

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

November 16, 2021

Meeting held via videoconference

1. Introductions (Olson)

Stefanie Olson, Co-Chair	DSRSD		
Reena Thomas, Co-chair	EBMUD	Mary Cousins	BACWA
Akin Fayehun	Petaluma	Melanie Mow Schumacher	Soquel Creek Water Dist.
Annahita Fallah	SFPUC	Melanie Tan	Kennedy Jenks
Anita Jain	West Yost	Melissa Gunter	Regional Water Board
Anup Shah	Brown & Caldwell	Melody LaBella	Central San
Billy Dixon	Sonoma Co. Water	Negin Ashoori	BAWSCA
Cheryl Muñoz	City of Hayward	Nole Studley	Marin Water
Dan Frost	Central San	Pam Phillips	City of American Canyon
Diego Martinez Garcia	City of Palo Alto	Pedro Hernandez	South Bay Water Recyc.
Eric Rosenblum	Enviroinspectives	Rachel Mixon	Valley Water
Jayne Strommer	Delta Diablo	Richard Foss	Central San
Jed Beyer	West Bay SD	Ron Duncan	Soquel Creek Water Dist.
Jonathan Brownlee	SFPUC	Sarah Rhodes	Woodard & Curran
Laila Mufty	City of Palo Alto	Sindy Mulyono-Danre	Redwood City
Mark Grushayev	SASM	Tom Hall	EOA
Maricate Mangan	Valley Water	Tony Williams	North Marin Water District

2. Funding Opportunities

Federal (Jayne Strommer, Delta Diablo):

The large infrastructure bill was signed into law on Monday and includes both funding authorizations *and* appropriations. Some of the water-related highlights include \$12.7B for the Clean Water State Revolving Funds; \$1B for water recycling WIIN grants and Title XVI; and \$400M for WaterSmart programs. For new alternative water supplies, there is no appropriation but there is an authorization for \$125M. More detail is available in this [WaterReuse Guide to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021](#). The sequel bill "Build Back Better Act" has been pared down to \$1.7B and also has infrastructure funding including water recycling and appropriation of the \$125M for alternative water sources. It is still subject to change.

State (Reena Thomas, EBMUD):

In late 2021, DWR plans to release a final solicitation package for Round 2 of IRWMP Prop 1 funding. The BAIRWMP Process and Planning Committee plans to submit an application in the fall solicitation.

3. Pure Water Soquel (Melanie Mow Schumacher and Ron Duncan, Soquel Creek Water District)

Soquel Creek Water District presented information about the Pure Water Soquel project, which is currently under construction in Santa Cruz County. A copy of the slide deck is available [here](#). Some of the featured content included:

- **Technical Details.** The project will take tertiary-treated water from the City of Santa Cruz, and run it through a new advanced water purification center with microfiltration, RO, UV disinfection, and advanced oxidation. Advanced-treated water will be injected into the critically overdrafted coastal aquifer to prevent seawater intrusion. RO concentrate will be returned to Santa Cruz for ocean discharge. Groundbreaking for the treatment project will occur this December.
- **Community Water Plan.** The District is currently 100% dependent on groundwater, but in the future will have a more diverse water supply portfolio with stormwater capture, excess river water purchases, and advanced-treated recycled water part of the mix. Outreach on the

"Community Water Plan," which establishes a pathway to a reliable water supply, was a big portion of the public outreach. The District also completed an Economic Impact Analysis as part of project planning to communicate the benefits of improved water supply resiliency.

- **Building Trust with the Community.** The District did extensive public outreach to explain alternatives for improving water resiliency. The WaterReuse toolkit was helpful as guidance. Outreach materials featured photos and quotes from local residents. Board members and institutional partners went on field trips to similar facilities. The District prepared a mobile outreach trailer at relatively low cost. Also, the District was motivated by a previous attempt to construct a desalination project to enhance public and institutional outreach for this effort.
- **Funding.** The project received Prop 1 grant funding, Title XVI funding, and low-cost loans from SWRCB and WIFIA. The District also set up a revolving line of credit because the grants and loans are provided on a reimbursement basis, and sometimes that can take a long time.
- **Project Delivery.** The District is using traditional design-bid-build for the injection wells, because they are experienced with well projects. The District opted to use progressive design-build for the pipeline and treatment projects, because they are not typical District projects.

4. Regional Recycled Water Evaluation Update

Carrie Del Boccio (Woodard & Curran) provided an brief update on the Regional Recycled Water Evaluation. HDR/Woodard & Curran has prepared 15 complete drafts of individual plant reports, and more are in progress.

5. Site Supervisor Training Update (Stefanie Olson, DSRD)

Stefanie Olson shared a [classic video](#) titled "Recycled Water Health and Safety" produced by EBMUD about 20 years ago and intended for recycled water for site supervisors. A companion video explains irrigation system and landscape maintenance. The group discussed the possibility of updating the video with funding from BACWA to support the videography. The video script contains some outdated information (e.g., tertiary is no longer the highest standard of treatment; California Department of Health Services no longer exists), so both the script and graphics would require an update. Pedro Hernandez shared that South Bay Water Recycling also requests that their site supervisor trainees watch two videos presented by Bahman Sheikh (see [Video 1](#) and [Video 2](#)) before the live portion of the training. There was interest from the group in pursuing the idea further.

6. Legislation and Regulatory Update (Reena Thomas, EBMUD)

A committee is working on streamlining Title 22 requirements needed for agricultural end users.

7. BACWA Updates

BACWA is soliciting nominations for the [Arleen Navarret award](#). BACWA Board members recently received an update from Regional Water Board staff regarding NPDES permitting of reverse osmosis concentrate, which may be discussed at a future meeting.

8. Group Discussion and Announcements

The Clean Water Summit Partners plan to host an [Advanced Treatment Workshop](#) on Monday, December 6th. The intended audience is legislative staff and officials, regulatory staff, and environmental advocates.

The group also discussed:

- Daytime irrigation with recycled water, which is typically discouraged to protect public health. Redwood City allows this with performance of a recycled water coverage test to ensure no spray on picnic tables, pathways, etc. SFPUC mentioned that Golden Gate and Lincoln parks are likely to have daytime irrigation.
- Letters from DDW requiring Title 22 Engineering Report record updates that some dischargers have received. This may be required for compliance with the 2018 Recycled Water Policy.
- Use of raw wastewater for sewer flushing, which may be called "recycling" but is not "recycled water" as the term is normally used by the committee.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 10:30 AM by Zoom.