



BACWA
Recycled Water Committee

Recycled Water Policy

Annual Member Meeting
January 28, 2010



Why did the State Water Board Adopt a Recycled Water Policy?

- Increasing the use of recycled water is a major part of the state's plan for addressing its water supply needs
- June 2003 Recycled Water Task Force Report found inconsistent regulation of recycled water to be an impediment to increasing the use of recycled water



Purpose of the Policy

- Provide uniform interpretation of state statutes, regulations, policies
- Provides direction to regulators, producers and users
- Implement state and federal water quality laws
- Streamline permitting
- Mandate or incentivize reuse



Policy is a Grassroots Effort

- SWRCB first draft limited recycling and was not protective enough
- Second draft was worse
- We think we can do this ourselves!
- Collaborative process that included representatives from public interest groups, water and wastewater agencies, and industry associations



Regulating Agencies' Roles

- State Water Resources Control Board
- CA Dept. of Public Health
- Regional Water Quality Control Boards
- CA Dept. of Water Resources
- CA Public Utilities Commission



Salt/Nutrient Management Plans

- Every groundwater basin/sub-basin must have a Salt/Nutrient Management Plan by 2012, no later than 2014
- Plans are to be locally driven and controlled, collaborative process open to all stakeholders, including CEQA compliance



Salt/Nutrient Management Plans

Components of the Plans:

- Source ID with fate and transport
- Monitoring
 - Monitoring plan to determine water quality
 - Focus near supply wells and recycling projects, particularly recharge
 - Identification of parties responsible for monitoring
- Annual monitoring of CECs
- Anitdegradation analysis



Landscape Irrigation Projects

- Control Incidental Runoff
 - Implement and operations and management plan
 - Proper design and aim of sprinkler heads
 - Don't irrigate during storms
 - Prevent discharge such that no discharge occurs unless as a result of 25-year, 24-hour storm



Landscape Irrigation Projects

- Streamlined Permitting
 - Projects qualify, unless there is a determination of “unusual circumstances”
 - Enrolled in general RWQCB within 60 days, or must consider adoption within 120 days
 - No groundwater monitoring unless required by a salt/nutrient management plan
 - Meet established criteria (i.e. Title 22, application of water at agronomic rates, etc.)



Groundwater Recharge

- Site-specific project review
- Compliance with CDPH regulations
- Monitoring for CECs
- Priority permitting for projects that use both spreading basins and RO treatment



Antidegradation

- Addressed in Salt/Nutrient Management Plans
- A landscape irrigation project that meets streamlined permitting conditions is compliant
- A recharge/irrigation project is compliant with the antidegradation policy provided:
 - It uses less than ten percent of assimilative capacity within a basin as measured by comparing the objective with the average mineral quality within the basin
 - Twenty percent for multiple projects

Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs)

- Knowledge regarding CECs is incomplete
- Establishes a scientific advisory “blue-ribbon” panel to provide information to the SWRCB
- Report due May 4, 2010, and will include recommendations on:
 - Analytical methods
 - Detection limits
 - Known toxicological information
 - Health impacts
 - Appropriate monitoring



Incentives

- Funding – SWRCB will request funding from DWR, and promote use of State Revolving Fund
- Stormwater – SWRCB encourages water purveyors to provide \$s for projects, and the RWQCBs to require less stringent monitoring and regulatory requirements for stormwater treatment projects
- TMDLs – SWRCB recommends that credits be given for water recycling



Conclusions

- Policy offers opportunities for collaboration and cooperation
- Policy offers opportunities for POTWs and water agencies to protect water quality and obtain flexibility
- The key is being proactive, gathering data and driving the permitting process



Recycled Water Committee Efforts

- **Participated in workshops and discussions with SWRCB staff, and staff from other organizations and agencies on the development of the Policy**
- Met with RWQCB staff to discuss specific issues of concern
- Prepared comment letters on the drafts of the Policy and submitted to the SWRCB, and testified at public hearings
- Continue to work on implementation issues with and the RWQCB



Recycled Water Committee Efforts (cont'd)

- Published White Paper on “Value of Recycled Water”
- Co-sponsored meeting with local elected officials on “Institutional Barriers to Water Reuse”
- Developing regional “messaging” on Bay area recycled water use for all BACWA agencies
- Provided comments on Statewide Permit, revisions to Uniform Plumbing Code (indoor use, gray water)
- Continue to monitor changing regulations, legislation affecting our ability to produce and distribute recycled water