Monterey wastewater reclamation study for agriculture

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A 5-yr field scale project was conducted in Monterey, CA, to evaluate the safety and feasibility of irrigating food crops, many of which are eaten raw, with highly treated municipal wastewater. The results indicated that the practice was safe and acceptable. No degradation of soil or groundwater occurred. Conventional farming practices produced good crop yields with no accumulation of heavy metals in crops or soil. Chlorine residuals had no observable effect on crops. The wastewater used had undergone secondary biological and tertiary treatment and disinfection.

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