

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

Teleconference only
March 18, 2020
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

1. Introductions – Olson

Stefanie Olson	Dublin San Ramon Services District
Lorien Fono	BACWA
Alina Constantinescu	LWA/ BACWA
Amanda Roa	Delta Diablo
Anita Jain	West Yost
Bahman Sheik	WaterReuse California (WRCA) consultant
Benjamin Glickstein	EBMUD
Billy Dixon	Sonoma County Water District
Carrie Del Boccio	Woodard & Curran
Dave Smith	EPA, Region 9
Diego Martinez Garcia	City of Palo Alto
Eric Rosenblum	Enviroerspective
Felicia Marcus	Public Policy Institute of California
Christopher Francis	Napa Sanitation District
Melissa Gunter	SF RWQCB
Jason Waples	CCCSD
Jayne Strommer	Delta Diablo
Leah Walker	City of Petaluma
Michael Falk	HDR
Daniel Larsen	Redwood City
Sarah Reynolds	EBMUD
Reena Thomas	EBMUD
Tom Hall	EOA
Will Burrell	SF RWQCB
Greg Fogel	WaterReuse California (WRCA)
Eric Hansen	Silicon Valley Clean Water
Rhodora Biagtan	West Yost
Medhi Senaki	Valley Water

2. Funding Opportunities

a. Federal (Strommer)

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

The Bureau of Reclamation still has not released the list of projects selected to receive funding under the FY19 solicitation. Without this release, they will not put out the FY20 funding opportunity, even though they have the funds. They're not offering much information on why – only saying that the decisions are with OMB, it's taking longer than usual, and there may be high level discussions between OMB and the White House. That makes for some continued frustration and indication of possible political motives in not moving this forward.

There are bills moving forward that would reauthorize the WIIN Act recycled water grant program at a \$500M authorization. This includes H.R. 1162, Napolitano's "Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act" and H.R. 2473, Harder's "SAVE Water Resources Act". Both went through markup and were passed on a partisan basis out of the full Natural Resources Committee on March 11.

On the Senate side, agreement was reached with all Republicans and all but one Democrat on a compromise draft of S. 1932, the Feinstein/Gardner "Drought Resiliency and Water Supply Infrastructure Act". In the compromise, the Republicans received more funding for storage and conveyance, and the Democrats received more funding for water recycling. The WIIN Act recycled water grant program reauthorization increased from \$100M to \$160M. If this bill moves forward and the House bill(s) move forward, it will set the stage for a conference and hopefully negotiation to further increase the WIIN Act reauthorization to or closer to \$500M.

ii. Title XVI

The Title XVI funding opportunity (for authorized projects) closed on February 19 and applications are being reviewed.

The President's budget came out with low numbers for water programs. It included only \$3M for Title XVI. While it is expected that Congress will increase these numbers in the appropriations process, there has been no to little action on that yet.

b. State (Munoz)

i. IRWM Prop 1

The recommended projects from the San Francisco Bay Area funding region have been reviewed by DWR staff and are now in the 30-day public comment period phase that will conclude in April. The next phase will be drafting the funding agreement with DWR.

ii. BA IRWMP

The BAIRWP has been updated and reviewed/approved by the DWR. Agencies who have projects included in the Bay Area's recommended project list need to have their Board/Council/Authorizing body to approve the document ASAP. A condition of funding approval is having an approved IRWMP. If anyone is interested, I can provide more information.

3. Regional Board Recycled Water Order Transition Notice and MRP (Olson)

On 4/8/2020, Regional Water Board staff is due to release the Notice of Applicability letter to transition agencies enrolled under Region 2 Order 96-011 to the State General Order 2016-0018 (WRR for Recycled Water Use). In the weeks prior, the Committee provided comments on the Draft NOA as well as the proposed Monitoring and Reporting Program. Members also assisted Regional Water Board staff in gathering information about the enrolled facilities – such as type of treatment and disinfection level. State Water Board had requested that the facility-specific disinfection requirements and applicable DDW conditions be addressed in the Notice.

4. Ocean Protection Council, 5-Year Strategic Plan (Fono)

Adopted plan acknowledges beneficial reuse, but still includes 80-90% reduction goal for coastal WW discharges by 2040. Lorien Fono, BACWA ED, testified at the 2/26 Adoption Hearing. Lorien also spoke with Mike Montgomery and Tom Mumley (Regional Water Board) before the hearing and they felt that the OPC was not a huge concern for our region because the Bay Area has a good Nutrient Management Strategy in place. However, they do recognize the need to focus on outreach and education to the members of the OPC. To this end, David Senn (SFEI), is in contact with scientists involved in the research provided to the OPC. ED's presentation at the hearing also helped with this effort – the testimony covered science funding, region-wide collaborations, science-based decision making, etc.

5. DWR Study on Reduced Flows Impact: RW/Wastewater (Olson)

Water use efficiency measures (AB 1668/SB 606), require that by January 1, 2021 DWR completes a study and develop a report on the impacts of the indoor residential water use standard at 55 GPCD. Additionally, this study will evaluate the impacts of how the changing standard for indoor residential water use may impact recycled water and wastewater management, among other considerations. DWR has asked for WRCA's help to obtain any existing agency studies, or studies in progress, that assess how reduced wastewater flows impacts recycled water, wastewater and water infrastructure. Please be on the lookout for requests for information or contact Charles LeSalle at WRCA with any relevant studies your agency may have.

6. Draft Waste Discharge Requirements for Cayucos Sanitary District (All)

Tentative [Order](#) for the Cayucos Sanitary District (Central Coast RWQCB) requires that the District develop a Recycled Water Mgmt Plan for 100% reuse within 10 years of commencing ocean discharge. WRCA submitted comments (due 3/9). The permit adoption hearing has been postponed to July 16-17.

7. USEPA Draft National Water Reuse Action Plan Update (Rosenblum)

Eric Rosenblum (Enviroerspective), with support from Dave Smith (EPA), Felicia Marcus (Public Policy Institute of California), and Greg Fogel and Bahman Sheikh (WRCA) [presented](#) on potential collaboration opportunities on EPA's Draft National Water Reuse Action Plan, specifically proposed action 2.2.16. The project team is working on a Scope of Work and hoping to execute an agreement in the next month. The team would like support from BACWA and other associations around the country, if possible, but recognize that issues with COVID-19 may slow things down. The information was also presented at the BACWA Executive Board meeting in March; the Board will evaluate providing project support at a later meeting.

8. Regional Recycled Water Evaluation Update (Falk)

Mike Falk (HDR) reported that the study framework was submitted (and presumably accepted as there were no comments) to the Regional Water Board. Next step: HDR will prepare a Request for Information (RFI); the RFI template will be reviewed by the Committee first before sending out to all permittees; HDR may conduct a webinar training to help agencies fill out the RFI.

9. Trucked recycled water across service boundaries (Glickstein)

Ben Glickstein (EBMUD) inquired if the committee members have procedures/ agreements in place for distributing recycled water across jurisdictional boundaries. Please contact Ben if your agency has any information to share on this topic.

10. Recycled Water Committee Co-Chair Announcement (Olson)

Justin Waples (Central San) stepped down as co-chair; Reena Thomas (EBMUD) is taking over this role.

11. Legislation and Regulatory Update (Thomas)

a. Climate Bond Overview WRCA Strategy

Unclear what vehicle final bond proposal may be put into – WRCA advocating same message as with Governor's bond proposal to legislative budget staff and bill authors and a "member letter" effort.

i. Governor's Climate Bond \$4.7 Billion

- April 23 Senate Budget Subcommittee #2 hearing
- RW included in \$1B "regional" pot (not necessarily IRWM).
- WRCA is seeking \$750 M to \$1 B in funding for water recycling projects.
- WRCA's recent survey showed \$10 B need for recycled water projects funding.
- WRCA is advocating for funding mechanism through SWRCB's WRFP.

ii. SB 45 and Other Legislative Bond(s)

- AB45 Allen: Calls for amendments to the Wildlife Prevention, Safe Drinking Water, Drought Preparation, and Flood Protection Bond
 1. \$5.5 Billion – Passed Senate
 2. RW \$100 million in Water Board Program
- AB 2356 Garcia – spot bill

b. Introduced Bills to Date

i. SB 996 (Portantino) CEC

- Bill would establish a CEC Drinking Water Program at the SWRCB. The program would set up a consistent and science-based approach for assessing the public health and drinking water consequences of CECs, while identifying which CECs warrant further action.
- WRCA is seeking any comments or concerns from member agencies.

- Bill is sponsored by Met and CMUA.
 - ii. SB 1052 - Sponsored by CASA and Coastkeeper, this bill provides authority to WW agencies to take dry stormwater diversions into its systems. Could potentially increase supply for recycled water during dry season. WRCA recommends support.
 - iii. AB 2560 (Quirk) OCWD – CMUA Sponsored Bill Water Board Adoption RL/NL
Requires public notice on establishing drinking water limits
- c. Plumbing Code Update (Title 24)
- On April 10, DWR released proposed code changes for recycled water plumbing in buildings. There is a need for Title 22, Handbook (Title 17) and Plumbing Code (Title 24) to be aligned. The revised code is available for review on California Building Standards Commission [website](#). The comment period runs through Tuesday, May 26, 2020. Comment period opens on April 10; comments due May 26.
 - Approval by the Commission is expected July 14-15. Final code publication expected in January 2021 with an effective date of July 2021.
- d. Federal
- Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) – H2O Act HR 6113 establish research agency to offer funding to develop and manage water resource. Eligible projects include advancing recycled water and increasing resilience, improving resource recovery, and addressing harmful contaminants, among others. WateReuse Association delivered letters of support.

12. Announcements/Agency Updates – All

The first Volumetric Annual Report is due in GeoTracker by April 30. The State Water Board held two training webinars at the end of March. The recording and presentation slides are available [here](#).

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, teleconference only or at EBMUD Small Training Room (TBD)