

WateReuse Research Foundation: Research and DPR Initiative

BACKGROUND

The Foundation is an educational, nonprofit public benefit 501(c)(3) corporation that conducts applied research on behalf of the water and wastewater community for the purpose of **advancing the science of water recycling and desalination**. The Foundation's research, steered by an independent group of experts (Research Advisory Committee), covers a broad spectrum of issues, including potable reuse, chemical contaminants, pathogens, treatment technologies, industrial reuse, salinity management, public perception, and economics. Through **leadership, research, and education & outreach**, we support communities across the U.S. and abroad in their efforts to create new sources of high quality water while protecting public health and the environment.

RESEARCH STATS

Since 2000

- **198** projects commissioned
- Over **\$61M** in funding leveraged
- **145** published reports
- **50** active projects

So far in 2014

- **19** projects launched
- **\$3M** in WRRF funding, leveraged by additional **\$4.2M** (and counting)
- **16** published reports (and counting)

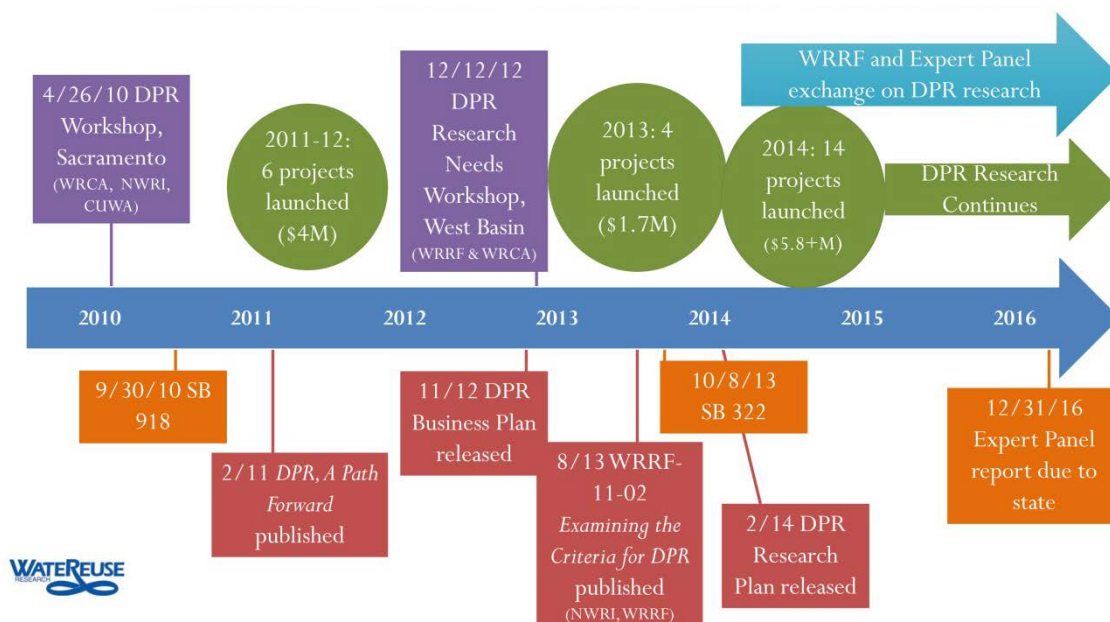
California Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) Initiative

The Foundation, in partnership with WateReuse California, launched the DPR Initiative in June of 2012 to advance DPR as a water supply option in California. This was driven by the establishment in recent years of statewide goals for the use of recycled water, and a mandate from the California legislature to come up with a feasibility study by 2016 to investigate developing uniform water recycling criteria for DPR.

This Initiative was built upon a solid research that started in 2011 when WRRF began funding research identified in WateReuse's *Direct Potable Reuse: A Path Forward* publication. That insightful effort informed a DPR

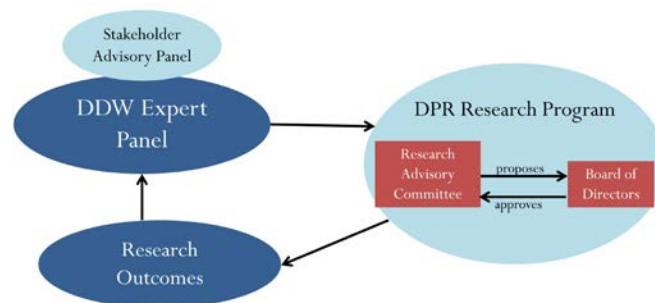
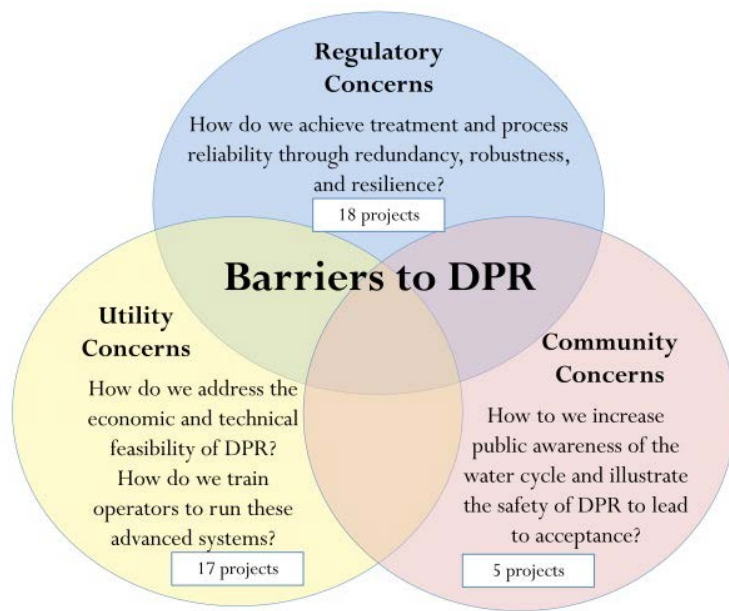
Research Needs meeting held in December 2012 which forged the framework of the Foundation's DPR research agenda.

Since 2012, the DPR Initiative has raised over \$6 million for cutting-edge DPR research. This includes \$500,000 in matching funds from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and a partnership with Water Research Foundation for \$600,000. Not included in that total is a \$2.1 million grant from the Department of Water Resources and San Diego County Water Authority for a DPR demonstration project in San Diego launched in September.



DPR Research

To date, the Foundation has allocated \$4.5 million to fund 26 Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) research projects. This important research to address the regulatory, utility, and community barriers is valued at \$11.5 million.



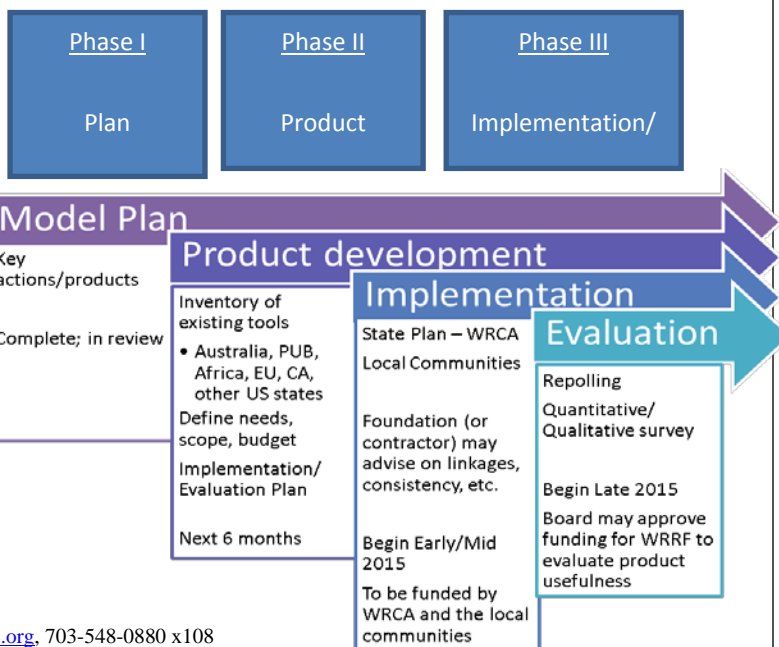
All of the research under our DPR Initiative is made available to the DDW Expert Panel for their consideration as they navigate the important task of determining the feasibility of DPR. So far in 2014, the Foundation has had positive communication and collaboration with the Expert Panel. Through two meetings (March 5 and July 24) and an Expert Panel report released by NWRI, the Foundation has presented our DPR Research Plan and received valuable guidance on additional research needed to ensure the safety of DPR. In response to this, the WRRF Research Advisory Committee (RAC) convened in September to develop additional DPR research projects for funding. The Board approved the RAC-recommended slate of seven new DPR projects valued at more than \$1 million, adding to the \$1M (4 projects) already approved in 2014. The Foundation will continue to interface with and respond to the needs of the Expert Panel.

DPR Public Outreach and Awareness

An uninformed public may be the biggest obstacle to DPR, despite the technical feasibility and safety of the practice. The Foundation and WRCA are taking a three-phased approach to gain public acceptance of DPR in California:

1. Develop Strategic Communication Plans (state and local)
2. Develop Messaging Material and Methods
3. Implement, Evaluate and Refine Plan

Status: Phase I has been accomplished, and the local and statewide communication plans will be available in late 2014. To kick off Phase II, we are holding a workshop in November to start developing tools and products as outlined in the plans.



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