

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

March 30, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
Meeting held via videoconference

1. Introductions (Olson)

Stefanie Olson, Co-chair	DSRSD	Lorien Fono	BACWA
Reena Thomas, Co-chair	EBMUD	Lucy Croy	Marin Municipal Water Dist.
Alina Constantinescu	LWA	Maggie Monahan	SF Bay Regional Water Board
Allison McReynolds	HDR	Maricate Mangan	Valley Water
Anita Jain	West Yost	Mark Grushayev	Sewerage Agency of South. Marin
Billy Dixon	Sonoma County Water	Mary Cousins	BACWA
Carrie Del Boccio	Woodard & Curran	Melissa Gunter	SF Bay Regional Water Board
Cheryl Munoz	City of Hayward	Melody LaBella	Central San
Dan Frost	Central San	Michael Falk	HDR
Daniel Larsen	Redwood City	Natasha Dunn	San Francisco Estuary Partnership
Diego Martinez Garcia	City of Palo Alto	Negin Ashoori	BAWSCA
Eric Hansen	Silicon Val. Clean Water	Nick Steiner	Delta Diablo
Eric Rosenblum	Enviroinspectives	Pam Phillips	American Canyon
Ileana Alvarado	Valley Water	Rhodora Biagtan	West Yost
Jason Farnsworth	City of Petaluma	Richard Foss	Central San
Jayne Strommer	Delta Diablo	Sergio Ramirez	West Bay SD
Jennie Pang	SFPUC	Tom Hall	EOA
June Leng	HDR	Tony Williams	North Marin Water District
Lei Hong	Valley Water		

2. Funding Opportunities

Federal (Jayne Strommer, Delta Diablo):

- **WIIN Act Projects:** On March 24th, the Bureau of Reclamation announced a Funding Opportunity for water reclamation and reuse projects under the WIIN Act. Applications are due April 23rd. Eligible entities are those with USBR-approved feasibility studies.

WaterReuse California drafted a letter to Senator Feinstein and Congressman Calvert requesting "no less than \$50M" for the WIIN Act recycled water grant program for the FY2022 budget appropriations. They are looking for members interested in signing on to the letter (respond to Greg Fogel by April 8th).

- **Authorized Title XVI Projects:** On January 19th, USBR announced the award of \$9.5M to 2 projects including Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District and County of Hawaii. Authorized Title XVI projects may be able to pursue a "Community Project Funding" request (formerly "earmarks") from their Congressional Representative, based on recent rules approved by the House of Representatives. USBR funding comes through the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee on Appropriations, and their guidance states that they will only consider authorized projects for this Federal Fiscal Year 2022 funding request.
- **New Legislation:** Last month, Congresswoman Napolitano reintroduced a "Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act" bill to reauthorize the recycled water grant program under the WIIN Act at \$500M (this bill is H.R. 1015, the same as last year's H.R. 1162). On March 16th, Congressman DeFazio (along with Napolitano and Fitzpatrick) introduced the "Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2021" which reauthorizes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund at \$40B over 5 years, and authorizes \$1 Billion for the Alternative Water Source Projects (AWSP) pilot program, which would be a nationwide grant program through the U.S. EPA. Last week, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved the "Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021" (S.914), which like DeFazio's bill, authorizes funding for the CWSRF and Alternative Water Source Projects program, but at much lower

funding authorizations (total of \$14.6B for CWSRF and \$375M for AWSP). This bill also establishes a Water Reuse Interagency Working Group, which has a connection to the National Water Reuse Action Plan - helping to coordinate among agencies and stakeholders to promote water recycling.

State: (Cheryl Muñoz, City of Hayward)

- The funding agreements for Round 1 of Prop 1 Implementation grant funding are being finalized through ABAG, which will eventually contract with each of the 8 local project sponsors included in the grant. The list of 8 projects is available [here](#). Recycled water projects include North Bay Water Reuse Project phase II and a pipeline to bring recycled water to the San Francisco Zoo. There will likely be a solicitation for Round 2 of funding from Prop 1 later in 2021 or early in 2022.
- In the future the Bay Area IRWM Coordinating Committee may hold an annual meeting to provide an update to a broader audience and provide a space for creative planning.

3. Regional Recycled Water Evaluation Update

Mike Falk (HDR) provided an update on the Regional Recycled Water Evaluation. HDR/Woodard & Curran is preparing drafts of individual plant reports, and will be reaching out to individual agencies by early summer. Mike explained the importance of providing cost information when it is requested. Project information included in the final report will be accompanied by an indication about the agency's "level of confidence" in the project being implemented.

4. Regulation of Direct Potable Reuse

Carrie Del Boccio (Woodard & Curran) provided a brief overview of [draft criteria for direct potable reuse](#) recently released by the State Water Board. These criteria will be used to develop regulations by December 2023 for raw water and treated water augmentation projects. Comments are due June 25th, 2021, and WaterReuse will be developing comments. Valley Water also plans to prepare comments. Key points include:

- The responsible party must be a public water system and projects will have to meet Waterworks standards for materials and chemicals. Neither was the case for indirect potable reuse projects.
- DDW will conduct annual inspections, including an assessment of technical, managerial, and financial capacity.
- Pathogen control includes an allowance to operate below the recommended pathogen removal (20/14/15 meaning 20-log removal for virus, 14-log removal for giardia, and 15-log removal for crypto) for up to 24 hours, as long as minimum requirements are met (16/10/11 log removal). This provides for an allowable operating band where one treatment barrier could be temporarily offline.
- 3 barriers are required for chemical control, including ozone/BAF.
- Enhanced source control is required to address chemicals that cannot be removed by advanced water treatment processes.

5. Cross Connection Control Policy Handbook Update – Title 17 replacement

DDW has released draft updated [cross connection control regulations](#). This handbook governs procedures such as air gaps with potable water systems, cross-connection and backflow testing procedures, and certification for specialists. It also covers new regulations for use of the swivel-ell. Delta Diablo and DSRSD are planning to submit comment letters and will share with the group in case others wish to submit similar letters. Comments are due by April 27, 2021.

6. Bay Area Recycled Water Landscape Guide

Eric Hansen (SVCW) presented a draft of the Bay Area Recycled Water Landscape Guide, a technical resource for landscape irrigation with recycled water. The draft was previously shared with committee members by email, and has already been reviewed by WaterReuse. Eric Hansen is transitioning from SVCW to the private sector, so notes on major errors may be directed to BACWA Executive Director Lorien Fono, who is now the project manager. BACWA plans to coordinate with WaterReuse through final publication as an electronic document.

7. Virtual Recycled Water Use Site Supervisor Training

Stefanie Olson convened a small group of members to collaborate on site use supervisor training materials. They recently held a kickoff meeting with representatives from EBMUD, West Bay Sanitary District, Central San, DSRSD, and SVCW, and will continue to collaborate on this topic.

8. Recycled Water Annual Reports

This is the first year for preparing annual recycled water reports under the new statewide general order instead of 96-011, and the group discussed some monitoring and reporting requirements that differ between the old and new orders. Regional Water Board staff member Melissa Gunter provided the following instructions:

- For Table 4 (“Use Area Monitoring and Reporting Requirements”), it is acceptable to broadly summarize the results of use area monitoring and reporting rather than providing an exhaustive database of all use area monitoring data.
- Application rates (inches/acre/year) are meant to be approximate as a way of confirming that over-irrigation is not occurring. Ultra-precise site delineation to determine acreage is not required.
- “Discharge off-site” in Table 4 means incidental runoff or other accidental discharges, not recycled water trucked off site.
- Table 5 (“Pond System Monitoring”) includes all types of impoundments used to store water for later distribution. Small decorative water features with no overflow potential need not be included.
- In cases where water is stored prior to distribution, it is preferable to report the use as occurring when the end use occurred. For example, water stored in February and used in May should be reported as May usage, if possible
- If any requirements are unclear, provide an explanation or rationale for your agency’s approach in the annual report. The Regional Water Board is open to feedback and collaboration.

Annual reports are due April 30th.

9. Legislation and Regulatory Update (Reena Thomas)

- SB-45 and AB-1500 are bills that would place bonds for wildfire prevention, drinking water, drought preparation, etc. on the November 2022 ballot. The two bills differ in the amount directed to recycled water, with SB-45 providing approximately \$1 billion in funding for recycled water projects and AB-1500 a lesser amount. WaterReuse is working on refining the language in these bills.
- AB-1434 would tighten indoor water use efficiency standards from 50 gpcd to 40 gpcd by 2030. This could negatively impact wastewater and recycled water operations. Recent data for comparison are available at [California Urban Water Use Data \(pacinst.org\)](https://pacinst.org/california-urban-water-use-data)
- AB-377 requires all surface water to attain beneficial uses by 2050, but its approach has led to opposition by a coalition included CASA, CASQA, and others.

10. Announcements/Agency Updates

- a. Natasha Dunn from the San Francisco Estuary Partnership reported that her organization is working on an update to the San Francisco Estuary Blueprint, which will be an update to the [2016 version](#). She will present information about recycled water to be included in the draft Estuary Blueprint at the next Recycled Water committee meeting. More information on the 2021 update is available [here](#).
- b. Alina Constantinescu (LWA) reported that Sanitary District No. 5 of Marin County recently received permission to use treated wastewater for sewer cleaning, and encourages others to do the same. Obtaining permission was straightforward.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 18, 10:30 AM by Zoom