

BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes

EBMUD Headquarters – 2nd Floor Small Training Room

July 1, 2015

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1) Introductions – Muñoz

Cheryl Munoz – San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Linda Hu – East Bay Municipal Utility District
Roanne Ross – Whitley Burchett & Associates for Redwood City
Rhodora Biagtan – Dublin San Ramon Services District
Lorien Fono – BACWA
Luis Jaimes – Santa Clara Valley Water District
Marvin Perez - Dublin San Ramon Services District
Leah Walker – City of Petaluma
On Phone
Melody LaBella – Central Contra Costa Sanitary District
Tom Hall - EOA
Andria Loutch – CDMSmith
Kevin Booker – Sonoma Valley Water District
Eric Rosenblum - Envirospectives

2) Update on Prop 84 2015 IRWM Round – Muñoz/Hu

- a. *Proposed Bay Area projects* - The recommended projects are as follows: SF Bay Area Advanced Quantitative Precipitation Information (AQPI), Bay Area Regional Shoreline Resilience Program, San Francisco Flood Protection and Ecosystem Restoration (which will be included in the Shoreline Program), Coastal San Mateo Drought Relief, Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project, East Palo Alto Groundwater Supply Conjunctive Use Project, and the 2020 Turf Replacement Project. Total = \$41,305,435.
- b. *Adding projects into the BAIRWMP* – There was an interest amongst local entities in getting projects in the Plan even if they are not included in the current application to DWR. The Project Screening Committee (PSC) will send out a letter to see which agencies are interested and develop a process for inclusion of projects. Cheryl will investigate as to what distribution list they will use for this solicitation.

3) Update on Prop 1 and Recycled Water SRF – Muñoz/Hu

- a. Final guidelines for the Water Recycling Funding Program have been posted – [Guidelines](#) were adopted by the State Water Board. They are available via WaterReuse, but not on the State Water Board website at the time of the meeting.

4) Legislation and Regulatory Update – Muñoz/Hu/Rosenblum

- a. *SB 88 – Drought Trailer Bill providing CEQA Exemption for Water Recycling*
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB88
This bill will eventually sunset (Jan 1, 2017), so as to only apply during the drought. It is unclear if the exemption pertains only to groundwater replenishment projects. Jennifer West of WaterReuse is seeking clarification.
- b. *AB 606 (Levine) – Department of General Services landscape water use efficiency*
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB606

This would require the Department of General Services and the Department of Transportation to use of recycled water when feasible.

- c. *AB 888 (Bloom) – Prohibit use of plastic microbeads in personal care products*
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB888
CASA and WateReuse support this bill. A Stanford ReNUWIt professor is pushing back on this since they're developing treatment processes that would use biosolids to create microplastics. Their position is that the bill should allow biodegradable plastics. Others take the position that all microbeads be banned. Materials can be biodegradable, but how long it takes to biodegrade varies.
- d. *AB 1173 (Williams) - Backflow prevention device testing and certification*
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1173
This would move responsibility for backflow prevention testing from the water agencies and local authorities, to the plumbers. WateReuse and a number of water agencies are opposing the bill since it undermines current water agency backflow prevention programs. AB 1463 (Gatto) – Establish onsite recycled water standards
- e. http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1463
This bill was not developed in consultation with the centralized reuse community, and would benefit from collaboration so that both onsite and centralized systems meet the same standards. Eric Rosenblum is planning a meeting between the two groups to get an understanding on what a combined centralize/decentralized system would look like. DSRSD is looking at long term options for recycled water and decentralized treatment is one of the alternatives being studied. They feel that it will diminish the quality of the water that they will receive since they will get concentrated solids from the decentralized facility. They also foresee regulatory hurdles and increased use of staff for inspections and enforcement. Eric is interested in organizing a conference to bring together the central/on-site and rainwater interests together to develop a hybrid regulatory framework. Eric will ask CASA if they are interested in taking a position on the bill.
- f. *DDW and WateReuse meeting regarding proposed Title 22 changes* – Division of Drinking Water (DDW) will move forward with limited changes. They will allow hose bibs at cemeteries if they are in a locked box if there is a staff person with appropriate training to unlock the box for use in irrigation. The state doesn't feel they have the authority or expertise to regulate water reuse in zoos for wash-down or as a drinking water source.
- g. *Expert Panel of Surface Water Augmentation (SWA) Regulation* – DDW will provide criteria to evaluate the panel recommendations this summer. They are looking at one part recycled water to 100 parts reservoir water.

5) Update on Truck-Fill Facility Guidebook – Ross/Jain

WBA updated the [Truck Fill Location Guidebook](#). They were able to add agencies, and provide more details for existing agencies. There is a new section on residential fill facilities. Cheryl will send the survey to the contact at Caltrans. Lorien will include it in the BACWA Bulletin. Roanne suggested distributing it to the haulers that come to the truck fill facility. There was a discussion about how to best distribute the information that this is available to the commercial truck fill drivers, but BACWA doesn't have a PR apparatus.

There was a discussion about how to prevent haulers from performing illegal activities such as using the same truck to haul potable and recycled water, and what enforcement actions are being used. There is concern about a few bad actors giving residential truck programs a bad name. Melody LaBella recommended a joint meeting with BAPPG to discuss messaging on recycled water. It's a balance between communicating that it's safe for irrigation but users still need to be careful and follow their use agreement.

Lorien and Linda will put together the letter to the Regional Water Board requesting permission to haul water across jurisdictional boundaries where both the water agency and recycled water agency approve.

6) 2015 Recycled Water Survey – Muñoz/Ross

- a. *Approach* – Cheryl asked the committee what kind of information they would be looking for in the recycled water survey. Many external entities want the same information, and it would be good if

consistent information was available from all the agencies. For example, some agencies reported by fiscal year and others by calendar year. The Urban Water Management Plan and the HDR effort that is getting recycled water information to inform nutrient removal planning will form the bases for the information. Lorien generated the questions HDR is asking based on the BACWA 2011 recycled water survey. Cheryl will distribute the HDR survey questions to the group by email and solicit additional questions. The UWMP questions are not expected until later in the year.

7) Committee Succession Planning – Muñoz/Hu

- a. *Responsibilities* – The committee is still looking to fill the committee chair and co-chair positions because Linda and Cheryl are stepping down. Cheryl distributed a list of responsibilities for the committee chair.

8) Announcements/Agency Updates – All

The group agreed to switch the meeting schedule to only meet alternating months and picked the odd numbered months so as to not conflict with BAPPG. Extra meetings will be held as needed to handle urgent or time sensitive items.

Eric Hansen is leaving South Bay Water Recycling for the City of Milpitas and is handing off responsibility for the Recycled Water Landscape Guide. Cheryl will follow up on when this will be completed.

National WaterReuse award nominations are due on July 13, prior to the annual conference in Seattle September 13-17.

The next WaterReuse meeting in Northern California will be at Santa Clara Valley Water district at a date to be determined in August.

9) Next Meeting – September, 2 2015 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm.