
Recycled Water Plan

RECYCLED WATER PLAN

Participation in Regional Recycled Water Planning

Law: **10633.** *The plan shall provide, to the extent possible, information on recycled water and its potential for use as a water source in the service area of the urban water supplier. To the extent practicable, the preparation of the plan shall be coordinated with local water, wastewater, groundwater, and planning agencies and shall include all of the following: (a) A description of the wastewater collection and treatment systems in the supplier's service area, including a quantification of the amount of wastewater collected and treated and the methods of wastewater disposal.*

The District, along with SDCWA and MWD, are participants in regional recycled water planning. As mentioned in the Water Management section of this Plan, the District is currently implementing a recycled water program.

The District purchases tertiary water from the City's Regional Reclaimed Water Project. The treated effluent meets all requirements of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations. The City currently pumps treated water into a storage tank at an elevation that allows for delivery of adequate pressure through gravity feed into the District's recycled water delivery system.

Funding for a major portion of the District's recycled water distribution system was provided by the State Water Resources Control Board (Proposition 13 and Proposition 50 funds). This funding consisted of a grant award for \$426,264 and a low-interest (2.4%) loan in the amount of \$1,278,794.

Wastewater Collection and Treatment

Law: **10633.** *(a) A description of the wastewater collection and treatment systems in the supplier's service area, including a quantification of the amount of wastewater collected and treated and the method of wastewater disposal. (b) A description of the quantity of treated wastewater that meets recycled water standards, is being discharged, and is otherwise available for use in a recycled water project. (c) A description of the recycled water currently being used in the supplier's service area, including, but not limited to, the type, place, and quantity of use.*

The District is a *retailer* of imported water and recycled water, and does not participate in the collection or treatment of wastewater. Wastewater collection and treatment within the District's service area and all other parts of Escondido is managed and operated by the City at its Hale Avenue Resource Recovery Facility. For details about waste water collection and

treatment, please see the 2005 Plan submitted by the City.

Potential and Projected Use, Optimization Plan with Incentives

When first considering the delivery of recycled water, the District contacted potential recycled water users that received potable water through meters serving water for landscape irrigation purposes. This sector of customers initially included 80 accounts ranging from HOA common areas, to school yards, and other outdoor facilities. Of the 80 accounts contacted, the District received signed letters of intent (representing 66 meters) for participation in the recycled water program.

Although the construction of the recycled water distribution system was completed in 2004, the process of site retrofit continues. The District anticipates that once retrofits for landscape meters have been completed, 66 potable water meters will have been converted to recycled water.

Future Recycled Water Commitments

Law: **10633. (d)** *A description and quantification of the potential uses of recycled water, including, but not limited to, agricultural irrigation, landscape irrigation, wildlife habitat enhancement, wetlands, industrial reuse, groundwater recharge, and other appropriate uses, and a determination with regard to the technical and economic feasibility of serving those uses. (e)* *The projected use of recycled water within the supplier's service area at the end of 5, 10, 15, and 20 years and a description of the actual use of recycled water in comparison to uses previously projected pursuant to this subdivision. (f)* *A description of actions, including financial incentives, which may be taken to encourage the use of recycled water, and the projected results of these actions in terms of acre-feet of recycled water used per year. (g)* *A plan for optimizing the use of recycled water in the supplier's service area, including actions to facilitate the installation of dual distribution systems, to promote recirculating uses, to facilitate the increased use of treated wastewater that meets recycled water standards, and to overcome any obstacles to achieving that increased use.*

Beyond those recycled water connections for landscape irrigation discussed above, the District has committed to provide 3,622 acre-feet a year of recycled water to be used in the cooling tower of a 500 mega-watt power generation facility. This industrial use of recycled water is slated to receive deliveries in 2006. See **Table 11** for current and estimated future recycled water demands.

Future Uses

As mentioned earlier in this Plan, the District is currently limited to a specific amount of recycled water available to its delivery system due to the City's treatment facility capabilities. As the City implements recommendations within its Master Plan, and as the treatment facility capacity is increased, the District will be able to consider feasibility studies for increasing recycled water use.

Recycled Water Use - 2000 Projections

In its 2000, Plan the District discussed the upcoming Recycled Water Program. However, at the time the Plan was written, specific information on the quantity of recycled water to be served was not available since negotiations with the City were pending. The District anticipated that initial deliveries were expected to begin at 250 acre-feet per year with an eventual ramping to 648 acre-feet within 30 years. As discussed earlier in this section, the District currently has demands of 4,074 acre-feet per year committed to begin in 2006. The District's original projection of recycled water demands of 2000 have been exceeded by 529%.

Encouraging the Use of Recycled Water

The District adopted Ordinance 114 (see [Appendix G](#)) on February 1999, establishing a recycled water optimization plan. This Ordinance contains the District's policy on recycled water use. It is the policy of the District that recycled water shall be used within its jurisdiction wherever its use is economically justified, financially and technically feasible, and consistent with legal requirements, compliant of public health, safety and welfare of the environment although dependant on availability.

The District has and will continue to evaluate existing and proposed irrigated greenbelts, irrigated agriculture, commercial office buildings, industrial processing, and artificial lakes when deemed economically and technically feasible, and as increased recycled water supplies become available.

To encourage the use of recycled water as a drought-proof source, the District currently offers recycled water at 34% less than potable water rates, while meter charges are 50% less than potable rates.

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