

2015 Year at a Glance

Working Together for Water Reuse



Lesley Stahl of 60 Minutes drinks purified water at the Orange County Water District.

Running Dry: Drought Puts Recycling in the Media Spotlight

California's four-year drought is big news, and so is potable reuse and all types of water recycling. WateReuse California (WRCA) and its members were featured in dozens of positive national and local stories, including many on the expansion of potable reuse in California and recycled water fill stations. WRCA serves as a point of contact and information about recycled water for the media in California and provides referrals as appropriate to member agencies.

Annual Conference Sets Attendance Record

The Los Angeles Millennium Biltmore Hotel was the site of the very successful 2015 WRCA Annual Conference — with attendees topping 500, an all time record! A dedicated group of WRCA volunteers and the tireless work of Courtney Tharpe, Director of Conferences for the WateReuse Association, made this fabulously successful conference possible. Mark your calendars for the 2016 Annual Conference to be held in Santa Rosa on March 13-15.

California is facing one of the worst droughts in its history. Reservoirs are badly drained, farmers have endured forced cutbacks and there are mandatory conservation measures for homes and communities. Policy makers are increasingly looking towards recycled water as a way to not only survive this drought, but also provide an ongoing, sustainable source of supply for our state's future. WateReuse California is working towards that end through advocacy and outreach to the California Legislature, regulatory agencies, stakeholders and the media.

Proposition 1 Implementation Designates \$625 million for Recycled Water Projects in California

With the passage of Proposition 1, California voters and the Brown Administration signaled their support of recycled water, which contained \$625 million for both potable and nonpotable recycled water projects. WRCA successfully advocated for the inclusion of this funding in the bond, which is significantly more state funding than has ever been available for water recycling. To assist in the roll out of

these funds WRCA worked with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to survey members on the number of planned projects in the immediate pipeline and worked on the updated Proposition 1 funding guidelines. WRCA also advocated before the California Legislature to ensure significant funding was immediately appropriated in the state budget for water recycling.

Potable Reuse Outreach: Regulatory Effort Kicks into High Gear

WRCA is working closely with the SWRCB, the Expert Panel and its members to ensure the timely release of the surface water augmentation regulations and report to the California Legislature on the feasibility of developing statewide regulations for Direct Potable Reuse. Additionally, WRCA continues to lead the effort to inform and educate Legislators, members of the Administration and other stakeholders about potable reuse in California. In 2015 WRCA held a number of legislative briefings about the status of potable reuse regulations, use in California, safety and public percep-

tion. Additionally, WRCA delivered potable reuse presentations to numerous local and statewide organizations, including the Governor's Summit on Water Technology and co-hosted the *Sacramento Drought—Potable Reuse Summit* with the California Water Environment Association.



WRCA Welcomes New Central Coast Chapter

Thanks to the efforts of WRCA volunteers, we will soon welcome a new Central Coast Chapter. The Kick off Meeting will be held this fall.

Currently there are six WRCA Chapters:

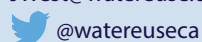
- Central Valley/Sierra Foothills
- Northern California
- Los Angeles
- Orange County
- Inland Empire
- San Diego

The Chapters, working closely with WRCA, provide membership with opportunities to discuss and promote local water recycling projects and share information on the state and local level.

For more information about WRCA chapter activities, visit:
www.watereuse.org/sections/watereuse-california/chapters/



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Mike Marcus, President of WaterReuse California and GM of Orange County Water District, delivers a legislative briefing on potable reuse.

2015 Legislative Scorecard

WRCA has a very active Legislative-Regulatory Committee that meets throughout the legislative session which takes positions and develops strategy on California legislative and regulatory issues. The Committee has standing membership, but participation and input is encouraged from other WRCA members. WRCA employs a contract legislative advocate that helps communicate our positions and explain recycled water issues in the California Legislature. Below is a rundown of some of the 2015 bills with WRCA position:

AB 606 (Levine)

Encouraging water conservation and use of recycled water on state property.

Position: Support

Status: Signed into law

AB 786 (Levine)

Clarifying homeowner association rules for fines and use of recycled water.

Position: Support

Status: Signed into law

AB 888 (Bloom)

Prohibiting sale of microbeads in personal care products after 2020.

Position: Support

Status: Signed into law

AB 1463 (Gatto)

Requires the SWRCB to spearhead a process for the development of standards that will encourage the safe use of onsite reused water.

Position: Amend

Status: Two-year bill

Budget Trailer Bill

CEQA exemption for potable reuse pipelines until 2017 or end of drought emergency.

Position: Support

Status: Signed into law

SB 163 (Hertzberg)

Declares that the discharge of wastewater to the ocean is a waste and unreasonable use of water unless in compliance with the provisions of the bill. With some exceptions, bans ocean wastewater discharge by 2036 and requires wastewater to be recycled.

Position: TBD at legislative fall planning meeting

Status: Two-year bill