



CALIFORNIA

Water Boards

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

**Water Plan Plenary Session, Water Recycling Panel
Jonathan Bishop, Chief Deputy Director
September 19, 2008**

Recycled Water Policy Development

- Policy needed to promote and appropriately regulate recycled water
- Stakeholder group presented proposed policy to State Water Board on September 2, 2008
- Board directed staff to make only necessary changes and bring to Board for proposed adoption; staff proceeding
- SB 1391 (Padilla, 2008) requires adoption of a recycled water policy by January 31, 2009 provided no CEQA work is required. However, CEQA required

Stakeholders' Proposed Recycled Water Policy

- Establishes goals for recycled water and water conservation
- Articulates benefits of recycled water
- Articulates agency roles
- Requires development of salt/nutrient management plans, including basin-wide groundwater monitoring

Stakeholders' Proposed Recycled Water Policy

- Landscape irrigation projects: streamlined permitting
- Groundwater recharge reuse projects: site-specific permitting
- Anti-degradation approach using 10% / 20% available salt loading
- Blue ribbon panel on emerging contaminants
- Priority funding for recycled water projects and storm water projects

General Permit: Landscape Irrigation Use of Recycled Water

- AB 1481 (De La Torre, 2007) requires statewide general permit for landscape irrigation use of recycled water by July 31, 2009
- State Water Board held CEQA scoping meeting on June 18, 2008
- Staff is reviewing comments and drafting general permit and CEQA document
- Public review of draft documents targeted for Fall, 2008

Recycled Water Loans and Grants

- Research - Proposition 13 grants funding water reuse research through WaterReuse Foundation, U.C. Davis, and Department of Public Health
- Funding Recycled Water Facilities – Loans and grants from state bond funds and State Revolving Fund
- Economic Task Force - State Water Board organizing economic task force to develop procedures for evaluating economic benefits of recycled water projects

Strategic Plan Update

- Adopted by State Water Board on September 2, 2008
- Requires actions to promote recycled water
 - use existing regulatory mechanisms to require development and implementation of water recycling plans

Bay/Delta Strategic Workplan

- Adopted by State Water Board on July 16, 2008
- Requires agencies to develop and implement water recycling plans

Recycled Water: Local Perspective

- Disposal of wastewater can be costly
- Wastewater discharges to surface water
 - requires expensive monitoring programs
 - can trigger stiff mandatory minimum penalties for effluent violations
- Recycled water as marketable commodity, may be cheaper than imported water
- Recycled water typically more reliable, with surface water unavailable some years
- Recycled water may be the only alternative available to provide water for further development

Recycled Water: State Perspective

- Using recycled water in southern California reduces demand on water imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
- Energy costs and benefits vary project by project
- Increased energy costs possible if extensive additional treatment required
- Increased energy benefits in southern California instead of pumping water from northern California



CALIFORNIA

Water Boards

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS