

Committee Request for Board Action: None

28 attendees participated remotely and in-person at EBMUD, including representatives from 13 member agencies, the Regional Water Board, and consulting firms.

Palo Alto's Local Advanced Water Purification System

Diego Martinez Garcia (City of Palo Alto) provided an overview of the City's plan to improve and expand its recycled water program by installing a microfiltration and reverse osmosis treatment system ([link to slide deck](#)). Highlights from the presentation included:

- The project will improve recycled water quality by lowering salt content, allowing recycled water to be used more widely for landscape irrigation. Most of the current system demands are in Mountain View and City-owned parks in Palo Alto.
- With this project online, the average TDS is expected to drop from about 800 mg/L to about 450 mg/L (+/- 50 mg/L). The blend ratio of the existing tertiary recycled water and RO permeate will be periodically adjusted to achieve the target TDS. The City is putting significant effort into developing SOPs for different demand conditions, mindful of the need to protect the RO membranes during low-demand periods.
- Project design began in 2021 (Black & Veatch is the design firm). Phase 1 is expected to be completed by the end of 2027 and will have a production capacity of 1.16 MGD. Phase 1 will include space for an eventual Phase 2 that would double production capacity. The construction phase is going out to bid very soon (late 2024).
- The project benefitted from an SRF loan and Title XVI grant from USBR. Total cost is expected to be about \$67M. The project design is elevated to be resilient to future sea level rise.

BACWA Updates

BACWA has released an [RFP](#) for a consultant team to assist with specific tasks required by the [Nutrient Watershed Permit](#). By early 2025, agencies will need to identify whether recycled water projects are an alternative that could be used to comply with the permit's final effluent limits for Total Inorganic Nitrogen. BACWA (and the selected consultant team) will assist with compiling this information into the Group Annual Report. BACWA will also lead preparation of a Regional Plan, starting with a scoping plan for the effort due July 1, 2025.

Legislative and Regulatory Updates

- The \$10B climate bond on the November ballot ([Prop 4](#)) includes \$386M for water recycling projects.
- The State Water Board's [Direct Potable Reuse](#) regulations are effective as of October 1st
- [Onsite Non-potable Reuse regulation rulemaking](#) is expected to begin as soon as early November
- The State Water Board's FY25 [Water Quality Fees](#) include new fee categories for recycled water, replacing the previous structure that included recycled water fees within other permit fees (e.g., NPDES or WDRs). The fees will cover about 15 staff positions at the State Water Board and are set at \$2,800/yr for non-potable production, \$16,000/yr for potable production, and \$1,500/yr for distribution.

Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2025:

- Tuesday, January 21st
- Tuesday, April 15th
- Tuesday, July 15th
- Tuesday, October 21st