

# BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

November 15, 2022

Meeting held via videoconference

## 1. Introductions (Stefanie Olson, DSRSD, Co-Chair)

There were 28 participants from 14 Committee member agencies, plus a guest speaker.

## 2. Funding Opportunities

Melanie Tan (Kennedy Jenks) provided an update on state and federal funding opportunities:

- As documented in the State Water Board's [Intended Use Plan for FY22-23](#), the cap for [Recycled Water Facilities Planning Grants](#) has been increased from \$150,000 to \$500,000. A 50% match is required for non-disadvantaged communities (DACs), while DACs are eligible for 100% of project costs. As previously announced, this may be a useful option for agencies that have already received a planning grant for non-potable reuse, and now want to study potable use options.
- SGMA grant funding can be used to fund recycled water projects with a nexus to groundwater (e.g., recharge or conjunctive use). Applications for [Round 2 grants](#) are due December 16<sup>th</sup>.
- The deadline for [urban community drought relief](#) grants from DWR is January 31<sup>st</sup>. Recycled water projects that provide immediate relief to potable water supplies are eligible.
- Potable reuse pilot project funding may be available from the State in the near future.
- The Bay Area IRWM Coordinating Committee is reviewing and scoring project submittals, and will submit a funding request to DWR by February 2023.

## 3. Site Supervisor Training Update (Stefanie Olson, DSRSD, Co-Chair)

A subcommittee is continuing to develop video and a script for a site supervisor training video. The draft script is complete and the committee is working on finalizing the collection of video footage.

## 4. Onsite Non-Potable Reuse Regulations

Melissa Gunter (Regional Water Board) provided a brief update on [the Onsite Non-Potable Reuse Regulations](#) being developed by the State Water Board pursuant to [SB 966](#). The draft regulations would have to be implemented by local jurisdictions (City or County). Facilities not located in a jurisdiction that has adopted these regulations may not be able to get a permit, but Regional Water Board staff are trying to gain more clarity on the State Water Board's proposed approach.

## 5. 2nd Nutrient Watershed Permit – Special Study Update

Mike Falk (HDR) 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. Agencies should plan to receive draft reports before the end of 2022. Mike also noted that the next Group Annual Report for nutrients will include calculations of diverted nutrients based on recycled water volumes reported for Calendar Years 2020 and 2021.

## 6. Cross-Connection Control Handbook

Steve Garner from [AWWA CA-NV Section](#) provided an overview of the draft [Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook](#), which will replace the cross-connection control regulations currently found in Title 17. The handbook expands the six elements currently required in Cross-Connection Control programs to ten elements. The handbook also establishes design and construction-related requirements for swivel-ells, which will allow substitution of tertiary recycled water with potable water *without* using an air gap. Per the November 2022 [draft handbook](#), the swivel-ell design and construction plans have to be approved by the State Water Board, and the potable water system must include a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly.

Steve Garner explained that new handbook will change the certification process for Backflow Prevention Assembly Testers and Cross-Connection Control Specialists. Currently, under Title 17 the backflow testers have to demonstrate competency, but they do not need to be certified. Going forward, the exams for these certifications will have to have at least 100 questions. AWWA CA-NV plans to pursue accreditation to serve as a certifying organization for the Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester and Cross-Connection Control Specialist certificate programs. The handbook requires that water utilities with more than 3,000 service connections have at least one cross-connection control specialist as a permanent or contracted employee.

The Division of Drinking Water (DDW) held its second public hearing on the handbook on December 5<sup>th</sup> and [a recording is available](#). DDW anticipates that the State Water Board will adopt the handbook in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2023. Title 17 regulations will be repealed 90 days after adoption.

## **7. Announcements**

The 13th [IWA International Conference on Water Reclamation and Reuse](#) will be held from January 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> 2023 in Chennai, India. The central theme of the conference is “Water Reuse: Overcoming the Challenges of Growth and Climate Change.” Eric Rosenblum plans to attend and will report back.

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

2018 legislation requires the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to provide recommendations to the State Water Board regarding urban water use efficiency standards. This fall, DWR provided these [recommendations](#), which were presented to the State Water Board as an informational item on November 15<sup>th</sup> ([agenda](#)). The recommendations include [bonus incentives for potable reuse](#) and a [variance for irrigation with high-TDS recycled water](#), which are important for the success of recycled water programs.

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 10:30 AM**