Recycled Water Committee Meeting on: 07/16/2024 Executive Board Meeting Date: 08/16/2024 Committee Chairs: Stefanie Olson, Reena Thomas

### Committee Request for Board Action: None

31 attendees participated remotely, including representatives from 15 member agencies, the Regional Water Board, and consulting firms.

# **Recycled Water Planning at Marin Water**

Lucy Croy from Marin Water described how recycled water fits into the district's integrated water supply strategy. Marin Water currently serves about 700 acre-feet per year of tertiary recycled water to the Terra Linda / Lucas Valley area, using recycled water provided by Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District (LGVSD). The district has been working with LGVSD on recycled water since 1976. Recent feasibility studies have explored options for expanding recycled water deliveries through (a) an expansion of the current tertiary system supplied by LGVSD; (b) adding a new tertiary recycled water system using recycled water from Central Marin Sanitation Agency or Sewerage Agency of Southern Marin; or (c) moving to Direct Potable Reuse. The tertiary recycled water project opportunities are relatively small and have a high unit cost because there are no large irrigation or industrial demands in the service area. Indirect Potable Reuse is infeasible because there is no large groundwater basin, and the surface water reservoirs are prohibitively far away. Marin Water plans to continue monitoring the Direct Potable Reuse regulations and implementation of projects by larger agencies as the industry evolves, and could consider pilot projects with partner sanitation agencies. More information is available in these slides.

# **Funding Opportunities**

Sachi Itagaki (Kennedy Jenks) provided an update on funding opportunities. As previously reported, the Bureau of Reclamation has upcoming funding application deadlines for Title XVI and WIIN on September 30<sup>th</sup> (link). There will be a \$10B climate bond on the November ballot (Prop 4) including \$386M specifically for recycled water. The final 2024-2025 state budget contains an additional \$75M for recycled water. State Water Board planning grants continue to be available; the current maximum is \$500,000 (link) but this amount could be significantly lowered in the near future, so planning grant applications should be submitted as soon as possible!

#### **Site Supervisor Training Video Update**

Staff from DSRSD, Hayward, and Petaluma shared that they are using the four site supervisor training videos that are available in the committee's <u>Recycled Water Library</u>. DSRSD has also created a short quiz for site supervisors based on the videos. For more information, contact DSRSD's <u>Stefanie Olson</u>.

# **Legislative and Regulatory Updates**

Reena Thomas (EBMUD) shared that the State Water Board has modified its proposed approach to new recycled water permit fees, which were previously going to be set at very high values for recycled water permitholders. The revised approach will share more of the program costs for 15 staff members across all wastewater permittees. The final <a href="stakeholder meeting">stakeholder meeting</a> regarding the recycled water fees is slated for July 18.

DWR has <a href="proposed amendments">proposed amendments</a> to the California plumbing code related to recycled water (example: pressure requirements for toilet flushing). <a href="More information here from DWR">More information here from DWR</a>. The public comment period closed July 1.

# **BACWA Updates**

The Nutrient Watershed Permit was adopted by the Regional Water Board on July 10. As expected, the permit contains dry season limits for Total Inorganic Nitrogen. Interim performance-based limits go into effect for the 2025 dry season, while much lower final limits go into effect for the 2035 dry season. By early 2025, agencies will need to identify potential recycled water projects that could be used to comply with the final limits. BACWA will need to include this information in the Group Annual Report due April 1, 2025.

# **Events**

- Webinar ""Making Conservation a California Way of Life": Provisions for Reuse July 24, 10 AM
- WateReuse Fri Aug 16, joint meeting at Central San with NorCal and Central Valley section, will include a tour of CoCo San Sustainable Farm
- WateReuse California Annual Conference in Garden Grove, Sept. 15-17

Remaining Meetings in 2024: October 15 (in-person option)