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**PRELIMINARY STUDY OF ROOTS IRRIGATED WITH CAWELO'S RECYCLED PRODUCED WATER
SHOWS ORGANIC ELEMENTS NOT ABSORBED INTO CROPS**

Reaffirms Results from Initial Water Quality Analysis

Bakersfield, CA – Cawelo Water District (Cawelo) today released the results from its [root crop study](#) in which a third-party environmental toxicologist concluded that low level organic elements found in produced water are not being absorbed into carrots or potatoes. The root crop study is part of a testing program to verify an initial water quality [study](#) that showed Cawelo's recycled produced water supply to be safe for agriculture irrigation.

"As Californians, we have a mandate to use our natural resources wisely, reusing and recycling water whenever possible. It's the reason Cawelo is taking extra steps to reaffirm that this important water supply is safe for agriculture irrigation," said David Ansolabehere, general manager of the Cawelo Water District. "Sound science continues to guide the testing process as we work with regulators on the most-recent testing that showed organic compounds are not being absorbed or accumulated in carrots and potatoes irrigated with recycled produced water."

Recycled produced water is a water supply that is naturally obtained from the ground during the oil and gas extraction process that is then filtered, treated, blended and subject to water quality testing with results reported to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board), the regulator charged with ensuring water quality and safety. Cawelo has a long history of complying with water quality standards established by the Regional Board for recycled produced water.

Certain stakeholders have raised questions regarding the safety of using recycled produced water to irrigate crops. With a mandate to protect public health and ensure factual information is disseminated, Cawelo voluntarily initiated a program to extensively and systematically study recycled produced water quality as well as commodities grown with this water supply. Results of all tests are provided to the Regional Board and its recently established Food Safety Panel and made available to the public.

Following is a summary of Cawelo's voluntary testing:

- **[Initial Water Quality Analysis \(April 2016\)](#)**: The third-party toxicologist conducted an initial water quality study of Cawelo's recycled produced water supply, testing for approximately 70 organic compounds identified by the Regional Board. Initial results showed that all detected compounds were within safe drinking water quality standards

– an even higher standard than what is required of irrigation water. Also, an initial crop test showed that almonds, grapes and pistachios irrigated with Cawelo’s blended water supply had similar chemical composition levels as crops irrigated with other water supplies.

- **Citrus Crop Analysis (October 2016)**: For the citrus test, the expert toxicologist analyzed mandarins, oranges and lemons, using testing protocols established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The study compared crops irrigated with Cawelo’s blended water supply against crops irrigated with water from other sources. After careful analysis, the toxicologist concluded that key low-level organic elements are not being absorbed nor accumulated in edible fruit.
- **Root Crop Analysis (November 2016)**: For the most-recent root crop testing, the expert toxicologist analyzed carrots and potatoes, using testing protocols established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The study compared crops irrigated with Cawelo’s blended water supply against crops irrigated with water from other sources. After careful analysis, the toxicologist concluded that key low-level organic elements are not being absorbed nor accumulated in edible root crops.
- **Expanded Water Quality Testing**: Cawelo is now required to test for more than 160 constituents and report results quarterly to the Regional Board. The Water District is systematically moving through the review process with the Regional Board on the first wave of expanded testing data, but notes that the vast majority of the 160 constituents have been non-detectable and below drinking water quality standards – an even higher standard than what is required of irrigation water. Cawelo also conducts monthly testing and reporting for approximately 70 constituents.

According to the State Water Resources Control Board, [no studies](#) to date have shown that irrigating food crops with recycled produced water poses any threat to public health. Cawelo is committed to working with regulators to test additional crops as they come into season to further verify these initial findings, as recommended by the third-party toxicologist.

It is important to note and clarify that water generated from hydraulic fracturing (also known as “fracking”) is **not** used for agricultural purposes – a point that has been incorrectly reported in certain publications and promoted by opponents of oil production. Cawelo does not accept, use or deliver water generated from hydraulic fracturing.

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The Cawelo Water District, located just north of Bakersfield, CA, has been serving the community for more than 50 years. The district includes 45,000 acres in Kern County and provides irrigation water to approximately 34,000 acres of orchards, vineyards, and other crops. For more information, visit: www.cawelowd.org.