

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting

EBMUD Headquarters – 2nd Floor Small Training Conference Room

March 20, 2018

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Call-in Number: 1-866-206-0240

Participant Code: 530746#

1. Introductions – Biagtan

Darcie Luce, SFEP
Rhodora Biagtan, DSRSD
Leah Walker, Petaluma
Linda Hu, EBMUD
Anita Jain, West Yost
Melanie Tan, Kennedy Jenks
Stefanie Olson, DSRSD
Jan Lee, City of Hayward
Jackie Zipkin, EBDA
Reena Thomas, EBMUD
Ryan Jackson, SFPUC
William Burrell, Regional Water Board
Cheryl Munoz, SFPUC
Lorien Fono, BACWA
On phone
Eric Hansen SVCW
Eric Rosenblum - Enviroinspectives
Karin North – City of Palo Alto
Courtney Rubin - Hydroscience
Justin Chapel – Redwood City
Nick Steiner, Delta Diablo
Jayne Strommer, Delta Diablo
Kishen Pavarti – Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside, Half Moon Bay
Tom Hall, EOA
Kevin Booker – SCWA
Medi Sinaki - SCVWD

2. Long-Term Water Conservation – Water Use Prohibitions – Biagtan

[BACWA Comment Letter Provided](#)

The State Water Board is proposing changes to the Regulation on Waste and Unreasonable Water Uses, which would prohibit the use of recycled water for turf projects constructed after January 1, 2018. BACWA provided comments that some of the recycled water projects being considered, or that have been approved, for funding by the State Water Board propose to irrigate streetscapes with recycled water. In some cases, funding approvals and agreements have been established, and construction projects begun, based on the understanding that turf irrigation with recycled water would be permitted. With this proposed prohibition, meeting project goals may not be feasible and result in stranded assets. City of Hayward, in particular, felt it was inappropriate to call out recycled water for use restrictions.

3. Proposal: Enhanced Recycled Water Study Under Next Watershed Permit—Fono

Under the next nutrient watershed permit, there will likely be a requirement to do a regional study on non-grayscale alternatives for nutrient removal. This will likely include a recycled water component, and BACWA is interested to hear from the committee what information would be useful to the recycled water community. The regional study could look at barriers and incentives for recycled water. Credit banking for early actions to remove nutrient could be significant when deciding on potable vs. irrigation reuse projects. This item was agendized at the last BACWA Nutrient Strategy Team meeting but there was no time to cover it.

From the last recycled water survey, Lorien is putting together a document summarizing recycled water information that was already gathered. She has reached out to the Ocean and Upper Napa River Dischargers.

4. **March 9 Potable Reuse Workshop Feedback Request– Hansen**

Material from the workshop is now available. There were many prominent policy makers in the room. The committee discussed the value of potable reuse versus purple pipe that was touched on in the meeting. There is still lowhanging fruit on purple pipe, and the public may not be ready yet on acceptance for potable reuse. There is some concern about resources being directed only to potable reuse. Additionally, potable reuse will take decades to develop. It was noted that San Jose is becoming reluctant to accept RO concentrate from SCVWD. Transitioning from “recycled water, do not drink” to potable reuse may be difficult in terms of public messaging. Changing the messaging will require updating Title 22, which the State doesn’t have the resources to do. Transitioning to potable reuse is not a one-size process – instead we should focus on the right water for the right purpose.

There will be another panel discussion at WateReuse next week. Dr. Cindy Russell will be included, to speak on concerns about CECs.

5. **Funding Opportunities – Biagtan**

a. Federal (Strommer)

i. *Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act*

This is the new competitive grant program for recycled water. They awarded \$10M for three projects, but the projects haven’t yet been listed by name in an appropriation bill. Bureau of Reclamation is seeking comments until April 12 on the evaluation criteria for this funding program. Smaller projects had been at a disadvantage, since cost per Acre-Foot was a main component of the selection criteria. BoR will issue the funding opportunity announcement after the comment period closes.

Bill HR5127 is intended to make the WIIN program permanent, increase its authorization from \$50M to \$500 million, and remove the requirement that projects be listed by name in appropriations bills.

ii. *General Federal Legislative Update*

SRF-WIN Act

“Securing Required Funding for Water Infrastructure Now” Act. Identical Senate and House bills, S2364 and HR 4902. It allows State SRF programs to borrow money from U.S. treasury to fund projects in their Intended Use Plans. It would provide 100% financing and waive fees, authorizing \$200M each fiscal year through 2023 with a \$7B State loan cap.

iii. *Title 16*

The President’s budget included \$10M for Title 16. The U.S. Government Accountability Office is putting together a report on the effectiveness of Title 16, including the WIIN program. They were looking for input from agencies. WateReuse put together a [letter](#) to the Appropriators on Energy and Water Development committee, including Diane Feinstein, and Marcy Kaptur. WateReuse was asking that agencies sign onto it, and the letter was sent on March 16. North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA) did not sign onto it, since there were too many clean water issues, and it could appear that the letter supports the position that POTWs shouldn’t be discharging to the ocean.

b. *State*

i. *Update on BAIRWMP (Munoz)*

Rhodora sent out Prop 1 grant info sheet from State. The final implementation round will likely be next year. We are assuming there will be recycled water funding in the upcoming round. The Disadvantaged Community (DAC) round is currently in progress. It has been difficult to get DAC participation in the Bay Area.

ii. *Upcoming CWRSF Workshop (Biagtan)*

The State Water Board will releasing their Intended Use Plan update, and they will be holding workshops, including one at April 20 from 10am to 12pm at EBMUD. Rhodora will forward the registration notice once available.

There is also a [funding fair](#) in Sacramento, on April 4, and in Santa Rose on April 12. These fairs present information at a fairly basic level to help introduce agencies to funding opportunities.

6. **Recycled Water Policy Revision Update – Munoz/Walker/Fono**

a. *Recycled Water Annual Tracking/Reporting – Munoz*

The State Water Board asked for WateReuse’s input on recycled water reporting. BACWA provided the survey from the Nutrient Studies to the Water board, but we haven’t heard back from them. There is question about whether environmental uses are counted as recycled water/beneficial reuse. The State Water Board is aiming to release the amendment on April 30, followed by a 60 day comment period.

There is a June 19 target date for the hearing. They are trying to decide how to respond to the Scientific

Advisory Panel's CEC report, and how to implement salt/nutrient management planning. There has been discussion that salt/nutrient management should be covered under SGMA. The Water Board is committed to removing priority pollutant monitoring. The Executive Director can make changes to the State General Order MRP without reopening it to remove priority pollutant monitoring. They plan to introduce a timeline for the regional permittee transition that may be three years.

b. [*CEC Comment Letter – Walker/Fono*](#)

BACWA joined WateReuse in comments on the CEC Scientific Advisory Panel [Draft Recommendations](#). In general, we were supportive of the risk-based framework and the monitoring onramp/offramp for constituents. The letter expresses concern about the mandatory use of bioanalytical panels, which are tests that look at targeted toxic endpoints, rather than concentrations of specific endpoints. As written in the Draft Recommendations, results from these panels could shut down potable recycled water projects.

7. [Recycled Water General Order 2016](#) -- Biagtan

The Recycled Water Policy update will likely provide a new schedule for the transition to the State General Order by Regional Permittees. The SF RWB staff said that they will not update 96-011. There is a possibility of hiring a consultant through BACWA to make recommendations on how to do the transition, should it be required.

8. Legislation and Regulatory Update –Walker

a. [*Surface Water Augmentation Final Regulations – Approved 3/6/2018*](#)

b. *Active Legislation*

SB966, The Onsite Reuse Bill, is sponsored by SFPUC – The State would set up a framework for onsite reuse. There would be an opt-in process, including a check-in with the local water purveyor, since there may be a conflict with a centralized system. WateReuse is moving toward a support position.

9. Volunteers Needed for Future Committee Co-Chair

There has been some discussion about succession.

10. Onsite Reuse Permitting –

Palo Alto has concerns about how to permit onsite reuse systems, and would like feedback about whether there is precedent at other agencies in the Region. The Santa Clara County health department hasn't expressed interest in participating in an onsite reuse inspection program. San Francisco has managed to do a good job on permitting because they are a City and County, so projects can coordinate with the County Health Department. Mountain View has been working with Regional Water Board to see how they can permit decentralized treatment systems, since Google and Microsoft both want to install these. Lagunitas Brewing, in Petaluma, has an onsite reuse system, but doesn't have enough reuse demand for it, so they truck the excess to the WWTP since they aren't permitted to use the recycled water elsewhere. Karin will keep the committee up to date on the issue.

11. Announcements/Agency Updates – All

WateReuse Leg Reg Committee conference call March 23.

WateReuse California Conference – March 25-27, Monterey

NBWA Conference – April 6

WateReuse Northern California Chapter Meeting, May 18, 2018, Santa Rosa

Future Agenda Topics:

AWWA Advance Treatment Operator Certification Job Analysis

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 2018, EBMUD Small Admin Training Room