

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting
EBMUD Headquarters – 2nd Floor Small Training Room
November 5, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

1) Introductions – Muñoz

- Cheryl Munoz – San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC)
- Kimberlee West – Bay Area Clean Water Agencies (BACWA)
- Mike Connor – BACWA/East Bay Dischargers Authority
- Roanne Ross – Whitley Burchett representing Redwood City
- Linda Hu – East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)
- Vince Christian – Regional Water Quality Control Board (Region 2)
- Anita Jain - Whitley Burchett
- Rhodora Biagtan – Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD)

On phone

- Kevin Booker - Sonoma County Water Agency
- Leah Walker - City of Petaluma
- Eric Rosenblum - EnviroSpectives, Inc.
- Martha Davis - Chair of WateReuse CA Section Legislation/Regulation Committee

2) Prop 84 Funding Rounds – Muñoz/Hu

a. Update on Prop 84 activities

i. Round 2

- A workshop was held for Local Project Sponsors (LPS) on 10/31/14. A separate LPS workshop for Conservation will be held on 11/19.
- These kickoff meetings focus on administrative issues including project requirements and schedules.

ii. Drought Relief Round

- CA Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced final funding recommendations for the Drought Relief round on 11/4/14. A total of \$221 million was awarded for recycled water projects in the state, with \$32 million going to the SF Bay Area.
- The Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD)/East Bay Municipal Utility District Recycled Water Authority (DERWA) project was awarded funding, thus reversing their previous draft disqualification based on CA Statewide Groundwater Elevation Monitoring (CASGEM) compliance issues. The Cambria project was also previously disqualified based on CASGEM compliance, and DWR also reversed their decision on this project, awarding funding to the project. DWR's rationale appears to be as long as the project does not overlie a basin of noncompliance, the project is eligible for funding even if a participating agency's service area includes a basin of concern.
- The Association of Bay Area Governments/DWR agreement is expected to be in place in early 2015.
- Mike Conner suggested that the BACWA newsletter could include monthly water use numbers to make the case that projects are leading to water conservation. Per capita water use for various agencies/districts/regions/state-wide could be compared across locations or across time and could be published quarterly to set up arguments for big picture justification of projects.
- It was also suggested that the BACWA newsletter include a brief 50-word article to thank individuals that made a difference to help projects get funded and to recognize our own successes.

iii. Round 3

- Draft solicitation for Round 3 is planned for Summer/Fall 2015.

- Round 3 Guideline content and funding is dependent on the conditions of the water year (e.g. if drought conditions persist).

3) State Revolving Fund Loan Program - Muñoz

- a. Low interest loans are available for recycled water projects. A project should estimate about 8 months to complete the review process after a request is submitted. Applicants should be aware that submission is completely online.
 - i. Water Recycling Funding Program (WRF) - There is \$800 million available for 30-year loans at 1%. \$517 million in loans has already been applied for. Funding submissions must be made by Dec 2, 2015, or before if funds run out.
 - There was discussion regarding the possibility of the interest rate being lowered to 0.5%. It was mentioned that the rate likely will not be lowered considering that 1% loans are in demand.
 - ii. Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) – There are funds available.
 - iii. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) - Please note that DWSRF funds cannot be applied to typical recycled water projects and are 20-year loans, unless otherwise requested.

4) Legislation/Regulations Updates – Rosenblum/Muñoz/Hu

- a. Legislation
 - i. AB 1471, the Water Bond (Prop 1) passed!
 - Chapter 9 requirements include:
 - a. Funding through both grants and loans
 - b. 50% local cost share
 - c. Splitting the funding between Recycled Water and Desalination
DWR is responsible for desal projects. The State Water Resources Board is responsible for recycled water projects. Preliminary discussions suggest that \$200 million will be allocated for desal projects; however, the split between loans and grants is undecided. This leaves more than \$500 million for recycled water projects.
 - d. There was a State Board meeting on 11/7. The final funding decisions will be announced when the Governor releases the new budget at beginning of 2015.
- b. Regulations
 - i. DSRSD is pushing forward to obtain a new recycled water project permit through General Order 96-011 for its participation in the DERWA recycled water program, which would be consistent with the current order 96-011 issued to both DSRSD and EBMUD under this program. SFPUC is moving forward with permitting under the new state General Reuse Order 2014-0090.
 - ii. The California Environmental Dialogue (CED) is bringing high-level recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).
They are examining where there might be hurdles in waste discharge regulations and how to expedite approval for recycled water use during the drought. CED is recommending changes in the new General Permit nomenclature that include changing from WDRs to water recycling regulations (WRRs).
 - iii. WaterReuse is pursuing changes to Title 17 and 22
A subcommittee to the Leg/Reg Committee has drafted potential revisions to Titles 17 and 22 that include the ability to fill decorative ponds with recycled water, changes to the required signage around picnic tables in areas in which recycled water is used, and approved usage of a swivel L in pipes, as well as other little changes. (The swivel L is a pipe change-over device that can switch from potable to recycled water depending on conditions. There had been a change in regulations to require pipes to have a full air gap.) Jennifer West, the Managing Director of the CA Section of WaterReuse will be meeting with the State Board soon about these issues. The SWRCB is considering other changes in regulations depending on drought conditions, including the aforementioned nomenclature change from WDRs to WRRs.
 - iv. SWRCB wants to move forward quickly to address and likely approve reservoir augmentation using recycled water.
 - v. California Water Reuse, is a group advocating for onsite domestic and commercial water reuse. This group is a different from the CA Section of WaterReuse. The group held a workshop titled "Localizing CA Waters" on Nov 3-6. The group feels that Title 22 is an obstacle to grey water and stormwater reuse and was hoping for modifications. Eric Rosenblum, as well as others, suggested that their modifications are not appropriate, but there are other ways to work in concert to advocate domestic water reuse.

6) Bay Area Recycled Water Truck-fill Facilities Survey – Jain

a. Update on survey and next steps

The survey was emailed on 10/17 to 100 email addresses including the IRW group, RW Committee, and BACWA Agencies. Forty responses were received, 18 of which have truck-fill fill facilities, and 22 that have no fill facilities. An announcement about the survey included in the BACWA newsletter and a letter from Dave Williams, as well as follow-up emails to the survey, helped to encourage responses. It was reported that the survey took between 1 and 25 minutes to complete, depending on the agency.

Anita Jain is currently compiling the data. The Committee participants reviewed the distribution list and decided how to best initiate a targeted follow-up with those who have not yet responded to the survey. A Draft Guide for truck-fill facilities is planned to be issued before Thanksgiving, and a finalized summary of survey results is planned to be published by the end of the year. There are currently no funds to develop a GIS map, but the site will have a pdf map of truck-fill facilities. It was suggested that the site not include exact addresses of all facilities so people don't just show up at gates for facilities that require approvals in advance. Some facilities are ok with listing an address, but the format of the site should be flexible to meet the needs of each facility.

If there are comments on the survey, distribution list, or schedule, please email Anita by next Friday 11/14.

b. With regards to a blanket permit from the SWRCB for transporting recycled water outside of agencies' service areas for use, Vince Christian indicated that there is nothing in the permit that prohibits agencies from trucking recycled water across boundaries; therefore the SWRCB generally approves this process. Cheryl indicated that BACWA has not received a response to Dave Williams' letter asking about any restrictions on boundaries and that she will follow-up.

7) Partnership Updates – All

There were no partnership updates given.

8) Announcements/Agency Updates – All

- a. DSRSD is now allowed to use recycled water for irrigation at condos with single unit meters without requiring backflow preventers if certain conditions are met.
- b. EBMUD has been working with CalTrans to use recycled water at their new maintenance building by the Bay Bridge.
- c. Cheryl and Rhodora submitted an abstract to WateReuse and CWEA highlighting the truck-fill facilities survey results and featuring DSRSD's residential recycled water fill program. Thus far, the abstract was accepted for presentation at the Annual CA WateReuse Section Conference in March 2015.

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