

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes
EBMUD Headquarters – 2nd Floor Small Training Conference Room
March 1, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1. Introductions – Biagtan

Rhodora

Leah Walker – City of Petaluma
Linda Hu - EBMUD
Paul Gilbert Snyder - EBMUD
Jan Lee- City of Hayward
Vince Christian – Regional Water Board
Lorien Fono - BACWA
Cheryl Munoz- SFPUC
On phone
Eric Hansen – SVCW
Eric Rosenblum- Enviroinspectives
Sam Englage – City of Palo Alto
Anita Jain – WBA for Redwood City
Kevin Booker - SCWA
Amit Sharma – City of Mountain View
Kishen Pathavarti – Sewer Authority Midcoastline
Andrew Damron – Napa
Johnathan Chavez – Mountain View
Melody LaBella – CCCSD

**2. [SWQCB Proposed Resolution-Comprehensive Response to Climate Change-Walker/Biagtan](#)
Comment Deadline 12 noon, March 3, 2017**

The State Water Board has released a [Proposed Resolution-Comprehensive Response to Climate Change](#). The Resolution includes the following language:

DWQ shall coordinate with the Regional Water Boards to make annual reporting of recycled water data a requirement of waste discharge permits and water reclamation requirements, and work with the Division of Information Technology to develop an online data entry system to track recycled water use. Starting with the 2017-18 annual Performance Report, DWQ shall include a summary on the volume of recycled water used, and types of use.

The committee recommended that BACWA submit a [comment letter](#) stating that our agencies don't want duplicative requirements for reporting, or requests for inconsistent information from different state Agencies. The Committee we would like to be involved in development of data request, since we have experience developing Recycled Water surveys.

**3. [Water Use Efficiency and Recycled Water – Biagtan](#)
[Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life](#)**

See discussion from [January meeting](#) for background. Rhodora spoke with Martha Davis, Legislative Committee Chair of WaterReuse. Martha's position is that recycled water should be regulated the same way as potable water. Recycled water isn't just applied on turf, but also on plants with lower water needs, so the actual ETo would be less than 1. Therefore most applicators would not have difficulty meeting conservation targets.

4. [Funding Opportunities– Biagtan](#)

a. [Federal--Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation \(WIIN\) Act](#)

Rhodora circulated guidelines for feasibility studies associated with the WIIN program. This document is useful for projects that have already received, or are close to receiving, the determination of feasibility.

b. [State Water Board Intended Use Plan Update](#)

The State Water Board has updated their Financial Outlook and Financing Forecast for the [Intended Use Plan Update](#). The State Water Board is not seeking comments on the document. Staff have stated that there will be funding available for Group 1, 2 and Disadvantaged Community (DAC) projects. They will be releasing \$475M in bonds to fund these projects. Group 3 projects will probably not get funded.

There was a discussion about the disconnect between project planning/construction schedules and the funding timeline for loans and grants. The committee is considering whether to submit a comment to Water Board members outlining how the funding process hinders project development. If a comment letter is submitted, it should note the efforts of State Water Board staff, but point out the understaffing and structural issues that are impeding projects. This issue will also be raised at the next WaterReuse Leg/Reg meeting. There is also a long process to ensure that the application is complete, with a lot of back and forth with the Water Board. There should be a process to certify that an application is ready to go, and is eligible to proceed once funding becomes available.

Leah discussed Petaluma's project being stalled with the Division of Water Rights because their project would slightly decrease flows to the Petaluma River. Petaluma consulted their lobbyist who consulted their State senator, and met with Division of Financial Assistance and Water Rights. After the meeting, Water Rights finally agreed to move along the water rights petition. They made it clear that all recycled water projects need to submit a petition to Water Rights and allow two years for processing.

5. Building Standards for Recycled Water Systems (AB 2282) – Olson

There have not been any meetings since the end of the year. HCD is reviewing stakeholder comments. In November, they requested that stakeholders submit information for the cost analysis. Stefanie provided information on water conservation savings when converting from potable to recycled water for irrigation.

HCD is considering whether to implement a possible mandate for recycled water use. El Dorado Irrigation district has homes using recycled water for front and backyard irrigation, and did a presentation on how labor/staff intensive it is. There was a question about whether they were considering changing the Uniform Plumbing code to make it easier to use recycled water.

6. [Recycled Water General Order 2016](#) -- Biagtan/Roa

Transfer coverage from 96-011 to General Order 2016

Amanda is leading a subcommittee on transferring coverage to the State General Order. The subcommittee will hold a conference call with Regional Water Board staff about what the transition will look like. Regional Water Board and State Water Board staff have been discussing this. Regional Water Board staff are not allocating any resources to the transition. However, because of uncertainty, it was agreed that it is preferable for BACWA to make a preemptive proposal on how to make the transition with as little additional effort as possible for agencies that wish to get coverage under the State General Order.

7. Revisions to [Recycled Water Policy](#) –Munoz

There is a subcommittee through WaterReuse to provide stakeholder input. Cheryl Munoz will represent BACWA at the first meeting with State Water Board on March 7, from 10am to 2pm. Cheryl distributed the list of items that are discussion topics. Note that the changes in the Policy will be incorporated into the State General Order when it is next reopened.

8. Surface Water Augmentation-Biagtan

The release of regulations have been continually pushed back, with the schedule currently planned for a March release.

9. Legislation and Regulatory Update –Walker/Muñoz/Hu

a. Active Legislation

AB869 (Rubio) – This is a spot bill with two focus areas: drought contingency planning/changes to UWMP and long-term conservation framework. They are willing to work on long term targets after 2020. (Get language from Linda) EBMUD is reviewing the language. One member pointed out that recycled water may need to be used more because of salt concentrations, particularly during drought.

AB574 (Quirk) seeks to update the definition of potable reuse to four specific types and do away with “direct potable reuse” and “indirect potable reuse.” This bill would require State Water Board to establish a framework for regulating potable reuse projects by June 2019 and adopt criteria for regulating potable reuse through raw water augmentation by December 2021. The bill will be presented for its first hearing on April 4 in State Assembly Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials. WateReuse is seeking support for the Bill.

SB 5 (De Leon) Park/Water Bond – WateReuse is supporting this bill.

SB 740 (Wiener) – SFPUC sponsored – ensures local authority for onsite potable water systems.

10. Announcements/Agency Updates – All

[WateReuse California Annual Conference, San Diego](#)—March 19-21, 2017

NorCal Chapter meeting, Santa Rosa – May 19

Next Meeting

May 3, 2017 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 2nd Floor Small Training Room (to be confirmed) at EBMUD Headquarters.