

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

May 18, 2021

Meeting held via videoconference

1. Introductions (Olson)

Reena Thomas, Co-chair	EBMUD	Maricate Mangan	Valley Water
Anita Jain	West Yost	Mark Grushayev	Sewerage Agency of South. Marin
Ben Glickstein	EBMUD	Mary Cousins	BACWA
Billy Dixon	Sonoma County Water	Melanie Tan	Kennedy Jenks
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
Ileana Alvarado	Valley Water	Nick Steiner	Delta Diablo
Jayne Strommer	Delta Diablo	Pam Phillips	American Canyon
Jed Beyer	West Bay San SD	Richard Foss	Central San
Jennie Pang	SFPUC	Sarah Rhodes	Woodard & Curran
Lorien Fono	BACWA	Tony Williams	North Marin Water District
Lucy Croy	Marin Mun. Water Dist.		

2. Funding Opportunities

Federal (Jayne Strommer, Delta Diablo):

- **WIIN Act Projects:** WIIN Act funding applications were due in April and are being reviewed by the US Bureau of Reclamation. Eligible entities are those with USBR-approved feasibility studies.

H.R. 1015 - *Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act* (Napolitano) would reauthorize the recycled water grant program under the WIIN Act at \$500 M and increase the federal share cap to \$30 M per project. The bill has not had any action since introduction in February, but may get a hearing soon or get rolled into a larger infrastructure bill.

Senator Feinstein has circulated a draft bill named the STREAM Act ("Support to Rehydrate the Environment, Agriculture and Municipalities). It would reauthorize the WIIN Act recycled water grant program at \$250 M and establish a RIFIA program (Reclamation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Pilot program), a loan program through the Bureau of Reclamation.

- **Authorized Title XVI Projects:** No new funding opportunities are posted at this time. Authorized Title XVI projects were able to pursue "Community Project Funding" requests (formerly "earmarks") from their Members of Congress; that process is wrapping up.
- **Other New Legislation:** The *Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act* passed the Senate. It includes reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund at \$~14.65 B over 5 years and the Alternative Water Source Projects (pilot program) at \$125 M over 5 years.

State: (Reena Thomas, EBMUD)

- The funding agreements for Round 1 of Prop 1 Implementation grant funding were finalized on March 24th. The list of 8 projects is available [here](#).
- \$29 M will be available in the next round of funding for Prop 1 IRWM DAC and Tribal Involvement Program.
- Round 1 of Prop 84 is officially closed out. Redwood City recently received all of its permits for Prop 84, Round 2, Project 10, a bayfront flood management and restoration project.

3. Regional Recycled Water Evaluation Update

Mike Falk (HDR) provided an update on the Regional Recycled Water Evaluation. HDR/Woodard & Curran has prepared about ten complete drafts of individual plant reports, and will be reaching out to individual agencies by early summer. Mike shared example graphics from the individual plant reports.

4. Proposed Standards for Indoor Water Use

Lorien Fono (BACWA) provided a brief overview of [indoor water use standards](#) proposed by DWR and SWRCB. Indoor water use standards must be approved by the state legislature. The proposal is to drop the indoor standard from the current standard of 55 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) to 42 gpcd in 2030. For comparison, the current statewide median is 48 gpcd. Members expressed concern with the impact on availability of recycled water supplies; for example, the DERWA system is supply-constrained, has a moratorium on new customers, and is reminding customers to water wisely. CASA is developing a comment letter on the proposed standards, with a focus on collection system and recycled water impacts.

A white paper regarding the impact of drought on recycled water is available from [CUWA](#). A white paper regarding the impact on wastewater more generally is available from the [Public Policy Institute of California](#).

5. Round Table Discussion on Drought

Committee members discussed impacts of the recently-declared drought emergency on recycled water:

- Marin Municipal Water District is experiencing a critical drought and has mandatory water restrictions, including restrictions on golf course and residential landscape irrigation. MMWD is working to expand recycled water availability for dust control and sewer flushing by creating truck fill stations. A residential fill station may also be established. Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin is participating in providing recycled water in Tiburon.
- EBMUD has declared a "Stage 1" drought with voluntary conservation. The commercial truck fill station is open, but EBMUD does not plan to open a residential fill station (piloted in 2020) unless conservation measures become mandatory. The residential fill station would operate using appointments to avoid lines.
- CCCSD is operating their commercial and residential fill stations, but is not seeing much demand.
- Redwood City expressed concern with residential fill station customers re-selling water, and may take steps to limit repeat customers if/when they request for the residential fill station to be re-authorized by DDW. Redwood City's program received a 3-year approval in 2017, the maximum allowed by DDW staff at that time.
- DERWA and Sonoma Valley CSD are experiencing high demand and insufficient supplies of recycled water.

6. State Legislation and Regulatory Update (Reena Thomas)

- The [governor's budget](#) calls for \$5 B for infrastructure and improved climate resilience over 5 years, including \$150 M for groundwater cleanup and water recycling projects.
- SB 45 and AB 1500 Climate bonds related to recycled water are currently within the Senate and Assembly appropriation committees.
- AB-836 with an onsite water reuse mandate is not expected to move forward at this time.
- Comments on proposed [draft criteria for direct potable reuse](#) are due at noon on June 25th. WateReuse and CA-NV AWWA are preparing comment letters.
- Comments on the [CWSRF draft Intended Use Plan](#) for the next fiscal year are due May 21st.
- DWR has been convening stakeholder groups regarding urban water use standards. For example, earlier in May there was a discussion regarding a variance for outdoor water use standards when using high-TDS recycled water. The next stakeholder discussion will be on commercial and industrial water use.

7. Announcements/Agency Updates

The [City of Hayward's recycled water project](#) is nearly complete, and is awaiting final permits to begin operation.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 20, 10:30 AM by Zoom