1 (0.1 MGD, 70 GPM): Free chlorine contact, membrane filtration, RO (4") Part 2 (10 GPM): UVAOP	\$5M ⁱⁱⁱ (2015)	"Padre Dam Advanced Water Purification Center" "Advanced Water Purification Demonstration Project" Treated secondary effluent. Evaluating high RO recovery, 92%-95% through conventional RO and closed circuit desalination (CCD) RO.
City of El Paso	Advanced Water Purification Facility Pilot Test	TX	DPR Pilot	Jul. 2015-Apr. 2016 (9 months)	100 GPM Denitrifying filters 12 GPM per RO train	Secondary effluent from the Bustamante WRF Phase I: Denitrifying filters + MF/UF + NF/RO (4") + UVAOP + GAC (H ₂ O ₂ quenching) + Cl ₂ Phase II: MF/UF + NF/RO (4") + UVAOP + GAC (H ₂ O ₂ quenching) + Cl ₂ Phase III: Ozone + MF/UF + NF/RO (4") + UVAOP + GAC (H ₂ O ₂ quenching) + Cl ₂	\$4M (2015)	DPR Direct to Distribution System Planned for Full-Scale Implementation Two parallel membrane filtration units (microfiltration and ultrafiltration) Three parallel RO units with 12 gpm production capacity each
City of San Buenaventura (Ventura)	Ventura Water Pure	CA	DPR Demo	Jul. 2015-Apr. 2016 (9 months)	30 GPM	Tertiary effluent from the Ventura WRF Pasteurization, ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis (4"), UV advanced oxidation	N/A	Pasteurization showed promise to reduce UF biofouling Brief demonstration of an electrode based UV advanced oxidation process (no peroxide) in addition to conventional UV advanced oxidation with peroxide
Clean Water Services	NEWater Brew	OR	DPR Demo	Oct. 2015	1 GPM Batch	Constructed Wetland System Receiving Raw Wastewater Ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis (4"), UV advanced oxidation, granular activated carbon	N/A	Water from the Forest Grove WRF was purified and used for a beer brewing contest with approval from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.
Gwinnett County	Direct Potable Reuse Demonstration	GA	DPR Demo	Mar. 2016-Feb. 2017 (12 months)	6 GPM	Effluent from the F. Wayne Hill WRC Ozone, ferric coagulation, biologically active carbon, chlorine disinfection	\$1.0M ^{iv} (2016)	Baseline: 100% Lake Lanier Water (2 mos.) DPR Blending: 10%, 50%, 100% FWH effluent (6 mos.) Biofiltration Optimization: Test P and H ₂ O ₂ addn. (2 mos.) Robustness: Performance in lake turnover (2 mos.)
Hillsborough County	Direct Potable Reuse Demonstration	FL	DPR Demo	Jul. 2016	2 GPM Batch	Denitrified tertiary effluent from the Falkenburg Water Reclamation Facility Ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis (4"), UV advanced oxidation	~\$0.2M (est.) (2016)	First DPR Pilot in Florida Cleared by FDEP to Produce Water for Human Consumption Multiple Processes Operated in Batch Mode UF 6 GPM, RO 2 GPM, UVAOP 8 GPM. Produced water for the 2016 WaterReuse Symposium

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ment) two-stage RO/NF membrane system. Both Miami-Dade County and City of El Paso had pilot systems with multiple parallel 4-in.-diameter RO/NF skids; however, both systems had large deep bed denitrifying filters at the front of the train, which led to the system capacities being above 0.1 mgd.

Nevertheless, among all 26 of the potable reuse tests conducted using RO/NF membranes, the majority of systems (19, or 73 percent) used 4-in.-diameter membranes; three (12 percent) used 2.5-in.-diameter membranes; and four (15 percent) used 8-in.-diameter membranes. Use of smaller-diameter RO/NF membranes is usually preferred to reduce program costs, reduce

system footprint, and simplify operations. Since the water quality performance of 4-in.-diameter membranes is well established, as comparable to 8-in. membranes^{ix}, many utilities choose to use 4-in. membranes and invest the cost savings into enhanced water quality sampling, online instrumentation/monitoring, and other program priorities.

Plants Using Carbon-Based Treatment

“Large” (≥0.1 mgd) demonstration systems are not limited to those with RO/NF membrane treatment. Hampton Roads Sanitation District’s (HRSD) SWIFT (Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow) demonstration system (1 mgd) is a nonmembrane treatment train, with alum

coagulation, ozone, biologically active filtration (BAF), granular activated carbon (GAC), ultraviolet (UV) disinfection, stabilization, and a test recharge well. The HRSD selected nonmembrane treatment for its demonstration plant after piloting parallel membrane and carbon-based treatment trains. The City of West Palm Beach’s demonstration program (0.14 mgd/100 gpm) included high-rate ferric coagulation, deep bed denitrifying filters, and chlorination before discharge to two parallel constructed wetland cells. Below 0.1 mgd, the use of the word “demonstration” may be less linked to full-scale equivalence of equipment, but rather, more representative of a desire to distinguish

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Table 1. Notable Potable Reuse Pilot and Demonstration Programs in the United States by Year Started (continued)

Sponsor	Program Name	State	Type	Operational Period	Capacity (each train)	Treatment Trains Tested	Pilot/Demo Program Cost (\$M)	Notes
Hampton Roads Sanitation District	Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT)	VA	IPR Pilot	Jul. 2016-May 2017 (11 months)	4 GPM Carbon Train 13 GPM Membrane Train	Denitrified secondary effluent from the York River Treatment Plant Carbon Based: Alum + Ozone (Peroxide) + BAC/GAC Membrane Based: MF+RO (4”)+UVAOP	\$0.5M* (2015)	Carbon train was selected for a follow on demonstration study.
Hampton Roads Sanitation District	Sustainable Water Initiative for Tomorrow (SWIFT)	VA	IPR Demo	2017-2019 (24 months)	1 MGD	Nansemond Treatment Plan Secondary effluent to Alum+ O ₃ (peroxide) + BAF+ GAC + UV+ Cl ₂ + Stabilization + Test Recharge Well	\$27M Capital (2017)	“Sustainable Water Phase 3 – Demonstration Facility” 27,000 SF facility
City of Altamonte Springs	pureALTA	FL	DPR Demo	2016-2017 (12 months)	20 GPM	Ozone/biologically active filtration, chloramination, ultrafiltration, granular activated carbon, UV advanced oxidation	\$1.0M ^{vi} (2016)	Fifty percent of pilot costs provided by the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) under its Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) Community & Innovative Cost-Share Program
Jacksonville Electric Authority (JEA)	Water Purification Treatment (WPT) Evaluation and Pilot Testing	FL	Pilot	2017-2018 (5 months & 5 months)	20 GPM each (0.029 MGD)	Microfiltration, reverse osmosis (4”), UV advanced oxidation and Ozone/biologically active filtration, UV disinfection	\$2M (est.) (2017)	Phase 1 Pilot, Two trains each one tested for 5 months on two WRFs each receiving different sources (predominantly domestic vs. significantly industrial)
			Demo	(Proposed)	0.5-1.0 MGD	TBD from pilot results	\$8M (est.) (2017)	Phase 2 Demonstration
Arizona (Multiple Entities)	Arizona Pure Water Brew	AZ	DPR Demo	2017	4 GPM	UF+RO (4”)(+UV advanced oxidation, GAC, Free Chlorine	N/A	-
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)	PureWaterSF Decentralized Purified Water Research Project	CA	Pilot	2017 (8 months)	1 GPM	Microfiltration, reverse osmosis (2.5”), UV hypochlorite advanced oxidation	\$0.63M (2017)	“Building-Scale Treatment for Direct Potable Water Reuse & Intelligent Control for Real Time Performance Monitoring” Building Level Potable Reuse
City of Daytona Beach	Direct Potable Reuse Demonstration Test System	FL	DPR Demo	Oct. 2018-Sept. 2020 (24 months)	0.2 MGD (139 GPM)	Ultrafiltration, reverse osmosis (8”), UV advanced oxidation	\$3.5M (2017)	Demonstration Facility Under Operations. Side by side testing of UF (2) and RO (2). Received \$1M funds from the SJRWMD
Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension	Direct Potable Reuse Research & Demonstration System	TX	DPR Demo	(Proposed) 2018 (12 months)	0.34 GPM	Activated carbon, ozonation, chlorination, RO (2.5”), UV disinfection	\$N/A (Bidding)	Sourced from raw domestic wastewater or secondary effluent from an existing MBR, with a BOD and TSS<10 mg/L, TN<30 mg/L, and TP<10 mg/L. ^{vii} To be installed at University’s onsite wastewater training center at its RELLIS Campus in Bryan, TX.
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center Demonstration Facility	CA	IPR Demo	Begins Late 2018 (12 months)	0.5 MGD (397 GPM)	“Regional Recycled Water Advanced Purification Center” Secondary effluent from the JWPCP to Membrane bioreactor, reverse osmosis (8”), UV advanced oxidation, stabilization	\$17M ^{viii} (Const.) (2018)	Includes membrane bioreactor. Water quality goals for nitrogen. Partnership between Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County. Groundwater recharge Proposed Full-Scale Facility would produce up to 150 MGD. Estimated to Cost \$2.7B to build, \$129 million annually to operate, producing water at a cost of \$4.91/kgal ^{viii} .

^{ix} <http://dockets.sandiego.gov/sirepub/cache/2/ly5prp0jxqic2lunqnycwu5/22163708272017063206241.PDF>.
^x http://www.mwdh2o.com/FAF%20PDFs/6_RW_USGVMWD%20Final%20Report.pdf (Page 17).
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^{xiv} <http://files.altamonte.org/PW/AFIRST/Presentation/2015-06-19A-FIRST%20FSA%20Final.pdf> (Page 35).
^{xv} Water Desalination Report. 2017. “University Seeks DPR Demo Plant.” Vol. 53, Num. 31.
^{xvi} http://www.mwdh2o.com/PDF_About_Your_Water/Regional_Recycled_Water_Supply_Program.pdf.

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“direct” potable reuse pilot systems (i.e., City of Altamonte Springs [20 gpm], Gwinnett County DPR [6 gpm], Hillsborough County batch system, and Clean Water Services batch system) from the multitude of IPR pilot studies that have been performed. (Note, both Altamonte Springs and Gwinnett County are non-RO-based test systems based on ozone and biologically active carbon, which can achieve full-scale equivalency at these lower flows.)

Plants Using Multiple Equipment Capacities and Multiple Phases

Several potable reuse test systems used a mixture of equipment sizes (typically large units, followed by smaller units), instead of a single size for all equipment in the treatment train. Denver Water’s direct potable water reuse demonstration (1990-1991) consisted of a 1-mgd lime clarification, recarbonation, and filtration train, coupled with a smaller 57-gpm (0.082-mgd) UV, GAC, RO, air stripping, ozone, and chloramination train. Padre Dam Municipal Water District’s demonstration facility consisted of a 0.1-mgd (70-gpm) free chlorine, membrane filtration, and RO train, followed by a 10-gpm UV advanced oxidation process (AOP). Other test schemes included multiple and similar parallel treatment units (e.g., Miami-Dade, City of Daytona Beach, City of Hollywood, City of Sunrise, City of Tampa), or phased testing of various treatment trains (City of El Paso, City of Plantation, Gwinnett County).

Pilot/Demonstration Program Costs

Program costs were available for several potable reuse test programs, as detailed in Table 1. Program costs (in 2018 dollars*) are plotted against pilot/demonstration capacity in Figure 2. Both cost and capacity ranged over several orders of magnitude; therefore, it was necessary to plot the data on a log-log scale for better visibility.

Multiple regression analyses were carried out to identify the significance of plant capacity and test duration on potable reuse test program cost. Simple linear regression yielded a high coefficient of determination (R^2), but was rejected since it tended to overestimate costs for smaller capacity systems. A power model (Figure 2) provided a better estimate of cost over the range of pilot/demonstration capacities. The exponent of the power model (0.678), is consistent with other water treatment models, where the exponent for cost with respect to flow commonly ranges between 0.65-0.75. While actual program costs varied significantly at any given

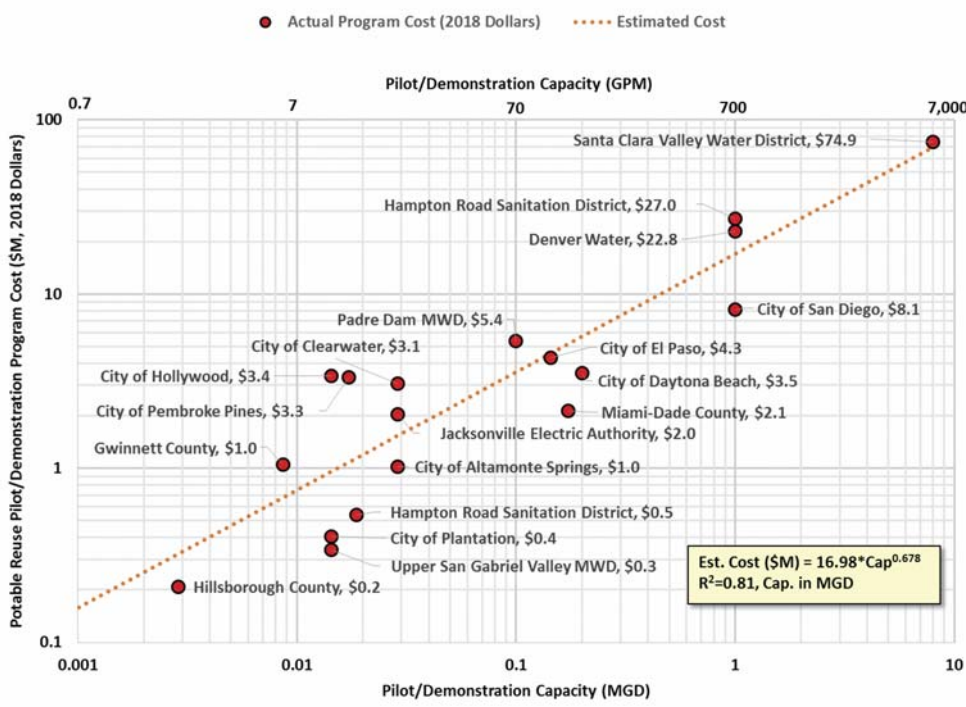


Figure 2. Cost (in millions) Versus Capacity (mgd) of Several Potable Reuse Pilot/Demonstration Program



More than a dozen Florida utilities have evaluated potable reuse through operating short-term, offline, demonstration/pilot facilities. The most recent such facility is the City of Daytona Beach’s 200,000 gal-per-day demonstration test system (pictured), which is the largest such demonstration facility in the state and utilizes full-scale equipment. (photo: Dave MacNevin)

capacity, this model can still provide helpful perspective for preliminary planning of demonstration plant capacities.

Assuming a demonstration facility capacity somewhere in the range of 0.1 to 1 mgd, associated demonstration program costs may be expected to range from approximately \$2 million to \$27 million; however, at any given capacity, the actual program costs can be expected to vary as much as threefold^{xi} depending on program specifics.

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- ^{ix} Mulford, L. A., et al., 1999. "NF performance at full and pilot scale." *Journal American Water Works Association*, 91.6 (1999): 64. <https://www.awwa.org/publications/journal-awwa/abstract/articleid/14063.aspx>.
- ^x Using a value of 10807 for the Engineering News Record Construction Cost Index (ENR CCI) projected via linear regression to June 2018.
- ^{xi} Near 0.1 mgd, program costs varied about threefold, ranging from a lower-cost system (Miami-Dade, \$2.1 million) to a higher-cost system (Padre Dam Municipal Water District, \$5.7 million). The Miami-Dade system had a larger denitrification filter, followed by several smaller-capacity pilot systems. Near 1 mgd, program costs also varied about threefold, ranging from a lower-cost system (City of San Diego, \$8.1 million) to a higher-cost system (Hampton Roads Sanitation District, \$27 million). The HRSD system was designed with a more-expensive, permanent building designed for showcasing the project to the public, whereas the San Diego system utilized a lower-cost shed covering the demonstration system. ◊