

DERWA

DSRSD • EBMUD Recycled Water Authority
PARTNERS IN WATER RECYCLING

February 27, 2026

US EPA Region 9 (WTR-2-2)
Attn: Luisa Valiela
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Attn: FY 2022 San Francisco Bay Geographic Program Office Proposal Review Committee

Subject: Support from Dublin San Ramon Services District-East Bay Municipal Utility District Recycled Water Authority (**DERWA**) for BACWA's Clean Water Together proposal

Dear San Francisco Bay Geographic Program Office Proposal Reviewer,

On behalf of DERWA, I am writing to express our strong support of the proposal titled "Clean Water Together – A Coalition Proposal for Regional Nutrient Solutions" submitted by BACWA, with partners at the San Francisco Estuary Partnership, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Central Contra Costa Sanitation District, East Bay Dischargers Authority, Dublin San Ramon Services District, the City of South San Francisco, Mt. View Sanitary District, Sanitation Agency of Southern Marin, City of Burlingame, in response to the EPA's Notice of Funding Opportunity Number: EPA-R9-SFBay-26-0. As a region, we are at a critical juncture in protecting the San Francisco Bay, and this collaborative effort represents a viable and timely path toward sustainable nutrient management.

Through on-the-ground implementation, targeted research, regional collaboration, and the development of a nutrient trading program, this work will enable publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) to leverage site-specific opportunities while contributing to broader, system-wide nutrient and contaminant management strategies. We believe this collaboration will generate valuable, transferable insights beyond the immediate project areas and inform practical, scalable approaches to wastewater nutrient management across the Bay Area and nationally. We respectfully request your support for this important initiative.

DERWA was established in 1995 to provide recycled water to parts of Dublin, Dougherty Valley, and San Ramon. Recycled water deliveries began in early 2006. In 2014, the City of Pleasanton entered into an agreement with DERWA to allow its treated wastewater to also be used to produce recycled water.

On behalf of DERWA, we are pleased to express our strong support for the Membrane Aerated Biofilm Reactor (MABR) pilot project proposed by Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD). As a regional partnership dedicated to advancing recycled water and sustainable wastewater

7051 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA 94568-3018 * Phone: (925) 828-0515
Email: derwamanager@dsrsd.com * <http://www.srvrwp.org/>

management, we recognize the critical importance of this initiative in meeting the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board's stringent nutrient discharge limits while continuing to provide high-quality recycled water to our communities.

DSRSD plays a vital role in producing recycled water in the Tri-Valley Region. While leveraging recycled water operations is a key nutrient reduction strategy, seasonal fluctuations in demand during cooler, rainy months can create compliance challenges that need an innovative solution. Piloting MABR technology offers a cost-effective, innovative solution that complements existing recycled water infrastructure and minimizes financial impacts on ratepayers.

We are particularly supportive of the diverse approaches outlined in the proposal, which include:

- **Process Intensification:** Piloting advanced technologies like Membrane Aerated Bioreactors (MABR) and Densified Activated Sludge (DAS) to reduce nutrients within existing plant footprints, achieving nutrient reductions more efficiently and more quickly than would otherwise be possible without this funding.
- **Nature-Based Solutions (NBS):** Advancing projects like the "First Mile" Horizontal Levee and floating wetland islands to provide nutrient polishing alongside habitat enhancement and flood resilience.
- **Market-Based Solutions:** Developing a regional nutrient trading program that leverages site-specific opportunities to achieve aggregate load reductions more efficiently.

DERWA recognizes BACWA's long-standing history of successful regional coordination and fiscal responsibility. BACWA's collaboration with the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) ensures robust administrative oversight and effective technology transfer across the region. We are confident that this coalition will deliver high-impact results that serve as a national model for watershed-scale nutrient management.

DERWA fully supports this collaborative effort, and we urge the EPA to fund this proposal and support the regional collaboration necessary for a sustainable San Francisco Bay.

If you have any questions, please contact me at vhousen@housenassociates.com or (925) 518-3487.

Sincerely,



Vivian Housen

DERWA Authority Manager

vhousen@housenassociates.com