

Recycled Water Committee

Report to BACWA Board

Committee Meeting on: 01/20/2026

Executive Board Meeting Date: 2/20/2026

Committee Chairs: Stefanie Olson (DSRSD)
and Sarah Rosenberg (EBMUD)

Committee Request for Board Action: None

43 attendees participated remotely, including two guest speakers and representatives from 17 member agencies, the Regional Water Board, and consulting firms.

City of Burlingame - Recycled Water and Wastewater Discharge Reduction Project

Mahesh Yedluri (City of Burlingame) and Patrick Hassett (WRE) presented on this active City effort, which has twin goals of supplementing local water supplies via water reuse while also contributing towards the City's compliance with the Nutrients Watershed Permit. The City has investigated a wide range of alternatives, ranging from new treatment technologies to regional partnerships with other water and wastewater agencies. Four recycled water alternatives currently being evaluated include two different options for non-potable recycled water, and two options for direct potable reuse. Salinity can be a challenge for some Bay Area recycled water programs, but based on recent testing, the City's wastewater quality appears suitable for irrigation. The next phase of work involves additional analysis of the alternatives, including detailed cost estimates. [Link to City's website](#) | [Link to Presentation Slides](#)

Funding Updates

Sachi Itagaki (Kennedy Jenks) reported that the State Water Board's recycled water planning grants can still provide a 50% match for project costs, up to \$300,000 (FY26 [SRF Intended Use Plan](#)). WateReuse plans to request another tranche of Prop 4 funding in this year's state budget. There are currently few federal funding options, but [iBank](#) has loan capacity and is faster than the State Revolving Fund.

BACWA Updates on the Nutrients Watershed Permit

- USEPA has announced a [grant funding opportunity](#). Eligible projects include those that reduce nutrient inputs into San Francisco Bay. BACWA plans to submit a proposal by the March 3rd deadline
- BACWA has circulated a [Request for Information](#) related to compliance reporting; the request includes questions about water recycling. Responses are due February 13.
- BACWA is hiring a CEQA consultant to assist with development of a Basin Plan amendment to allow more than 10 years for implementation of qualifying projects (such as water recycling). [Link to RFQ](#).
- BACWA has released [short videos](#) about the value of clean water infrastructure for members' use.

Committee Survey on Recycled Water Program Administration – [Link to Summary Slides](#)

In late 2025 and early 2026, 19 Bay Area recycled water programs provided information about their recycled water program administration through an [online survey](#). The survey covered site supervisor training, procedures for self-monitoring and agency inspections of recycled water use sites, cross connection testing, and related topics. Based on the survey results, there is consistency in many program elements among agencies enrolled in the [Statewide General Order](#) (for example, quarterly self-monitoring). Some agencies continue to operate under site-specific recycled water permits, so their programs reflect different monitoring requirements. Where allowable, agencies have developed inspection and training approaches tailored for their individual circumstances. For a complete copy of survey results, contact [Mary Cousins](#).

SB 31 Implementation

[SB31](#), signed in 2025, should provide more flexibility for the use of disinfected tertiary recycled water, but the state Division of Drinking Water has not yet identified a pathway for implementing the legislation. Program administrators should not yet modify their programs to reflect SB31.

Announcements/Reminders/Agency Updates

- A research team supporting the CA Department of Water Resources has released a [survey on the impacts of Water Conservation](#). Responses are requested by January 31.
- Volumetric reports are due April 30, 2026 to [Geotracker](#). For agencies enrolled in the Statewide General Order, Annual Reports are also due April 30th to Geotracker.
- The BACWA Annual Members Meeting will be held Friday May 1st in downtown Berkeley

Next Meeting: April 21, 10:30 AM on MS Teams