Recycled Water Committee

Report to BACWA Board

Committee Meeting on: 07/15/2025 Executive Board Meeting Date: 08/15/2025 Committee Chairs: Stefanie Olson (DSRSD)

and Sarah Reynolds (EBMUD)

Committee Request for Board Action: None

40 attendees participated remotely, including representatives from 16 member agencies, the Regional Water Board, and consulting firms.

East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Recycled Water Strategic Plan Update

Reena Thomas (EBMUD) presented on the District's 2024 Recycled Water Strategic Plan Update. Link to Presentation Slides The purpose of the Strategic Plan Update was to consider future opportunities for potable and non-potable reuse, and to incorporate new information about the District's existing non-potable reuse projects, which currently serve a demand of about 7.4 MGD. The 2024 Strategic Plan found that demand and deliveries of non-potable recycled water have declined over time, and that the District will need to add potable reuse to its recycled water program if it plans to meet its long-term water supply goal of providing 20 MGD of recycled water. In the near term, the District plans to develop an outreach, education, and messaging plan for a potential future potable reuse project, and to invest in expansions of two existing non-potable recycled water projects: the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program and East Bayshore Recycled Water Project.

Funding Updates

Sachi Itagaki (Kennedy Jenks) reported that recycled water funding opportunities are more uncertain than in recent times. The <u>WIFIA</u> program (for large projects) and California <u>IBank</u> remain available for loan financing. Also, State Water Board recycled water facilities planning grants are still able to provide a match for projects up to \$300,000 (<u>link to draft Intended Use Plan</u> for FY2026).

Discussion on Permitting Considerations for Trucked Recycled Water

Luis Anaya Vasquez (Regional Water Board) led a discussion about permitting considerations for trucked recycled water programs per the 2016 Statewide General Order. Specifically, the committee discussed whether it would be appropriate for a trucked recycled water provider to obtain permit coverage to deliver water across the jurisdictions of multiple recycled water programs, or whether permit coverage should be through individual agencies (see BACWA Truck Fill Guide or Map for agencies with truck fill programs). Attendees shared concerns about program oversight, liability, and operations, particularly with respect to cross-connection control and site inspections. BACWA members with relevant experience setting up trucked recycled water programs can contact Luis to share more details.

BACWA Updates

- Presentations from the April 2025 Nutrient Removal Workshop are posted on the <u>BACWA Recycled</u> <u>Water Library Archives</u> or <u>WateReuse NorCal Chapter</u> site.
- BACWA plans to conduct a Regional Planning Study that will compile information about member
 agency plans for nutrient removal projects to comply with the <u>Nutrients Watershed Permit</u>, including
 recycled water projects. <u>See Scoping Plan</u> (HDR, 2025). BACWA's <u>Group Annual Report for 20232024</u>, Appendix B, includes preliminary information about agency compliance plans. At least seven
 BACWA member agencies are considering nutrient removal alternatives involving recycled water.
- CASA is leading an effort to quantify coastal nutrient loads and recycled water diversions from municipal wastewater agencies in Southern California and the Central Coast.

Legislative and Regulatory Updates

- Onsite Non-potable Reuse regulation rulemaking is ongoing, and the State Water Board plans to release a revised draft of the regulations for a 15-day comment period in early August 2025.
- The State Water Board revised the <u>Cross-Connection Control Policy Handbook</u> in June 2025 and issued an updated <u>FAQ</u>. To address the requirement for education and outreach to staff, customers, and the community, California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) has developed <u>public outreach</u> <u>materials</u> for their members' use.

Next Meeting: October 21, 2025