

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

EBMUD Headquarters – 2nd Floor Small Training Room

March 4, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1) Introductions – Muñoz

Linda Hu – East Bay Municipal Utility District
Cheryl Munoz – San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Jill Chamberlain – Brown and Caldwell
Peter Vorster – The Bay Institute
Roanne Ross – Whitley Burchett & Associates for Redwood City
Vince Christian – Regional Water Quality Control Board
Dan Jackson – City of Benicia
Leah Walker – City of Petaluma
On phone
Eric Rosenblum – Envirospectives
Jessica Zadeh – City of San Jose
Stan Kolodzie – Dublin San Ramon Services District
Melody LaBella – Central Contra Costa Sanitation District
Courtney Rubin – RMC
Samantha Englage – City of Palo Alto
Luis Jaimes – Santa Clara Valley Water District
Drew McIntyre – North Marin Water District
Kevin Booker – Sonoma County Water District

2) Update on Prop 84 Funding Rounds – Muñoz/Hu

a. Prop 84 Round 2

The majority of the Local Project Sponsor agreements have been signed. Jennifer Krebs (ABAG) will be working with Melissa Sparks at the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to address individual agencies' questions.

b. Prop 84 Drought Round

DWR will send out the Draft Drought Round agreement by March 6..

c. Prop 84 Final Round (aka 2015 Round or Round 3)

i. Request for Project Concept Submittals (RFS) – combined for regional and sub-regional projects

There was a Coordination Committee (CC) meeting and Project Screening Committee (PSC) meeting last week. The PSC has updated the Request for Project Concept Submittals (RFS), which are due six weeks after the request was announced on April 20. The RFS does not contain substantial changes compared to last year, although they will be asking for more budget information. There will not be separate calls for regional vs. subregional projects this round. DWR said that this will be a general Integrated Regional Water Management round rather than a drought-specific round, although there are drought-specific criteria.

The PSC was discussing regional priorities and fairness between functional areas and regions. There is talk of using Round 3 to "true up" the amount of Prop. 84 funds distributed overall rounds on a regional, functional and agency basis. This might hurt new recycled water projects because there was the drought relief round last year.

The RFS was released before DWR's Prop 84 2015 Round guidelines was released since it is anticipated that the timeframe will be short for the preparation and submittal of the regional proposal. State funds for this grant round have already appropriated. Initial indication is that DWR will try to make final awards this year. Readiness to proceed and integration with different functional will most likely garner projects higher scores. The PSC has requested the BACWA review, packaged together and prioritized the recycled

water and wastewater projects submitted. The Recycled Water Committee will take the lead on the recycled water projects.

The Recycled Water Committee and the BACWA nutrient project proponents need to discuss collaboration on the functional area submittal. Prior to the recycled water meeting on April 1, interested project proponents should forward their project submittal information to Cheryl and Linda, including the benefits, timing, and readiness to proceed. The Recycled Water Committee will review and discuss the project submittals at the April 1 meeting. Lorien and Dave Williams will work with Cheryl and Linda to see how recycled water will fit in with the BACWA nutrient submittal.

ii. Revised on-line project form

There will be an online form that project proponents will need to complete for new, as well as updated projects already in the IRWMP. All projects looking for funding this round will be required to complete the submittal form.

d. Proposition 1

An announcement is expected to come out this or next week, followed by a public workshop. The WaterReuse CA Conference and Leg/Reg Committee meeting will provide more information.

i. Chapter 9

\$725M available statewide - \$100M of this will go for desalination projects, and \$625 to recycled water projects. It is expected this money will be dispersed over four to five years at about \$130k a year. Selection will be competitive on a statewide basis. The State Water Resources Control Board will be using the Proposition 13 guidelines for Chapter 9 (see February notes).

ii. IRWM

The guidelines for the IRWM portion will take longer to develop. \$131M is available statewide, but only \$2.7 M will be available for the Bay Area. There was some discussion about amortizing the Proposition 84 effort to account for this small amount of additional funding. Leah Walker discussed the problem that intermittent funding caused for supporting permanent positions.

3) SWRCB Draft Near-Term Recycled Water Funding Needs - Muñoz

a. Review agency info

Cheryl emailed to committee members Jennifer West, Managing Director WaterReuse CA's request for information on agencies' near-term recycled water projects. In particular, total recycled water project costs, the number of acre-feet that will be generated, and the start date of the project. This info is intended to for the SWRCB planning. This list might be used for Proposition 1 funding informational purposes. See email from Jennifer with instructions to add projects to list.

4) Legislation/Regulations Updates – Rosenblum/Muñoz

a. Legislation

i. WaterReuse CA 15-16 Bill List – Cheryl emailed a list to the committee

ii. SB 471 (Pavley) – Consider providing funds for water and energy projects or programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Acknowledges the connection between water and energy. Bill benefits Southern California more than the Bay Area since their water is more energy intensive.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB471&search_keywords=

iii. SB 551 (Wolk) – This bill would make a Statewide Policy that water use and water treatment be as energy efficient and energy use and generation be water efficient. The bill doesn't appear to penalize energy-intensive treatment processes such as reverse osmosis.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB551&search_keywords=

iv. AB 725 (Wagner) - IRWD's spot bill regarding storm-induced overflows of recycled water impoundments has SCWD support. Governor's office would like to see this taken care of administratively rather than legislatively.

v. SB 127 (Vidak) – This bill is intended to help expedite CEQA for Prop 1 funding. The intent is to prevent important projects from being hung up by opponents using CEQA. Mitigation between opposing parties would be used instead of lawsuits.

http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB127&search_keywords=

- vi. *SB 485 (Hernandez/Liu)* – This bill is focused on sanitation districts in LA County to capture stormwater for potential use in recycled water systems. Encourages entities to work together to develop guidance and management plans for centralized recycled water systems and on-site storm water capture and recycle water system.
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB485&search_keywords=stormwater+capture

- vii. *Division of Drinking Water Fee Proposal*
Cheryl emailed an attachment to the committee. Currently, revising the drinking water fee schedule requires legislation. Now that DDW is not in the SWRCB there is an effort being made to streamline the process to change the DDW fee schedule. There could be an annual adjustment without the full processes. The proposal is in the Governor’s budget, and needs to go through the Legislature.

b. Regulations

- i. *Update on Recycled Water Permit (96-011 and 2014-0090)*
This issue is on the agenda for joint BACWA/Regional Water Board meeting on March 13. Cheryl will follow up with Melissa Gunther of the Regional Water Board, who stated that 96-011 needs to be updated.
- ii. *Draft Updates to Titles 17 and 22* – Cheryl emailed the redline/strikeout version to the committee. WateReuse has proposed changes that they included in redline/strikeout form to the current text of Title 22 and Title 17. It is unlikely that DDW will revise Titles 17 or 22 due to staff limits. A more promising approach is for WateReuse to identify a smaller number of priority changes then make sure 1) that recycled water agencies are all on the same page about the proposed changes and 2) other groups are not opposed to WateReuse’s suggested changes. DDW asked whether there are priority changes that could be tackled as part of emergency drought regulation.
- iii. *Advanced Treatment Operator Certification*
WateReuse has proposed an advanced operator certification for advanced treatment. There is more knowledge required for advanced treatment than for conventional treatment, and a higher level of public safety burden, particularly for potable reuse. Irvine Ranch Water District is concerned that it could be problematic hiring staff if this certification was required. There are also questions about who would pay for developing this training. The Recycled Water Committee proposed that Summit Partners would be a good venue to discuss the issue as CWEA currently has a certification program. (Link to drinking water vs. wastewater operator certification requirements:
<https://bacwa.box.com/s/y26bxhq4gsc3p9fw3u62mucw7el31z2m>)

5) 2015 Recycled Water Survey Update – Muñoz/All

- a. *Approach and time frame*
The Recycled Water Survey needs to be updated to reflect changes in recycled water projects, both planned and built, since the last survey published in 2011. There is an opportunity to use existing information, and information from the nutrient watershed permit optimization and upgrade studies (led by the HDR team), as a data basis. Since the HDR team is doing site visits at the POTWs that discharge to the Bay beginning in April, there is an opportunity to use these visits to generate data for the Survey. The committee will need to develop the information that will be included in the Survey and a strategy for getting this information. Additional work will need to be done to obtain information for those agencies that do not discharge to the Bay. Cheryl will also propose a budget to the BACWA board for consultant assistance with the survey.

Peter Vorster from the Bay Institute explained the work he is doing for the State of the Estuary Update. It will include information on current recycled water use as reported in the 96-011 annual self-monitoring reports (which are due to the RWQCB on March 15). He is asking this Committee for assistance with the projections for future recycled water projects. There was a discussion on what counts as recycled water – potable and non-potable offset, or just potable offset.

6) Partnership Updates

- a. WRWC – not discussed
- b. NBWRA – not discussed
- c. Other partnerships - none

7) Announcements/Agency Updates – All

-Peter Vorster – Peter reported that the California Water Foundation website has a two page description of Western Water Foundation Sustainable Water Assessment tool.

- Eric Rosenblum – Eric participated in a conference call with Jennifer West of WateReuse and Regina Hirsh of the California Decentralized Water Policy Council (CDWPC). There is a spot bill from the Green Building Council (AB 1463 -Gatto) to establish water quality standards and distribution, monitoring, and reporting requirements for onsite recycled water treatment systems., It is anticipated that the bill will be extensively revised. Jennifer West will be introducing the concept at a WateReuse Board Meeting.

8) Next Meeting – April 1, 2015 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 2nd Floor Small Training Room at EBMUD Headquarters.