





REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL
DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

# WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND EFFLUENT REUSE IN CYPRUS

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### 1.Legislative Framework in Cyprus

In Cyprus the use of the discharge of effluent from urban wastewater treatment plants is regulated by: ☐ The Environmental Impact Assessment Law (No. 127(I)/2018) ☐ The water Pollution Control Laws (106(I)/2002 to 2013) ☐ The Water Pollution Control (Discharge of Urban Waste water) Regulations of 2003 (No. 772/2003) ☐ The Water Pollution Control (Sensitive Areas for Disposal of Urban Waste Water) Ministerial Decree of 2013 (No. 280/2013) ☐ The Code of Good Agricultural Practice Decree (No. 263/2007) ☐ The Ministerial Decree for small – scale wastewater treatment plants < 2000 p.e. (No. 379/2015)

# 2. Effluent from Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants (uwwtps) Reuse in Cyprus

- ➤In Cyprus around **97**% of the treated waste water is reused in accordance with Art. 12 (1) of the UWWTD.
- The effluent is mainly reused directly for irrigation or indirectly via replenishment of aquifers. In 2021 22.6 millions cubic meters of treated effluent were reused in agriculture.
- ➤ The cost for the construction, operation and maintenance of tertiary treatment plants carried out by the Urban Sewerage Boards is undertaken by the Government.

# 2.1 REGULATION (EU) 2020/741 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 25 May 2020 on minimum requirements for water reuse

The new regulation shall apply from 26 June 2023.

Cyprus informed the EC that it will practice the reuse of treated urban waste water in all areas under the effective control of the Republic of Cyprus.

However the irrigation will not be allowed for foliaceous vegetables, bulbs and condyles that are eaten raw.

#### 3. TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS UWWTPs of Agglomerations ≥ 2.000 p.e.

- In Cyprus, it is our policy and is implemented through the obligation for tertiary treatment, the UWWTPs effluent to be reused in agriculture. More stringent treatment requirements than the proposed ones are already applied.
- Some of the main parameters that are monitored for UWWTPs  $\geq$  2.000 p.e. are: BOD<sub>5</sub>, SS, TN, TP, conductivity, pH, heavy metals, B, Cl, E. Coli, priority substances, pesticides and toxicity.
- $\triangleright$ Usually, the limit values set for BOD<sub>5</sub>, COD, SS, total nitrogen and total phosphorus are 10 mg/l, 70 mg/l, 10 mg/l, 15 mg/l and 10 mg/l respectively.
- Further monitoring obligations are set in the permits when the tertiary effluent is recharged in aquifers or discharged into surface waters (dam or sea) taking into consideration the standards specified to Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and Directive 2008/105/EC regarding Environmental Quality Standards respectively.
- Additionally, discharges from urban waste water treatment plants to sensitive areas (water bodies which are eutrophic) meet more stringent requirements related to TN and TP. In such cases the limit values can be TN=10mg/l and TP=1mg/l.

## 4. REUSE OF TREATED EFFLUENT IN CYPRUS

# 4.1 IN CYPRUS THE TREATED EFFLUENT FROM THE URBAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS IS REUSED FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:

- 4.1.1 IRRIGATION
- 4.1.2 ENRICHMENT OF UNDERGROUND WATER (PAPHOS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT)
  - 4.1.3 DRY BED OF RIVERS FOR INFILTRATION

THE IRRIGATION IS DONE UNDER THE CODE OF GOOD AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE.

#### 4.2 OTHER WAYS OF DISPOSAL

- DISCHARGE INTO THE SEA
- DISCHARGE INTO A DAM FOR AGRICULTURE IRRIGATION PURPOSES ONLY

DUE TO SEASONAL DEMAND OF WATER FOR IRRIGATION AND LIMITED STORAGE CAPACITY, CERTAIN AMOUNTS OF TREATED EFFLUENT ARE DISCHARGED TO THE SEA AND POLEMIDIA DAM (NON POTABLE), DURING WINTER MONTHS.

#### 4.3 CONSTRUCTION OF A DAM TO COLLECT TREATED EFFLUENT

## 5. Benefits of Treated Effluent Reuse

### A reliable source of water which enhances the water balance

Domestic Sector	Freshwater can be reserved to	Need for fewer desalination
Cities	satisfy the increasing demand	plants
	for potable water	Lower carbon footprint
		Less dependence on oil
		prices
Agricultural Sector	Constant and reliable source of	
Farmers	water	
	Savings in fertilizers	
	Increases crop yield	
	Maintains traditional agriculture	
Environment	Reduces discharge to WBs	Keeps water prices at
	Reduces abstraction	reasonable levels
	Groundwater Replenishment	
	Control saltwater intrusion to	
	groundwater bodies	

#### 6. Reclaimed Water Reuse

The Irrigation is done under the Code of Good Agricultural Practice.

Tertiary treatment is **mandatory irrespective of its use (irrigation**, recharge of aquifers or disposal to the sea, in order to:

- Eliminate the possibility of any health incident
- Reduce the risk of possible eutrophication when discharging to the eastern Mediterranean Sea, the most oligotrophic sea in the world
- Reduce farmers skepticism and barriers to reusing
- Encourage public acceptance enhance marketability of crops

Provided that the land farm has access to a reclaimed water irrigation network, the end user (i.e. the farmer) applies to the Water Authority/Reclaimed Plant Operator for the supply of reclaimed water, stating the type of crop and the required water quantity.

The Water Authority/Reclaimed Plant Operator approves the application and provides the end user with the necessary information regarding the crops allowed to be irrigated as well as the irrigation methods and techniques to be used.

It has to be noted that in Cyprus, the end users have small agricultural farms and 90% of them are under 0,5 ha.

In Cyprus the operator's responsibility is to achieve the required effluent quality at the outlet of the reclamation facilities. The required effluent quality is set by the Competent Authority responsible for the permitting.

### 7. Code of Good Agricultural Practice (Regulation No. 263/2007)

Guidelines to make the use of treated effluent safe for irrigation: The goal is the proper use of Reclaimed Water in agriculturein order to protect public health and the environment

**Restriction on the type of crops irrigated: Irrigation of** all types of plants, seasonal and permanent **except of foliaceous vegetables**, **bulbs and condyles that are eaten raw**. **Type of plants**: citrus fruits, fodder crops and industrial plants (cow grass and corn), olive trees, lolium and sutax, potatoes, **flowers (e.g. carnations)**, public green areas, football fields, grass production.

#### Safety precautions for the proper use of water

- The use is prohibited by unauthorized persons
- Marking pipes with red line
- Clear signaling to alert the public that the water is undrinkable
- Hydrants and distribution system should have protection and always be in good operational condition

Irrigation practices	Methods of irrigation	Recommendations
Irrigation for grass, green areas with limited use, and forage crops	<ul> <li>groundwater irrigation,</li> <li>drippers, low capacity sprinklers,</li> <li>surface irrigation,</li> <li>high capacity sprinklers - 300 m buffer zone</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>▼ cultivated forage, irrigation stops at least one week before harvest</li> <li>▼ cultivated forage for grazing, dairy animals are not permitted.</li> </ul>
Irrigation conditions for grass, green spaces with free use	<ul> <li>subsurface drip irrigation,</li> <li>low angle Pop-up sprinklers (&lt;15°)</li> <li>irrigation during night</li> <li>(no wind)</li> </ul>	
Vineyard	<ul><li>drip irrigation</li><li>micro sprinkler</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Where drops comes with contact with fruit, irrigation must stop two weeks before harvest</li> <li>Collection of fruit from the ground should be avoided</li> </ul>
Tree crops	<ul><li>drip irrigation</li><li>Micro sprinkler</li></ul>	The collection of fruit from the ground is prohibited except in cases of nuts. Where irrigation drops comes in contact with fruit, irrigation must stop at least a week before harvest.
Vegetables that are cooked before consumption	<ul><li>sub surface drip irrigation, sprinkler irrigation</li><li>drip irrigation</li></ul>	

### 8. Original Assessment of the Reclaimed Water Reuse

- ➤ Original Studies: The Ministry Of Agriculture before using the Reclaimed water for irrigation tried in 1996 to demonstrate the benefits in practice:
  - A Pilot irrigation area of 30 ha close to Limassol WWTP was initiated, to demonstrate that recycled water enhances agricultural productivity and is safe to use by the farmers
  - Sorghum, alfalfa and corn were used as verified crops irrigated with effluent water for a period of 5 years
  - Agricultural Research Institute was responsible for the collection and analysis of all data and verification of the results
  - Results: Crop yield increased by 30% on average

On Going studies: After these initial tests, further plant uptake studies regarding the effects of water reuse irrigation, although they do not cover all the parameters that could affect the crops, were conducted during the last years by the Agriculture Research Institute of the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment. No negative results were demonstrated.

## 9. Public Acceptance

At the early days of implementing water reuse projects in Cyprus, there was significant reaction and skepticism from farmers, due to ignorance, misconceptions and psychological reasons

### **Acceptance issues were addressed through:**

- > Information / consultation campaigns
- Education of the farmers in small groups
- Regulating effluent reuse through the Code of Good Agricultural Practice
- Making recycled water much cheaper than freshwater
  - Rate of Tertiary Treated Effluent for agriculture: 7 cents/ m³ (The price is subsidized in order to encourage and promote the use.)
  - Selling Rate of Fresh not filtered water from governmental water works: 17 cents/ m<sup>3</sup>

#### 10. Further Research

- □ Research is on going by the Agricultural Research Institute of Cyprus and the University of Cyprus
- Research results, concerning the long-term wastewater irrigation of **forage** and citrus revealed that there are **no impacts** of wastewater reuse **on** both soil physicochemical properties and heavy metal content, as well as on agricultural produce heavy metal content
- Research concerning wastewater irrigation of tomato crops highlighted that there is no accumulation of heavy metals in tomato fruit, whereas examination of the presence of various pathogens related to public health revealed that total coliform and fecal coliforms were not quantified in both fruit flesh and fruit peel, while *E. coli*, *Salmonella spp* and *Listeria spp*. were not detected in fruit homogenates

## 11. IRRIGATION WITH TREATED EFFLUENT- TYPE OF PLANTS

LIMASSOL PLANT	LARNACA PLANT	PARALIMNI AYIA NAPA PLANT	VATHIA GONIA PLANT
CITRUS FRUITS	COWGRASS	CITRUS FRUITS	COWGRASS
FODDER CROPS AND INDUSTRIAL PLANTS (COWGRASS AND CORN)	CORN	OLIVE TREES	CORN
VEGETABLES	LOLIUM AND SUTAX	POTATOES	BARLEY
PUBLIC GREEN AREAS	PUBLIC GREEN AREAS	PUBLIC GREEN AREAS	FODDER CROPS
	FOOTBALL FIELDS	FOOTBALL FIELDS	GRASS PRODUCTION

# 12. QUALITY CHARACTERISTICS AND CONTROL OF THE TREATED EFFLUENT FOR AGGLOMERATIONS ABOVE 2000P.E. ACCORDING TO THE DISCHARGE PERMITS IN CYPRUS:

According to the Laws of the Water Pollution Control of 2002 until 2013, for the big municipal wastewater treatment plants the Minister Of Agriculture issues a Wastewater Discharge Permit for the same Wastewater treatment Plant to the following competent authorities:

- Sewerage Boards
- Water Development Department

In the Discharge Permit the following are defined:

- quality characteristics.
- number and the type of analyses
- disposal of the treated effluent

For the Discharge Permit of the Water Development Department the following are included:

- Name of Authority: Water Development Department
- Type of Process: Disposal of Treated Effluent
- Type of Discharge: Treated effluent from the wastewater treatment plant.

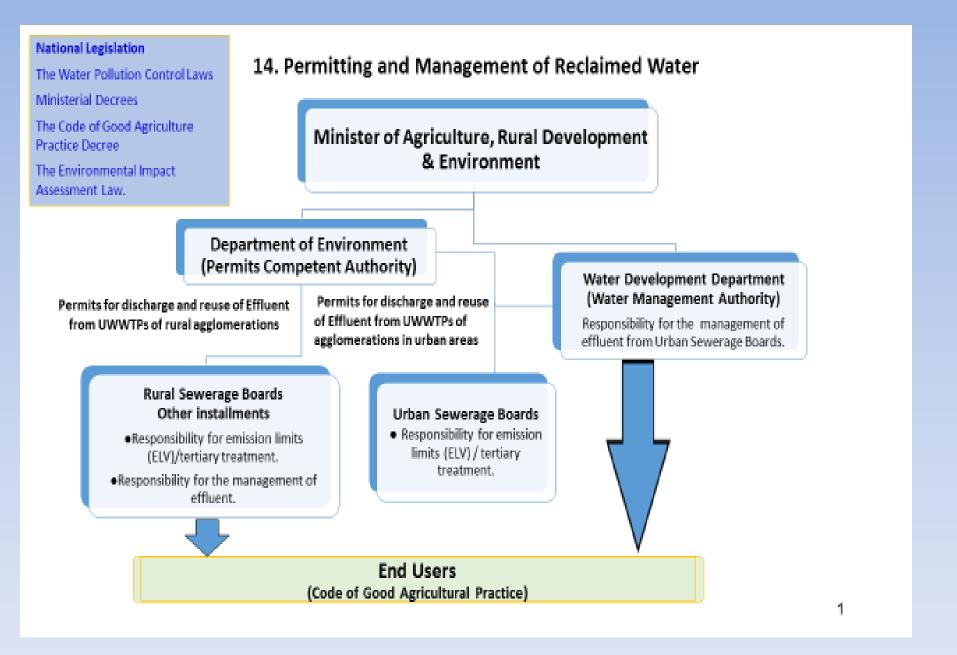
#### 13. SELLING RATES OF TREATED EFFLUENT FROM TERTIARY TREATMENT PLANTS

The rate of	f the treated effluent from the big wastewa	ater treatment has be	en set by a		
ministerial	decree as per the following table. These ra	tes are charged by the	he government.		
		Water Selling Rate			
A/A	USE	Existing Rate of	Suggested Selling		
		Tertiary Treated	Rate of Fresh not		
		Effluent	filtered water		
			from		
			governmental		
			water works		
		EURO Cent/ m3	EURO Cent/ m3		
1	a) For Irrigation divisions for agricultural	5	15		
	production				
	b)For Persons for agricultural	7	17		
	production				
2	For sports	15	34		
3	For irrigation of hotels green areas and	15	34		
	gardens		9.		
	gardens				
4	For irrigation of Golf Courses	21	34		
	F				

5 For pumping from an underground 8 aquifer recharged by treated effluent

6 For over consumption for items 1 to increase 56 5 by 50% 7 For municipal parks, green areas etc for rural communities where a plant

has been built within its limits and the quantity does not exceed the approved quantity of more than 10 % •14



## 15. WASTEWATER TREATMENT METHODS APPLIED IN URBAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

	NAME OF WWTP	TYPE OF SECONDARY TREATMENT	TYPE OF TERTIARY TREATMENT
1	ANTHOUPOLI	ACTIVATED SLUDGE MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR , NITRIFICATION - DENITRIFICATION, PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL	MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR
2	VATHIA GONIA (WDD) (designed to receive domestic septage and industrial waste by tankers)	ACTIVATED SLUDGE EXTENDED AERATION -OXIDATION DITCHES	SAND FILTERS
3	VATHIA GONIA (SBN)	ACTIVATED SLUDGE MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR, NITRIFICATION - DENITRIFICATION, PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL	MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR
4	AYIA NAPA - PARALIMNI	ACTIVATED SLUDGE, NITRIFICATION - DENITRIFICATION, PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL	SAND FILTERS
5	PAPHOS	ACTIVATED SLUDGE, NITRIFICATION - DENITRIFICATION, PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL	SAND FILTERS
6	LARNACA	ACTIVATED SLUDGE MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR, NITRIFICATION - DENITRIFICATION, PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL	MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR AND SAND FILTERS ( for the collected water during winter in the lagoons)
7	LIMASSOL	ACTIVATED SLUDGE, NITRIFICATION - DENITRIFICATION, PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL	SAND FILTERS
8	MIA MILIA	ACTIVATED SLUDGE MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR, NITRIFICATION - DENITRIFICATION, PHOSPHORUS REMOVAL	MEMBRANE BIOREACTOR

# 16. METHODS OF DISINFECTION OF URBAN WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANTS

TYPE OF DISINFECTION								
NAME OF WWTP	TYPE	METHOD						
LIMASSOL	CHLORINATION	ONSITE HYPOCHLORITE GENERATION FROM SALT						
PARALIMNI	CHLORINATION	LIQUID SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE DOSING						
AYIA NAPA	CHLORINATION	LIQUID SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE DOSING						
LARNACA	CHLORINATION	ONSITE HYPOCHLORITE GENERATION FROM SALT						
PAPHOS	CHLORINATION	LIQUID SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE DOSING						
VATHIA GONIA (WDD)	CHLORINATION	LIQUID SODIUM HYPOCHLORITE DOSING						
VATHIA GONIA (SBN)	UV DISINFECTION	-						
ANTHOUPOLIS	UV DISINFECTION	-						
MIA MILIA	UV DISINFECTION	-						

# 17. TREATMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR IRRIGATION UWWTPs serving agglomerations ≤ 2.000p.e.

According to the Ministerial Decree of small – scale wastewater treatment plants  $\leq$  2.000 p.e (No. 379/2015), the quality requirements for treated waste water used for irrigation are:

Parameters	BOD <sub>5</sub> mg/l	COD mg/l	SS mg/l	FOG mg/l	E. Coli / 100 ml	рН	Conductivity μS/cm	Cl mg/l	B mg/l	Residual Chlorine mg/l
Frequency	every 1 month	every 1 month	every 1 month	every 1 month	every 1 month	every 1 month	every 1 month	every 1 year	every 1 year	every 1 month
All crops and green areas (a)	10	70	10	5	5	6,5-8,5	2.500	300	1	2
Vegetables eaten cooked (b)	10	70	10	5	50	6,5-8,5	2.500	300	1	2
Products for human consumption and green areas with limited access to the public	25	125	35	5	200	6,5-8,5	2.500	300	1	2
Crops for animal feed	25	125	35	5	200	6,5-8,5	2.500	300	1	2
Industrial plants	25	125	35	5	200	6,5-8,5	2.500	300	1	2

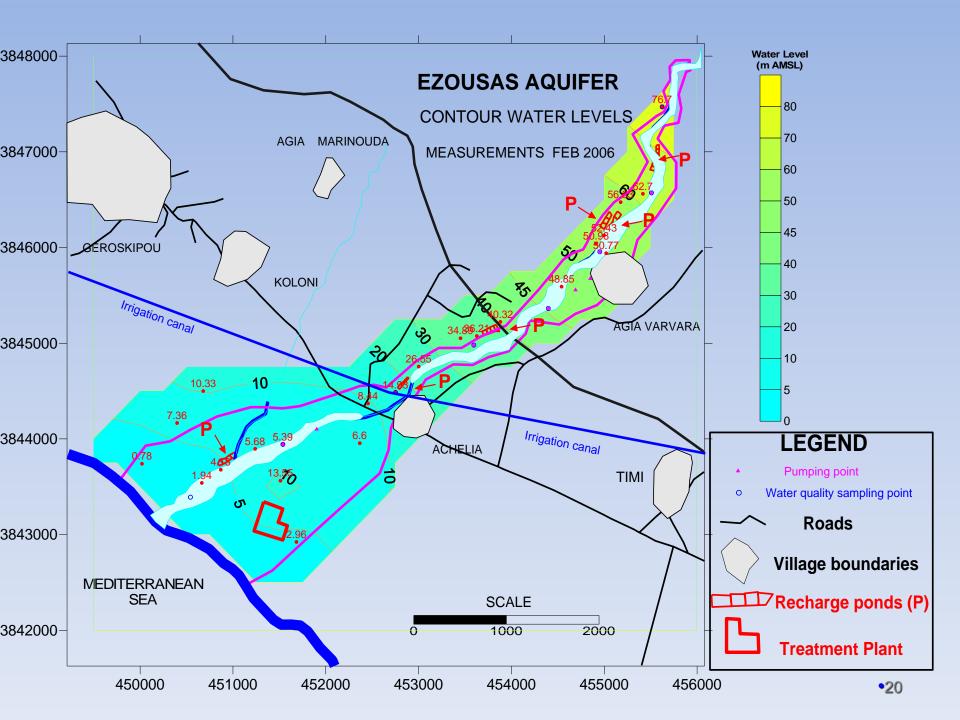
<sup>(</sup>a) Not for leafy vegetables, bulbs eaten raw and strawberries. (b) Potatos, beetroots etc.

The parameter "Eggs of Intestinal Worms" used to be monitored every year during the summer period, however they have been excluded from the Ministerial Decree No. 379/2015, as they have never been identified.

#### 18. EXAMPLE FOR AQUIFER RESCHARGE - AREA OF PAPHOS

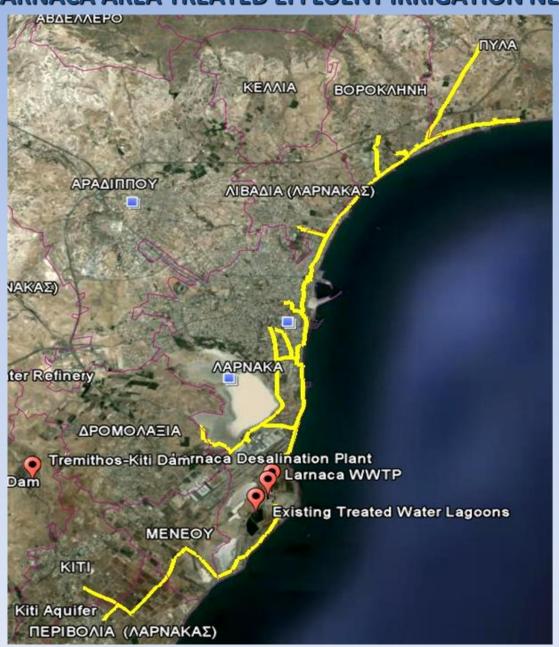
IN THIS AREA THE TREATED EFFLUENT IS USED FOR THE ENRICHMENT OF EZOUSA AQUIFER.

THE MAP OF THE POINTS OF ENRICHMENT OF EZOUSA AQUIFER - PAPHOS

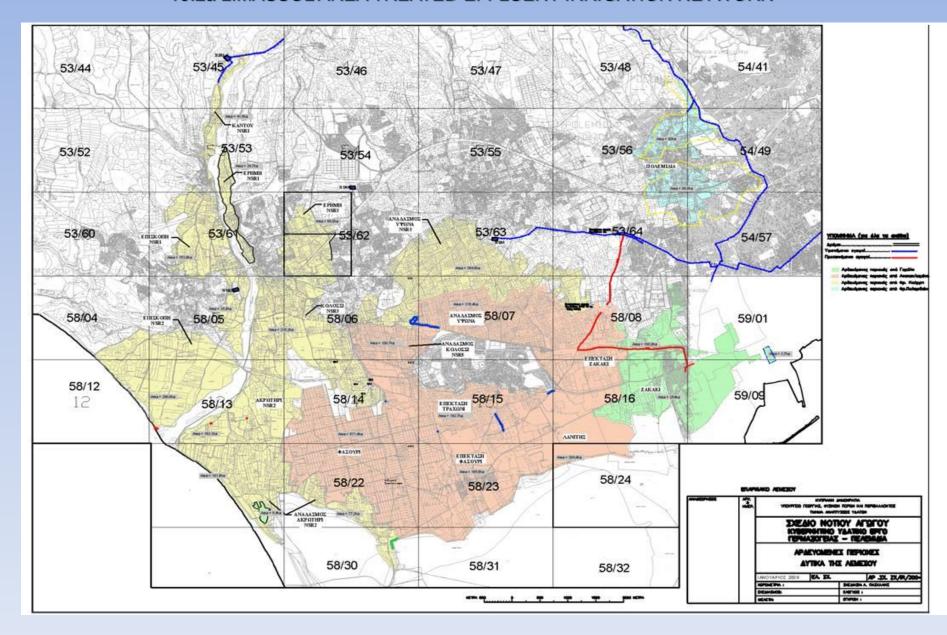


## 19. TREATED EFFLUENT IRRIGATION NETWORKS

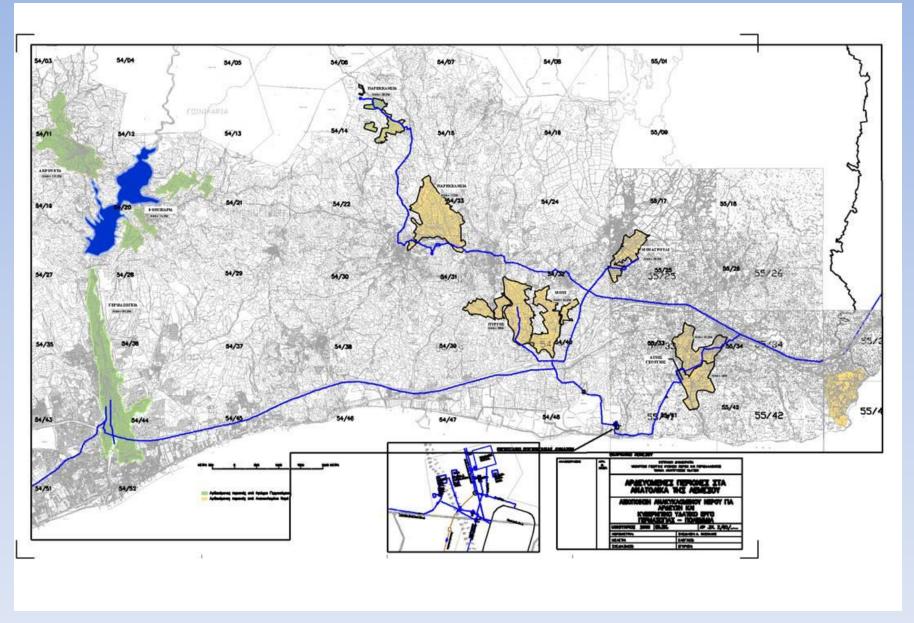
#### 19.1 LARNACA AREA TREATED EFFLUENT IRRIGATION NETWORK



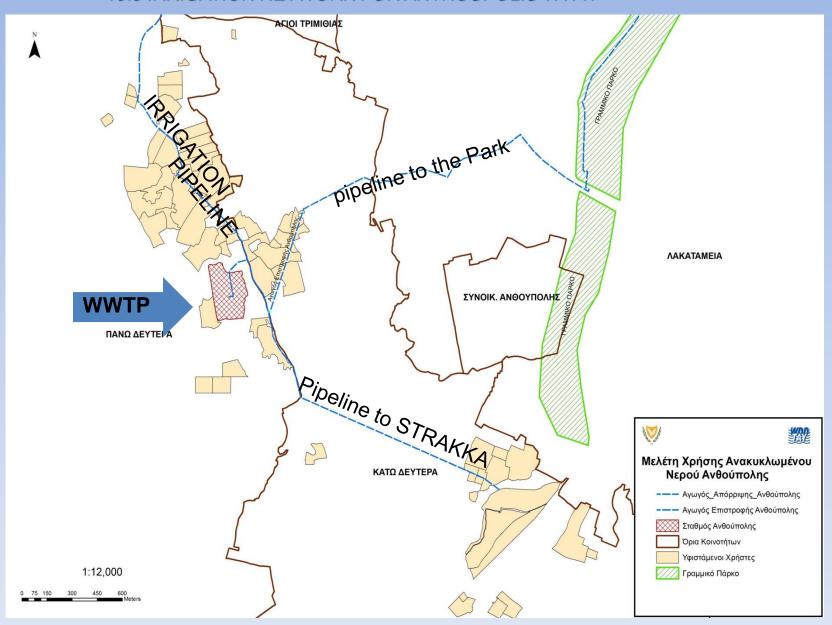
#### 19.2a LIMASSOL AREA TREATED EFFLUENT IRRIGATION NETWORK



#### 19.2b LIMASSOL AREA TREATED EFFLUENT IRRIGATION NETWORK



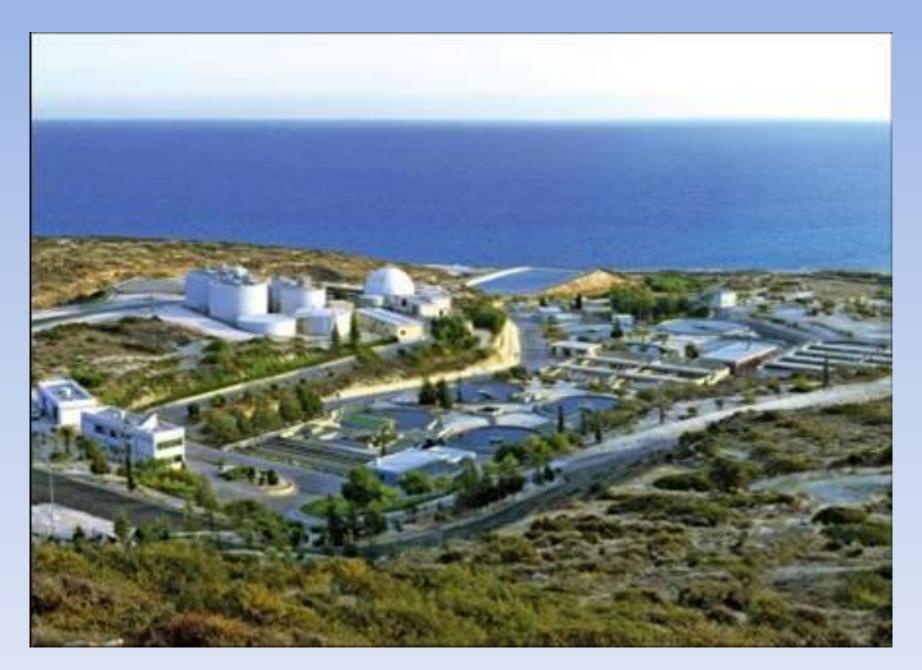
#### 19.3 IRRIGATION NETWORK FOR ANTHOUPOLIS WWTP







## PHOTOGRAPHS FROM WWTPs



•LIMASSOL (MONI) WWTP



**ANTHOUPOLIS WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT -SBN** 



**VATHIA GONIA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT -SBN** 



VATHIA GONIA CENTRAL WASTEWATER (SEPTIC SEWAGE/INDUSTRIAL WASTE)
TREATMENT PLANT-WDD



LARNACA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT-SBL



PARALIMNI-AYIA NAPA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

## WDD Website:http://www.moa.gov.cy/moa/wdd





WATER DEVELOPMENT **DEPARTMENT** 1047 NICOSIA



### REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME

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