

# **BACWA Recycled Water Committee Meeting Notes**

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

**March 2, 2016**

**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

## **1. Introductions**

Rhodora Biagtan – DSRSD

Leah Walker – City of Petaluma

Lorien Fono – BACWA

Dave Williams – BACWA

Karin North – City of Palo Alto

Cheryl Muñoz – SFPUC

Paul Gilbert-Snyder – EBMUD

Anita Jain - WBA

*On Phone*

Eric Hansen – City of Milpitas

Josef Alejandro – CCCSD

Jayne Strommer – Delta Diablo

Eric Rosenblum - Envirosppectives

Aparna Chatterjee – City of Hayward

Kevin Booker – Sonoma County Water Agency

Luis Jaimes – Santa Clara Valley Water District

Tom Hall – EOA

Dan Jackson – City of Benicia

## **2. Draft Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan Implementation Actions**

At the January meeting, Darcy Luce of the San Francisco Estuary Partnership (SFEP) provided a presentation on the CCMP. Before the March meeting, SFEP delivered an updated draft of the recycled actions from the CCMP to BACWA, now with the three recycled water actions incorporated into one. They responded to BACWA's previous key comments about working with stakeholders, and recognizing other important uses for effluent such as support of marsh habitat. For the next draft, the committee will make the following comments to SFEP:

- The CCMP includes specific reports with deadlines, but there is no ownership assigned for these tasks, which will be key to the success of the Plan.
- Recycled water goals should be divided into use for potable offsets, and beneficial uses such as habitat and sea level rise.
- Much of the coordination that the CCMP is proposing is already happening and should be recognized in the document.

The schedule for releasing the report is spring 2016, and so SFEP will need comments within the month. (Edited after the meeting to add that SFEP incorporated BACWA's recommendations. The next draft will be shared with the committee at the May 2016 meeting)

## **3. Bay Area Landscape Guide—Hansen**

Eric Hansen has seen mockup of chapter 1, and reports that it looks good. A new photo editor was hired to help complete the project. The goal for release is May 2016. BACWA members submitted substantial comments but haven't seen them incorporated into the draft. There isn't budget for the stakeholder comment meetings, so the comments have been incorporated as

best as the writers were able with the available budget but they weren't able to make an exhaustive effort to satisfy all stakeholders.

#### **4. BACWA Executive Board Meeting, February 19--Biagtan/Fono**

*a. Committee Budget - \$1,000*

There is \$35,000 fund for committees as needed if an unforeseen project comes up.

*b. [Advanced Water Treatment Certification Operation White Paper](#)*

The California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) in conjunction with WaterReuse, CASA, CWEA and AWWA, produced a white paper discussing a certification program for operators of potable reuse treatment facilities. The report considers 4 potential certification options – a stand-alone program specifically for potable reuse facilities, supplementing the existing drinking water op cert program, supplementing the existing wastewater op cert program, or a supplement to either DW or WW certification. The committee consensus is that we don't need another level of certification, but that there should perhaps be dual certification at a facility for water and wastewater. This process needs representation from the wastewater community so water agencies don't make the decisions in a vacuum. CUWA will be hosting a meeting on the subject, and Dave Williams will make sure that CASA and BACWA representatives know about it.

Also, Legislation has been introduced to update the drinking water and wastewater operation certification programs to be more consistent with each other (AB2890). The proposed legislation defines what a wastewater treatment plant is and requires operators at recycled water facilities to have either a wastewater treatment or water treatment operator certificate.

*c. Bay Area Regional Reliability Project*

Eight water agencies are proposing to collaborate in a workgroup looking at Regional water supply reliability. EBMUD is providing contracting services but isn't the chair of the group. There is a task force that is advising eight water agencies in their project. Mike Connor of EBDA will be representative, since EBDA does not have a water program, and Roger Bailey of CCCSD will be the alternate. (Edited to add that Mike Connor and Roger Bailey have swapped roles).

#### **5. Update on Prop 1 and Recycled Water SRF – Muñoz/Hu**

*a. [State Water Board Authorizes \\$960 Million in 1% Financing For Recycled Water Projects, Projects Recommended by State Board for Receiving 1% Financing](#)*

The Coordinating Committee meeting had an update on IRWM. Invoices from September through December 2015 are being prepared, and will be submitted to DWR by March 31. DWR is reviewing the previous quarter's invoices. For the Drought Round, ABAG is reviewing the first quarterly invoice and report. StopWaste is reviewing the conservation portion. On March 24 there will be a kickoff meeting for the conservation projects. StopWaste gave a plug for their Lawn to Garden program. There was a discussion about the AQPI project, which will have its own agreement with DWR.

The State Water Board authorized additional funding for Recycled Water, so agencies that submitted applications by December 2 will be considered for the 1% loans. Applications will be judged based on level of completion. The State is asking for a lot of documentation, including financial and permitting documents and customer agreements.

*b. Update on unsolicited proposal.*

Regional Water Board staff encouraged BACWA to develop an unsolicited proposal for Proposition 1 recycled water research funds. BACWA will hold a kickoff conference call on March 22 to discuss proposal concepts.

## 6. Recycled Water General Order 2016 -- Biagtan

- a. BACWA Comment Letter, sent 2/22/16  
The [comment letter](#) was approved by the BACWA Executive Board and submitted to the State Water Board on February 22. Regional Water Board staff said that they have already approved new projects under 96-011, although it's not clear whether there are any that have expanded beyond their permitted capacity. The Regional Water Board staff does not appear to be interested in forcing agencies to use the State General Order. There is some concern that our comment letter call attention to different permitting systems. WaterReuse didn't fully incorporate BACWA's recommendation into their comment letter, but recommended going back to the language in the 2014 version of the Order.
- b. Public Hearing and Adoption - April 19, 2016 (Edited to add that hearing has been postponed)

## 7. **Legislation and Regulatory Update – Walker/Muñoz/Hu**

### a. *Active Legislation*

SB 163(Hertzberg) – Limit wastewater ocean discharges [Refer to WaterReuse CA letter]  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160SB163](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB163)  
No recent action.

AB 1463 (Gatto) – Establish onsite recycled water standards for use of Onsite Treated Water  
[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB1463](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB1463)  
No recent action.

AB 2076 (Garcia/Eggman) - Water recycling: beer and wine.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB2076](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2076)  
**Subject:** The state board shall adopt uniform water recycling criteria for the use of recycled water in the manufacture of beer and wine.  
**STATUS:**  
2/17/16: Introduced. Referred to ESTM.

AB 2890 (ESTM) – Water and Wastewater Operator Certification.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB2890](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2890)  
**Subject:** Water Code §13627 (a) Except as provided in Section 13625.1 and subdivision (b), a person who operates a wastewater treatment plant shall possess a valid, unexpired wastewater certificate of the appropriate grade. (b) A person who operates a water recycling treatment plant may comply with subdivision (a) by possessing a valid, unexpired water treatment operator certificate of the appropriate grade.  
**STATUS:**  
2/29/16: Introduced.

AB 2438 (Waldron/Nazarian) - California Environmental Quality Act: exemption: recycled water pipelines.  
[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB2438](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2438)

**Subject:** PRC 21080.21.5. (a) This division does not apply to a project of less than eight miles in length within a public street, highway, or right-of-way for the construction and installation of a new recycled water pipeline, or the maintenance, repair, restoration, reconditioning, relocation, replacement, removal, or demolition of an existing recycled water pipeline. Until Jan 1, 2020

**STATUS:**

2/19/16: Introduced.

AB 2241 (Dahle) - Placeholder

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB2241](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2241)

**Subject:** nonsubstantive changes - placeholder

**STATUS:**

2/18/16: Introduced.

AB 2639 (Garcia) - Placeholder

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB2639](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2639)

**Subject:** nonsubstantive changes - placeholder

**STATUS:**

2/19/16: Introduced.

AB 2335 (Gaines) - Placeholder

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB2335](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB2335)

**Subject:** nonsubstantive changes - placeholder

**STATUS:**

2/18/16: Introduced.

SB 1096 (Berryhill) - Placeholder

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160SB1096](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1096)

**Subject:** nonsubstantive changes - placeholder

**STATUS:**

2/17/16: Introduced.

*b. Completed/Passed Legislation*

AB 888 (Bloom) – Microplastics

[http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill\\_id=201520160AB888](http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160AB888)

Irrelevant because of federal legislation that requires a faster timeline for phase out of microbeads.

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)

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)

**Subject:** CEQA exemptions during drought for RW pipeline under certain circumstances (thru 1/1/2017) and for development of building standards for recycled water systems (i.e., dual plumbed systems) by 1/1/2017).

RW BUILDING STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC BUILDINGS:

SB 88 recycled water pipelines follows on **SB 2282 (2014, Gatto)**. [H&SC §18940.6](#): Building Standards Commission “shall adopt mandatory building standards for the installation of recycled water systems for newly constructed commercial and public buildings. The commission shall consider the proposed mandatory building standards during the 2016 Intervening Code Adoption Cycle and may amend these mandatory standards as necessary in future code adoption cycles, consistent with the recycled water use criteria.”

STATUS:

From BSC webpage.

BSC action Jan 19-20, 2016

Updates to greywater standards proposed for triennial updates to building code:

<http://www.documents.dgs.ca.gov/bsc/2015TriCycle/Commission-Review/Jan-2016/HCD-06-15-FET-Pt5.pdf>

c. *Potential New Water Bond*

A non-Legislative water bond has been postponed to November 2018.

d. *Agenda for SWRCB DDW Advisory Group on DPR:*

- Meeting #8 of the SWRCB Division of Drinking Water’s (DDW) Advisory Group on Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) was held on January 19, 2016 in Fountain Valley, CA.
- Meeting # 9 is scheduled for March 3, 2016 at SFEI.
- Meeting # 10 is scheduled for April 8, 2016 ◦ Location: Orange County Water District in Fountain Valley, California

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking\\_water/certlic/drinkingwater/RW\\_DPR\\_advisorygroup.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/RW_DPR_advisorygroup.shtml).

e. *SWRCB DDW Expert Panel on Surface Water Augmentation and DPR:*

- Meeting # 7 held in Orange County, Dec 1-2, 2015
- Meeting #8 – February 24-25, 2016 in San Jose
- Meeting #9 – March 2016, in a California location TBD

<http://www.nwri-usa.org/ca-panel.htm>

The minimum retention time of 6 months isn’t feasible for a number of reservoirs in the Bay Area. In GWR, there is a clause allowing consideration of equivalent level of public health protection. WaterReuse put together a [White Paper](#) on the alternatives clause. A Letter of Support from WaterReuse was included in the agenda packet in preparation on alternatives proposal. There was a request for BACWA to put together a letter – Rhodora and Leah will put together a draft for review. (Edited to add: [final comment letter](#)).

## 8. Bay Area Recycled Survey (for Nutrient Study)

BACWA will be updating its 2011 Bay Area Recycled Water Survey as part of the work associated with the Nutrient Watershed Permit. The approach includes using the information DWR is collecting as part of the Urban Water Management Plans updates, and that agencies report via 96-011, and adding projections data. The State Water Board is also requesting recycled water data. The committee’s goal is to report standard information to each entity requesting the data. Petaluma is currently test driving the recycled water information request to ensure it is feasible. The survey will be sent out with HDR along with the optimization/upgrade facility reports.

## 9. Announcements/Agency Updates

### a. *WateReuse*

WateReuse California Conference-March 13-15 in Santa Rosa

Cheryl Munoz will be giving a talk on funding water recycling projects through the IRWMP.

WateReuse Northern California Chapter Meeting, May 20 in Santa Rosa

b. Truck fill updates - Karin North (chair of Santa Clara Valley Recycled Water Retailers Association) – Discussed training for recycled water users. They are looking at broadening their message to a wider group of users to make sure we have a consistent message in the Bay Area. There was discussion about using the same materials and running local training sessions.

DSRSD – They will start up their residential fill station program this year again with two sites. They will be monitoring a small group of large users.

Palo Alto also has contractors who want to perform a service to collect and apply recycled water to residences. There was a question of offsite storage. The committee discussed whether AB 1463 (Gatto) could be a vehicle for providing guidance for onsite reuse of centrally produced water. Customers doing aggressive conservation and some level of onsite reuse are leading to extremely high strength wastewater.

**Next Meeting** – May 4, 2016 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, 2nd Floor Small Training Room at EBMUD Headquarters.