

# BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

EBMUD Headquarters – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Small Training Room

August 6, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

## 1) Introductions – Muñoz

- Linda Hu - EBMUD
- Cheryl Munoz - SFPUC
- Lorien Fono - BACWA
- Mary Cousins - RMC
- Roanne Ross – Whitley Burchett
- Rhodora Biagtan - DSRSD
- Eric Rosenblum- Enviroperspectives
- Dan Jackson – City of Benicia

### *On phone*

- Eric Hansen – City of San Jose
- Andria Loutsch – CDMSmith
- Leah Walker – City of Petaluma
- Pedro Hernandez – South Bay Water Recycling
- Jessica Zadeh – City of San Jose
- Ken Torke – City of Palo Alto
- Bao Cha – CCCSD

## 2) Prop 84 & BAIRWMP Updates – Muñoz/Hu

### *a. Update on Prop 84 activities*

#### i. Prop 84 Round 2 update

DWR and ABAG/San Francisco Estuary Project signed the grant agreement. Several agencies' attorneys reviewed the local project sponsors grant agreement and suggested changes, but DWR only made a few of them.

#### ii. Drought Relief Round

ABAG/SFEP, the regional drought relief application lead, submitted the final application package on July 18, which was a few days before the July 21 deadline. Local project sponsors have already signed the grant application contracts with ABAG. The IRWM solicitation schedule is posted here:

[http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/Index/Revised-Schedule\\_060214.pdf](http://www.water.ca.gov/irwm/grants/docs/Index/Revised-Schedule_060214.pdf) Horizon was selected as the consultant to assist with the regional application.

#### iii. Round 3

The next round of funding is pending appropriation. It is anticipated to be in 2015 sometime, but there has been no new news about what kind of projects will be solicited.

## 3) Legislation/Regulations Updates – Rosenblum

### *a. Legislation*

The WaterReuse Leg/Reg committee conference call scheduled for Friday was canceled because there wasn't enough material.

*AB2403* – Closed loophole that allowed recycled water rate increases to go forward without a Prop 218 vote. Passed at the end of session.

*AB1699* – Microplastics bill ordered for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading.

*AB2071* - Livestock watering bill is ongoing.

*AB2443* – Water company duplication of service, ordered to inactive file, and would need to be reintroduced.

*AB2417* - CEQA exemption for recycled water pipelines – in committee, hearing canceled at request of author.

AB2282 – Green Building regulation, rereferred to committee in appropriations. Language was modified to require looking at dual plumbing rather than requiring it to be done.

i. Water Bonds [fix header format]

WaterReuse's position is that funding for recycled water should be in the same proportional as it was in the original bond (\$1B/\$11B). The Governor's proposal was \$6 billion. This includes \$450M for recycled water and \$450M for IRWM, with a minimum for disadvantaged communities. It also includes allocation for groundwater sustainability, watershed protection, storage, delta projects, stormwater capture, water supply reliability, and others. They have to move quickly to get this on the November Ballot. Leah will forward information to Cheryl about the proposed Water Bond for distribution to the Committee. Hopefully, the recycled water funds will be administered by the State Water Board rather than the DWR. *Note: The proposed bond measure was updated and adopted since the committee meeting. More information about the bond, AB1471, which will be on the November Ballot, is at [http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201320140AB1471](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201320140AB1471)*

There was a discussion that many of the smaller agencies haven't tapped into the potential for low hanging fruit for water reuse. Refineries especially could use municipal recycled water. Eric R. suggested that the BACWA committee could put on a workshop to help smaller agencies figure out how to get started on a recycled water project. He suggested that BACWA may be a better venue than WaterReuse No CA Chapter, since there are the agency relationships. Linda pointed out this could be a joint effort between BACWA and WaterReuse.

b. Regulations

Drought Regulations – EBMUD will take their water use restriction plan to the board soon. They will start with mandatory use restrictions on outdoor watering. They will determine in the fall whether to go to mandatory rationing. SFPUC is going to their Commission with plans for mandatory outdoor use restrictions. SFPUC has also been waiting for approval for expanded uses of 23 MPN water from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. There is only one staff person who does recycled water permitting for all of Region 2. They may also require an engineering report. Several agencies discussed their plans to meet the State's new drought regulations while dealing with permitting backlogs for expanding recycled water distribution. Rhodora Biagtan from DSRSD discussed their residential reuse program. They have seven fill stations at their WWTP where residents can pick up Title 22 quality recycled water. They have over 200 residents who are licensed to do so. They are starting up a Facebook page where residents can share tips on how to interface with the program. Permitted residents also get signs for their lawns saying "irrigated with recycled water". One large advantage of this program is that it increases public acceptance of recycled water. Information is available on the following website: <http://www.drsrd.com/do-business-with-us/recycled-water-use/residential-recycled-water-fill-station>.

Permitting - DSRSD initially reached out with the concept to Vlad Rakhimov at CDPH in February, and then met with him. Vlad discussed the program with the District Engineer, Robert Brownwood, who was agreeable with the concept. DSRSD wrote up the proposed program and submitted documents in early April. CDPH approved the proposed program on May 2. Within a month of CDPH approval, they received approval from RWQCB (Blair Allen, May 21). They currently have seven fill stations. Central San is preparing for a residential reuse program.

There will be a State Water Resources Control Board hearing on amendments to the Ocean Plan for desalination facility intakes and brine discharges on August 19. This specifically addresses the brine discharged from desalination facilities. Eric R. will forward information to Cheryl for distribution to the Committee.

Eric asked people to think about what does the Bay Area want on the upcoming WaterReuse legislative agenda.

**4) UC Davis's Recycled Water Program's Map – Ross**

The recycled water program's map can be found at <http://ccuh.ucdavis.edu/public/map> Roanne passed out print copies of the website. There is a Google map of California organized by county, and calls out recycled water projects by county. There is also a conservation map, although it seems to not include

several Alameda County efforts. Roanne pointed out that agencies that want information changed or added should email [jjtso@ucdavis](mailto:jjtso@ucdavis) at UC Davis College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

**5) Group Discussion on RW Projects with Brine Streams and Potential Nutrient Loading to the SF Bay - All**

*a. Is brine disposal an issue for agencies now, or will it be later?*

Besides San Jose, the only other agency in the Bay Area that uses reverse osmosis for recycled water treatment is EBMUD's RARE facility at Chevron (3.5 mgd). The brine is discharged under Chevron's NPDES permit. However, the industrial process water is also discharged, so there would be no net nutrient removal regardless of treatment process. The SFPUC is implementing the Westside Recycled Water Project, currently undergoing environmental review, that would include recycled water treatment facilities at the Oceanside Water Pollution Control Plant. The goal is to match the current water quality that Golden Gate Park is currently receiving. The treatment train will include RO, mainly due to issues with using the water for lake fill to decrease biostimulation and aquatic toxicity. DSRSD developed a report on best management practices for irrigating redwood trees with recycled water, and in the future, agencies will have access to the Bay Area Recycled Water Landscape Guide.

*b. What other agencies are disposing of brine?*

Zone 7 sends brine to DSRSD, which is discharged through the EBDA outfall.

**6) Update on Recycled Water Landscape Guide – Hansen**

Eric H. sent Cheryl a list of comments received on the Recycled Water Landscape Guide. As of the meeting, Cheryl hadn't yet distributed it, since she wasn't sure it was complete. Eric indicated that it was, and Cheryl agreed to distribute it to the Committee. The comments are in pdf notation. They just finished a draft design guidelines to put together landscape irrigation plans. Petaluma, Palo Alto, SFPUC and DSRSD have staff that would be interested in reviewing the design guidelines. The guidelines are suitable for both new construction and retrofits.

Completion date – The deadline has been pushed out to October. After the final document has been put together, they will be leading seminars around the Bay Area showing how the document could be useful to both agencies and designers/horticulturalists working with the agencies. These seminars are being covered by existing funds.

**7) Partnership Updates – All**

- a. WRWC – US Bureau of Reclamation has a new Title XVI project manager, Nicole Johnson. There are 19 ongoing recycled water projects, and the Coalition is introducing these to her. The Coalition is also working on activities related to the state water bond, and in Washington DC looking for money for recycled water projects. They are collaborating with other industry groups (ACWA, CASA, WaterReuse, etc.) to approach legislators jointly and speak with one voice.
- b. NBWRA – Andria Loutsch reported there is not much happening right now, although some of their projects made it into the Round 3 drought round. They haven't seen agreements on WaterSmart funding yet. Leah will forward information to Cheryl on funding for distribution to the Committee.
- c. Other partnerships - none

**7) Announcements/Agency Updates – All**

- a. WaterReuse NoCA Chapter meeting August 22 at SCVWD's office. A couple of people backed out of the tour, so there are two spots up for grabs. The International Symposium is in Dallas.
- b. Other announcements – WaterReuse Industrial Reuse conference will be in Austin TX, Feb 2-3 2015.
- c. The revised tasks for Whitley-Burchett to help out with as-needed items for the committee, such as the Caltrans recycled water fill station survey will go before the BACWA Board at its August meeting.

**8) Next Meeting – September 3, 2014 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 4th Floor Conference Room at EBMUD Headquarters.**