

# **BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes**

**EBMUD Headquarters – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Small Training Room**

**November 4, 2015**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

## **1) Introductions – Biagtan**

Rhodora Biagtan - DSRSD

Linda Hu - EBMUD

Ben Glickstein - EBMUD

Vince Christian – Regional Water Board

Roanne Ross – WBA for Redwood City, Benicia, West Bay Sanitary District

Jayne Strommer - DSRSD

Lorien Fono - BACWA

Tom Hall – EOA

Leah Walker – City of Petaluma

David Williams – BACWA

Luis Jaimes – SCVWD

Ryan Grisso – North Marin Water District

*On phone*

Andria Loutsch – CDM Smith

Nate Hodges - CCCSD

Samantha Englage – Palo Alto

Eric Rosenblum – Envirospectives

Melody LaBella – CCCSD

Michele Young – South Bay Water Recycling

Tom Richardson – RMC

Cheryl Muñoz - SFPUC

## **2) Update on Prop 84 Round 2, Drought Round, and 2015 Round Grants--Munoz/Hu/Biagtan**

The first three invoices for Round 2 submitted have been approved SFEP/ABAG is in the process of amending the Local Project Agreements to incorporate items such as agencies' updated schedule, budget and deliverables. The intent is to provide one update to their agreement with DWR.

*Drought Round*— There was a kickoff with ABAG for grant recipients.

*2015 Round* – All projects in the Bay Area submittal were approved by DWR. No recycled water projects were in the Bay Area's submittal.

## **3) 2015 IRWM Round – Muñoz/Hu**

*Adding projects into the BAIRWMP* - There were ten new projects that have been submitted for inclusion in the BAIRWMP, including two recycled water projects from agencies not participating in the BACWA recycled water committee. The Coordinating Committee is deciding what kind of review process they will use to determine acceptance of projects into the IRWMP.

All project submissions were due September 30

## **4) Update on Prop 1 and Recycled Water SRF – Muñoz/Hu**

- a. *Water Recycling Funding Program Guidelines Posted for Proposition 1* – Agencies can request a kickoff meeting. Fifty applications for funding have been submitted with a 50/50 split of grants versus loans. There is a small amount of funding left at 1% interest rate (applications due by 12/2/15). They expect the money to go very quickly.
- b. *Prop. 1 IRWM* – Less than \$3M is allocated for the Bay Area for the first round. The Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) will be funded in the next round. There are funds for DAC outreach and project implementation. There has also been an effort to get DACs redefined to EDAs (Economically Disadvantaged Area), since the income threshold test is difficult in the Bay Area because the cost of living is so high. Prop 1 has some technical assistance for DACs to deal with managing the required paperwork and the cash flow for matching funds.
- c. *Federal funds* - no update

## 5) Legislation and Regulatory Update – Walker/Muñoz/Hu/Rosenblum Last WasteReuse Leg/Reg

- a. *SB 88 – Drought Trailer Bill providing CEQA Exemption for Water Recycling*  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160SB88](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB88)
- b. *AB 606 (Levine) – State Agencies landscape water use efficiency*  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB606](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB606)
- c. *AB 888 (Bloom) – Prohibit use of plastic microbeads in personal care products*  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB888](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB888)  
Passed. Microplastics are a larger issue since they encompass forms other than microbeads. For example, in a survey of Bay Area POTWs, plastic fibers were found in abundance.
- d. *AB 1173 (Williams) - Backflow prevention device testing and certification*  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB1173](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1173)
- e. *AB 1463 (Gatto) – Establish onsite recycled water standards*  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB1463](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1463)  
WasteReuse CA proposed amendments. This has become a two-year bill. Eric Rosenblum is interested in following up on discussions with the onsite reuse community.
- f. *Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and WasteReuse meeting regarding proposed Title 22 changes*  
WasteReuse CA has trimmed the requested list of changes for DDW to only include those that would be impediments to recycled water if they are not implemented.
- g. *Expert Panel of Surface Water Augmentation (SWA) Regulation*  
The draft surface water augmentation (SWA) regulations for indirect potable reuse are being developed. It is anticipated that one of the proposed requirements may be that surface water reservoirs must provide a minimum six-month theoretical retention time. This requirement may limit eligibility of surface water reservoirs to qualify for indirect potable reuse through surface water augmentation, and therefore trigger agencies to have to comply with future direct potable reuse regulations, which are yet to be developed.

WasteReuse CA is asking for assistance from agencies that have surface water reservoirs to provide information on reservoir retention time. Whether agencies are planning or not planning indirect potable reuse projects, this data would be helpful to WasteReuse to determine reservoir eligibility and inform discussions with the expert panel and regulatory agencies to hopefully lead to more flexibility or alternative permitting.

Residence times can be calculated through a simple equation of:

Average residence time =  $V/Q_{out}$

-V is the reservoir volume

-  $Q_{out}$  is the outflow of the reservoir such as the flow rate into the water treatment plant

Rhodora will circulate a request for data on agencies' reservoir retention times. Committee members should forward this email to their water agency counterparts.

There is interest in holding a local workshop featuring speakers from San Diego. This would be hosted through WateReuse or BACWA outside of the regular meeting schedule on December 9 or 11. (Edited to add: The meeting has been added as an afternoon workshop at the regular WateReuse meeting from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm on December 4, 2015 at the [Amador Ranch Center at Rancho San Ramon Community Park](#))

- h. *Ideas for New Legislation* - none
- i. *AB786 (Levine)* – Common interests development bill. Allow HOAs to fine homeowners for not reducing potable water use.
- j. *ABS214 (Gatto)* - Oil and Gas Reuse – Industrial reuse implications. Requires food labeling for food products that uses recycled water for production. WRA tracking.
- k. *Potential New Water Bond* – A new water bond has been proposed to capture the projects that fall outside of the purview of proposition 1. (Edited after the meeting to add: A non-Legislative water bond (“The Water Supply Reliability and Drought Protection Act of 2016 (Version 8)”) was filed with the Attorney General’s office on October 19 for inclusion on the ballot in 2016. The sponsor is Jerry Meral. The amount proposed was \$4.895 billion.  
Some of the features:  
\$1.5 B for stormwater capture and use (of this, up to \$50 million for stormwater resource plans)  
\$100 million for stormwater capture and use in specific areas/agencies  
\$400 million for recycled water  
\$400 million for desalination of brackish groundwater  
At least 50% cost share (reduced for DACs and EDAs)  
At least 35% of funds received must go to projects that benefit DACs  
\$400 million for water conservation – turf removal, repair leaking distribution systems, leak detection  
\$1.86 billion for watershed protection, restoration and improvement (allocated by specific areas)  
\$100 million for land management for water improvements  
\$400 million for flood management/reservoir operations)
- l. *WateReuse* – Issued an RFP to look at regulatory and legislative burdens and enablers to onsite water reuse in different jurisdictions nationwide.

## 6) Recycled Water Permit Comparison--Roa/Walker

There still isn't clarity on whether agencies can continue to opt into Region 2's General Order 96-011 for new projects. The State General Order does not prohibit applying for the Regions General Order. However, no one has applied for a new or expanded project under 96-011 to see whether it would actually be allowed by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board). CCCSD met with Melissa Gunter from the Regional Water Board to discuss permitting. They are at buildout for the capacity permitted under 96-011. Melissa stated that her opinion is that if an agency expands a project continuing a current use, treatment technology, and customer type, they would continue under 96-011. We are not sure if opinion reflects the Regional Board's position. The State Water Board is open to making the permit more workable, and is open to hearing from agencies. However new treatment technology and customer type would require coverage under the new State General Order. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is open to making the permit more workable, and are open to hearing from agencies. WateReuse has delivered a list of comments on the draft to the SWRCB.

The General Order 96-011 was written for urban areas, and the State's General Order is broader and includes agricultural uses. One outcome of this is requiring agronomic rates for urban irrigation.

There was discussion about the Salt/Nutrient Management Plans – the Regional Water Board only required them for three priority basins (Sonoma, Livermore, Santa Clara Valley). The Basin Plan Triennial Review ranked developing more Salt/Nutrient Management Plans very low in terms of Regional Water Board priorities.

### **7) Bay Area Landscape Guide--Biagtan**

Rhodora contacted HortScience regarding the status of the Recycled Water Landscape Guide they are developing. The document is in the editor's hands and is going through layout and production. HortScience is working on a Quickstart Guide that would be available sooner. They may come to the January meeting to discuss the guide.

There was a discussion about impacts on drought on recycled water landscape use. The drought is driving new large customers to accept recycled water.

### **8) Recycled Water Truck Fill Guide--Fono/Walker/Biagtan**

Whitely Burchett & Associates (WBA) has been contacted by recycled water users in the Bay Area and other parts of the state asking whether there are other similar guides throughout the State. There are not any that we know of. Caltrans projects in Petaluma's service area have been fully utilizing their truck fill program. Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) has been contacted by commercial truck haulers to deliver to residential storage tanks. They are considering next steps. In South Bay Water Recycling's service areas, they have developed provisions with the SWRCB to deliver to onsite storage for construction projects, and have developed engineering guidelines for the tanks. They are not permitting tanks on residential properties. They do permit trucks to disperse recycled water directly to residential landscaping.

DSRSD has begun doing inspections of residential properties and has taken permit cards away from homeowners who have put in illegal storage tanks, some of which have resulted in cross-connections. East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) had an urban farm asking about storing recycled water onsite. The agency denied the request based on problems associated with recycled water ageing. EBMUD would like to know how other agencies are handling this type of issue. Eric said there is a Water Environment Research Federation study on regrowth in distribution systems.

*BACWA Truck Fill Guide* – The Regional Water Board issued a [press release](#) on Residential Truck Fill Programs and mentioned the BACWA Truck fill guide. There is interest by some committee members in updating the Truck Fill Guide once per year, each March, when agencies are making plans for the dry season. The committee plans to announce a call for updates at the BACWA Annual Meeting. . Group agreed that the Guide could include agency info from agencies outside of BACWA (e.g., Scotts Valley) if they provide the information.

#### **Report from BACWA Executive meeting at Pardee -- Fono**

BACWA asked the Regional Water Board to develop a policy to give regulatory certainty to agencies that will be producing reverse osmosis (RO) concentrate as part of their recycled water projects. The Regional Water Board is not interested in pursuing a specific policy. There is already language in the Basin Plan that allows for increasing dilution credits for permitting RO discharge. RO concentrate will be permitted on a case-by-case basis.

There will be a data request on current recycled water production and future plans distributed to wastewater agencies as part of the Nutrient Optimization and Upgrade Studies.

### **9) Western Recycled Water Coalition Membership--Strommer/Biagtan**

The Coalition has about 25 members throughout California and are recruiting. They are expanding to other States. They have been lobbying legislatively for drought-related grant programs. See [Westernrwc.org](http://Westernrwc.org).

**10) Announcements/Agency Updates – All**

Linda and Cheryl will give a presentation on BACWA's funding experience through the IRWM at the March California WaterReuse Annual Conference.

Next WaterReuse Chapter meeting will be December 4.

**11) Next Meeting** – January 6, 2016 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 2nd Floor Small Training Room at EBMUD Headquarters.