

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

November 17, 2020

Meeting held via videoconference

10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

1. Introductions (Olson)

Stefanie Olson, Co-chair	DSRSD	Liana Olsen	Central San
Reena Thomas, Co-chair	EBMUD	Maricate Mangan	Valley Water
Lorien Fono	BACWA	Mary Cousins	BACWA
Anita Jain	West Yost	Matt Richter	HDR
Ben Glickstein	EBMUD	Medi Senaki	Valley Water
Billy Dixon	Sonoma County Water	Melanie Tan	Kennedy Jenks
Carrie Del Boccio	Woodard & Curran	Melody LaBella	Central San
Chelsea Thompson	City of Petaluma	Michael Falk	HDR
Cheryl Muñoz	City of Hayward	Nick Steiner	Delta Diablo
Dan Frost	Central San	Pam Phillips	American Canyon
Diego Martinez Garcia	Palo Alto	Sarah Rhodes	Woodard & Curran
Eric Hansen	Silicon Val. Clean Water	Rhodora Biagtan	West Yost
Eric Rosenblum	Enviroinspectives	Richard Foss	Central San
Jennie Pang	SFPUC	Tom Hall	EOA
Kevin Calcagno	Eurofins		

2. Funding Opportunities

a. Federal

- The Senate and House have passed federal appropriations for recycled water projects to be funded via the WaterSmart Program (Title XVI Water Reclamation & Reuse) as authorized by the WIIN Act. However, the amounts differ – the Senate’s version allots \$20M while the House version allots \$11.8M. The exact amount will have to be worked out in committee before being signed by the President.
- Reauthorization - WIIN Act reauthorization is currently tied to bills in the Senate (S. 1932) and House (Napolitano/Huffman bills). If there is no movement on these bills in this lame duck session, the issue will have to start again in the New Congress (introduce new bills).
- There is still no word from the Bureau of Reclamation on past WIIN Grant awardees, and whether they will be named in the upcoming appropriations bills as required.
- There is also no word on new Title XVI authorized project grant awardees from the funding opportunity that closed September 10th.

b. State (Cheryl Muñoz)

No change – For the next month, local agencies and the state will continue to finish up agreements for Round 1 of Prop 1 funding; there is no information yet on when the 2nd round will be available.

3. [USEPA National Water Reuse Action Plan, Version 1](#)

Eric Rosenblum reported that the Association of Clean Water Administrators (ACWA) met in September to discuss ways to coordinate better to streamline recycled water permitting. They also discussed ways to encourage small agencies to coordinate and/or merge to encourage water recycling. A new action item will be announced in 2021 related to small and disadvantaged communities.

Agencies involved with water recycling in the South Bay will be meeting on November 19th to discuss interagency issues impacting regional water reuse. The conversation is supported by BACWA with help from EPA and WaterReuse, and will include information on interagency cooperation from the current Water Reuse Action Plan.

4. Regional Recycled Water Evaluation Update

Mike Falk (HDR) provide an update on the Regional Recycled Water Evaluation. In October, BACWA submitted comments on the template for individual plant reports. Based on BACWA's comments, HDR/Woodard & Curran made the following key changes:

- The template will more clearly differentiate current vs. proposed projects, and the flows and loads associated with each.
- To the extent that agencies can provide information on seasonality, the template will include an estimate of dry weather load reductions, in addition to year-round load reductions.
- The plot showing recycled water diversions over time will now be broken down by project, rather than lumping all projects together.
- Plots of seasonality will no longer be included, as these may not be accurate for proposed projects if they were based on current projects.

HDR/Woodard & Curran will begin preparing individual plant reports in 2021, and will test drive the template using a "first wave" of agencies. The list of agencies in the "first wave" will be finalized in late 2020.

5. Recycled Water – Monitoring & Reporting Program for Statewide General Order NOA

The committee discussed requirements in the Monitoring & Reporting Program found in the region's [NOA for the Statewide General Order](#). Priority pollutant monitoring is not required because the regional MRP overrides the statewide MRP.

The MRP includes requirements for salt and nutrient monitoring, but it was not clear whether individual Salt and Nutrient Management Plan monitoring plans override the sampling requirements in Table 3. Reena requested clarification from the Regional Water Board. After the meeting, Melissa Gunther provided the following information by email:

- Administrators that conduct monitoring for an existing Salt & Nutrient Management Plan do not need to perform any monitoring listed in Part II.B of the NOA MRP, including the requirements listed in Table 3 (see pages 7-8 of the MRP). Melissa stated that in the Annual Report, administrators should "indicate that involvement and link to the Plans as you have done herein."
- Samples collected for compliance with Part II.B / Table C (page 7 of the MRP) do not need to be collected at recycled water irrigation use sites. Administrators should "apply best professional judgment" based on operations to identify a representative location for sampling.

6. Legislation and Regulatory Update

Governor Newsom signed Executive Order [EO-N-82-2020](#) requiring 30% of the state's land and water to be conserved by 2030. It is similar to the failed AB3030, but it focuses on coastal biodiversity rather than urban water usage. As strategies to implement the Order are proposed, it will be important to monitor if efforts include curbing ocean discharges, or other strategies affecting urban water, wastewater, or recycled water. WateReuse will be involved in that monitoring effort.

7. Recycled Water Use Site Supervisor Training – How? When?

Members discussed ways of conducting site supervisor training during COVID. Some agencies have temporarily suspended site supervisor training because of COVID, while others have successfully conducted trainings via Zoom or MS Teams. Other agencies have conducted in-person training while social distancing. Members discussed interest in collaborating to produce site supervisor training materials, since many requirements are the same between agencies.

Some agencies also reported that they do not do group sessions anymore because there are very few new users, so they just conduct individual training sessions whenever a new user connects or a new site supervisor requires training.

8. Announcements/Agency Updates

- a. Eric Hansen with SVCW announced that their facility now hosts a demonstration project funded by the California Energy Commission using a staged anaerobic fluidized bed membrane bioreactor (SAF-MBR). Startup will occur in January. You can learn more about the project [here](#).
- b. WateReuse Northern California chapter meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2020. Contact Rhodora Biagtan or Melody LaBella for more information. The agenda will include a panel discussion from agency Board members on COVID impacts, and a look forward into 2021 with WateReuse's Jennifer West.
- c. Annual WateReuse Symposium (virtual) will be March 15-25, 2021. The March 2021 committee meeting will be moved to avoid a conflict.
- d. The next WateReuse Reg/Leg committee meeting is on 11/18.

2021 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, January 19 (Virtual only)

Tuesday, March 23 (Virtual only)– *Delayed one week due to WateReuse Annual Symposium*

Tuesday, May 18 (Virtual only)

Tuesday, July 20 (Virtual or in-person, TBD)

Tuesday, September 21 (Virtual or in-person, TBD)

Tuesday, November 16 (Virtual or in-person, TBD)