

# BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

May 17, 2022

Meeting held via videoconference

## 1. Introductions (Olson)

Stefanie Olson, Co-Chair	DSRSD	Mary Cousins	BACWA
Reena Thomas, Co-chair	EBMUD	Medi Sinaki	Valley Water
An Bartlett	EBMUD	Melanie Tan	Kennedy Jenks
Annahita Fallah	SFPUC	Melody LaBella	Central San
Akin Fayehun	City of Petaluma	Negin Ashoori	BAWSCA
Billy Dixon	Sonoma Co. Water	Nick Steiner	Delta Diablo
Carrie Del Boccio	Woodard & Curran	Pam Phillips	City of American Canyon
Cheryl Muñoz	City of Hayward	Richard Foss	Central San
Kevin Calcagno	Eurofins	Sachi Itagaki	Kennedy Jenks
Laura Luong	EBMUD	Salvador Navarro	City of Hayward
Liana Olsen	Central San	Sarah Rhodes	Woodard & Curran
Lorien Fono	BACWA	Sindy Mulyono-Danre	Redwood City
Maricate Mangan	Valley Water	Will Burrell	Regional Water Board

## 2. Funding Opportunities

Sachi Itagaki (Kennedy Jenks) provided an update on state and federal funding opportunities. The [May Revision](#) of the state budget lists an \$1.5B of additional spending to accelerate water resilience and drought response. SRF funding availability is expected to be higher than in the past years, so agencies are advised to submit their SRF applications as soon as possible. State Water Board staff are encouraging submittal of applications even if they are incomplete (e.g., the "General Application"), as this helps the State assess the overall need for funding.

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/grants\\_loans/srf/srf\\_forms.html](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/grants_loans/srf/srf_forms.html)  
[Recycled Water Facilities Planning Grants](#) are also still available.

## 3. 2nd Nutrient Watershed Permit – Special Study Update

Carrie Del Boccio (Woodard & Curran) provided a brief update on the progress of the Recycled Water Evaluation that is being conducted in compliance with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Nutrient Watershed Permit. A more detailed schedule was provided at the [BACWA Annual Members Meeting](#) (see slides 14-17). Agencies should plan to review draft reports later this summer.

## 4. EBMUD's East Bayshore Recycled Water Project – Water Quality Improvements Pilot Study

An Bartlett (EBMUD) provided a detailed look at the water quality challenges of the East Bayshore Recycled Water Project, which has been delivering recycled water to customers in Oakland and Emeryville since 2008. An's [presentation](#) included the following key points:

- The East Bayshore project has experienced challenges with infrastructure and water quality. The system cannot expand to reach additional customers because of the water quality challenges. Unfortunately, without expanding, the benefits of the project remain low compared to the costs.
- High TDS and high ammonia preclude the project's water from easily being used in cooling towers, for car washing, and for toilet flushing. During times of drought, typical TDS levels of 900 mg/L can increase up to 1,100 mg/L, which can be problematic for irrigating sensitive plants.
- The 3-year Water Quality Improvements Pilot Study will provide more information about how to overcome these water quality challenges. The pilot study is looking at (1) partial RO treatment to

lower TDS levels; (2) full RO treatment followed by breakpoint chlorination to provide water for cooling towers that is low in ammonia; (3) a point-of-use treatment system for cooling towers; and (4) using a different supply other than treated wastewater from SD-1. Due to the customer base and location, some of the District's interceptors have lower-TDS water than others.

The presentation was followed by participants discussing their own agencies' water quality challenges. Customer service (including, but not limited to, water quality issues) may be a good discussion topic for future meetings.

## 5. BACWA Updates

- Materials from the BACWA Annual Members Meeting are available on the [BACWA website](#)
- Recycled water was mentioned by regulator updates from [USEPA](#) and the [Regional Water Board](#).
- On May 11, the Regional Water Board reissued the Municipal Regional Stormwater Permit. Requirements for controlling excess irrigation runoff are unchanged from the previous 2015 permit.

## 6. Site Supervisor Training Update

The committee is moving forward with planning for a site supervisor training video, and is aiming to collect video footage this summer. Billy Dixon (SCWA) volunteered to assist with video of agricultural uses and possible a truck fill station with an air gap assembly. Members willing to collect 4K video of purple pipe installation, industrial uses, tech campuses, dust control, or construction uses should contact Stefanie Olson.

## 7. Legislation and Regulatory Update (Reena Thomas, EBMUD)

In April, national WaterReuse submitted a [comment letter to the FDA](#) on proposed agricultural water quality standards. The letter clarifies that recycled water is already treated to an appropriate level for agricultural reuse.

The following bill will NOT move forward this year:

- AB 2811 (Bennett) = mandates onsite reuse for large commercial buildings; WRCA Oppose unless Amended

The following legislative items of interest are on watch and are in the committee process:

- AB 1845 (Calderon) = Allows Design Build for MWD; WRCA Support
- SB 991 (Newman) = Allows Alternate Project Delivery Methods for Projects over \$5M; WRCA Support
- SB 12(McGuire & Stern) = Requires distribution systems be made from heat resistant materials if state funding is received; WRCA Watch
- SB 230 (Portantino) = CEC Program; WRCA Support
- SB 114 (Weiner) = Graywater for schools; WRCA suggests amendments to include recycled water
- SB 1157 (Hertzberg) = lowers indoor residential use standard; WRCA Opposes Unless Amended
- SB 1197 (Caballero) = Water Innovation Program; WRCA Supports
- AB 227 (Bloom) = PFAS Source Database; WRCA Supports

The following bill passed the committee process and is on the floor:

- AB 2787 (Quirk) = Microbeads/microplastics ban; WRCA Supports

## 8. Agency updates/Announcements

- Abstracts for the September California WaterReuse conference in SF are due **June 1**.  
<https://watereuse.org/sections/watereuse-california/meetings-events/2022-california-conference/>
- Nominations for WaterReuse awards are due **June 10**.  
<https://watereuse.org/sections/watereuse-california/meetings-events/2022-california-conference/ca-2022-awards-nomination/>

- Hayward's recycled water system is now operational and has 31 customers. [Just in time: Hayward opens valve on recycled water delivery | City of Hayward - Official website \(hayward-ca.gov\)](https://www.hayward-ca.gov/news/2022/05/17/just-in-time-hayward-opens-valve-on-recycled-water-delivery)
- The committee discussed returning to in-person meetings at least once per year, once conditions allow for unrestricted access to buildings.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, July 19, 2022, 10:30 AM by Zoom.**