

Los Angeles Chapter of the WaterReuse Association MEETING SUMMARY



Location: Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
Address: Room 1-102 (first floor)
700 N. Alameda St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Purpose: Bi-Monthly Meeting
Date and Time: August 12, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Distribution: Los Angeles WaterReuse Association Chapter Members

Lunch: Sponsored by MNS Engineers

Below is a summary of highlights from the August, bimonthly member meeting of the LA Chapter of the WaterReuse Association.

1) Venue host presentation: Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA (Ray Mokhtari, Wiggs Mendoza and Peggy Vogt)

Ray Mokhtari discussed the status of Metropolitan's On-Site Retrofit Program, Foundational Action Program, and Local Resources Program. Wiggs Mendoza and Peggy Vogt presented Metropolitan's new Innovation and Technology Program under which there is now a WaterReuse group that we can all join!

- **On-Site Retrofit Program:** This program was initiated by Metropolitan's Board of Directors in February 2014 based on finding that cost and user site conversion are factors often cited as reasons for not using recycled water. Applications for funding will be accepted until June 2016. Funds will be available for 3 years, or until depleted (unless the Board authorizes additional funding).

Funding is open to public or private property owners. Agencies or contractors can submit the applications and perform the work on an owner's behalf.

After an application is approved, the agency has 3 months to start construction, 3 months to start up the system, and 3 months to submit invoices. If you miss the deadlines, award will be cancelled. Permits need to be in place when starting construction. If there's a delay outside your control, Met will consider on case-by-case basis.

Further information and applications can be accessed through www.BeWaterWise.com.

- **Foundational Action Program:** Funds for this program, exclusively for Metropolitan member agencies, have been exhausted. Projects supported included those related to indirect and direct potable reuse.
- **Local Resources Program:** Also for member agencies only, these funds are intended to promote the development of water recycling and groundwater recovery projects. LRP funding covers distribution system projects whereas connection fees (including small laterals and meter) are included in On-Site Retrofit program.



- **Innovation and Technology Program:** Wiggs Mendoza and Peggy Vogt described this new program that is being spearheaded by Metropolitan's Business Outreach Group. This program is intended to be a way to discover emerging technologies that can help Metropolitan and its member agencies.

One way is through the **H₂O TechConnect** portal which allows you to connect with other people, innovators, companies, and funders or venture capitalists. Participants can connect with other people, find solutions to water challenges, share knowledge and expertise, form public-private partnership to advance water research, and discover emerging technologies. Become a member and join the WaterReuse Group at <https://h2otechconnect.intronetworks.com>

Metropolitan also uses a Technology Approval Group (TAG) to evaluate large-scale technologies for water utilities like turbines embedded in large pipelines for power generation. Metropolitan is considering developing a TAG for mid-size recycled water technologies that could be used by local agencies to evaluate innovative water reuse technologies.

2) Water Recycling Legislative/Regulatory Updates (Raymond Jay)

Raymond noted near-term milestone dates of August 31, the last day to pass bills in each house prior to the final recess, and September 30, the last day for the Governor to sign or veto bills. He provided updates on the following legislative items pertinent to recycled water use:

- *AB 2282 Building Standards-Recycled Water Infrastructure:* Pushed up adoption schedule to 2016 from 2017. These recycled water requirements for residential and commercial buildings would be up to the local jurisdiction to adopt. Exemption for agencies considering Direct Potable Reuse (DPR). The "local jurisdiction" could be a water purveyor or recycled water purveyor, or potentially county building departments.
- *AB 2417 CEQA Exemption for Recycled Water Pipelines:* Bill was amendment in May to include a need to file Notice of Exemption and to hold public hearing for traffic mitigation. Supporters are wavering and it seems this bill may not move forward.
- *AB 2636 CalConserve Water Use Efficiency Revolving Fund:* SRF type of funding mechanism, but local agencies can apply to the Department of Water Resources to request funding. Bill is currently in Suspense (i.e., it may be dead).
- *Other Recycled Water Legislation*
 - *SB 1014 Pharmaceutical waste* - Addresses how to handle home generated pharmaceuticals, i.e., that it should be captured and/or treated, not flushed down toilets. Bill is moving forward with a couple of amendments.

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- *AB 1699 Waste Management* – Addresses how fine sand grain-like plastic particles (used in cosmetics) that survive treatment processes are handled. There is some concern that contaminants (CECs) may bind to these micro plastics and increase potential environmental exposure.
- *AB 2071* – Allows recycled water use for drinking by pasture animals, but not for dairy cows. Use is voluntary. Requires CDPH to research and evaluate
- *AB 2403* – Concern that pipelines should not be double-assessed
- *AB 2443* – Allows another entity to provide recycled water lines where the local water agency does not.
- *AB 2712* – Sponsored by OCWD to make sure there are no road blocks from the public for treatment of groundwater.

- *SB 1168 & AB 1739 – Groundwater Management* – CA is the ONLY state in which groundwater not legally managed. Bill allows for local agencies to take the lead, and the state would intervene only if local agencies do not follow through on their commitments. Might go through due to drought. (*Post-meeting note: Passed!*)

- *2014 Water Bond* – Governor gave himself 2 more days to get a bill passed. As of this morning, the Legislature has crafted a \$7.2B bill, increasing storage to \$2.5B, and recycled water up to \$700M. Needs to signed by Gov. by 8/13 (*Post-meeting note: It was signed.*)

- *Federal Legislation:*
 - *Water in the 21st Century* – Federal session will start recess soon; not certain if this bill will pass or not.
 - *CA Emergency Drought Relief Act of 2014* – Passed Senate, awaiting reconciliation since May; likely not going to make it.
 - *Water Resources Reform Development Act (WRRDA)* - \$1B for levees in Sacramento
 - *FY 2014 Omnibus Bill* - \$1T; includes an additional \$2.5B nationwide for SRF

State:

- *Statewide Recycled Water General Permit* – supercedes General Irrigation Permit (which had only 4 applicants!)
- *Groundwater Replenishment Reuse Regulation* – Amount of dilution water needed is potentially reduced from previous draft regulations.
- *Ocean Plan* – Amendments to the Water Quality Control Plan for ocean waters address desalination intakes and brine discharges.

Raymond's presentation can be found on the LA Chapter WaterReuse website.*



3) Regulatory Agency Update:

a. Dmitri Ginzburg/California Department of Public Health (CDPH) – Division of Drinking Water

- Groundwater Replenishment Reuse Regulation adopted – effective June 18, 2014
- Division of Drinking Water was transferred from CDPH to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) & is called the Division of Drinking Water
 - Affects all public water systems
 - Locations remain the same
 - Staff remains the same
 - Former CDPH website redirects to SWRCB website
 - Emails – from *cdph.ca.gov* to *waterboards.ca.gov*
 - Leadership:
 - *Cindy Forbes*, Chief of Southern CA section of Drinking Water – Deputy Director of Division of Drinking Water
 - *Karen Larsen* – Assistant Deputy Director
 - *Kurt Souza* – Acting Chief of Southern CA (taking Cindy’s place as Acting Chief)

b. Carlos Borja/LA County DPH

Carlos provided some questions that his organization has been grappling with regarding a potential mandates for dual plumbing in commercial buildings (e.g. In LA City, there may be an ordinance requiring it. Direction has been given from the County Board of Supervisors to use recycled water.) He asked whether WaterReuse can address these:

- Can local jurisdictions decide?
- A new theater sought to avoid using recycled water by claiming that the preparation of popcorn is ‘food processing’.
- Issues that need to be addressed: water quality, intermittent shutdowns and the need for standby connections
- The SWRCB is looking to County DPH to monitor water wastage. What are the water wasting ordinances that each individual agency might have?
- The SWRCB will take action and require conservation, with a \$500 penalty and will need local enforcement.
- *Can recycled water be hauled outside of the jurisdiction where it was produced, i.e., from one water purveyor to the next? While LA County DPH has no concerns about doing this, they are not certain about the legal considerations? **Reymundo Trejo has had 3 such inquiries recently and will report out on findings at our next meeting.***



- Agencies can apply for a General Permit through the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board, although none have yet been received.

A question was posed to the representatives of the LA Regional Water Quality Control Board:

- *What is the role of the Regional Board members in enforcing State Water Code?* Section 13553 that says if recycled water is available, is economical and of sufficient quality, then if it is not used, it is considered a waste and penalties can be applied. Section 13554 indicates that any public agency can require the use of recycled water. LADWP and LA Department of Building and Safety are disapproving plans for a major development that does not want to provide recycled water for irrigation and toilet/urinal flushing at a planned movie theater.

Ginachi Amah/LA Regional Water Quality Control Board indicated that it is up to the local jurisdiction to decide whether to require the use of recycled water or not. The language is often "may" vs. "shall" for such issues. The SWRCB generally does not deal with local developers. Local permitting is obtained from the County. While the SWRCB encourages the use of recycled water, it does not deal with individual projects. Issues can be handled through local Regional Board.

4) California State Section Update (Monica Gasca)

- a. *2015 CA Section Conference in LA* – Call for abstracts will go out August 15 and will be due Oct. 10. LA County agencies are encouraged to submit on their projects. There will be registration discounts for presenters. Trying to get involvement from local universities, e.g., student poster contest, and will lower the student registration fees to below \$100. Contact Conference Co-Chairs Monica Gasca or Raymond Jay if you are interested in volunteering.
- b. Dave Smith, Managing Director of the CA Section is retiring and as of September 2, the new Director will be Jennifer West, formerly with the CA Municipal Utilities Association.

5) Chapter Updates

- a. *June Chapter Meeting Notes* – approved.

6) Focus Areas

- a. *Funding Opportunities (John Robinson)*

LA County Funding Fair – The County has posted 90 pages of presentations on its website. (Each department has 4 pages.) All that is needed to apply for these funding sources is to fill out the "One Page Form". The SWRCB has a committee which is available to help you identify the best funding opportunities within SWRCB funding options.

John's summary of funding opportunities can be found on the LA Chapter WaterReuse website.*



7) Other Topics

a. Industrial Use Committee (Elise Goldman)

Planning for next year’s Industrial and Commercial Reuse Conference, February 2-3, 2015 in Austin, TX, is underway. The term “Commercial” has been added to the conference name to indicate and encourage broader participation. Have received 56 abstracts. Main tracks will include: food & beverage, oil & gas, energy production, power generation, emerging technologies, and general recycled water use.

8) Membership Roundtable (Kraig Erickson)

Who would be the closest recycled water purveyor for Evergreen Cemetery, which is located in LADWP’s water service area? The closest recycled water purveyor would be the Central Basin Municipal Water District (MWD), through their Southeast Water Reliability Project (SWRP) Phase 2 project which crosses jurisdictional lines. The recycled water serving this project would be produced by LACSD.

LADWP met with Central Basin MWD about this issue. LADWP recently did this with West Basin MWD where WBMWD built a pipe to the border of its service area and LADWP installed the pipeline to serve the cemetery.

Next Meetings

- October 14, 2014 –Host: City of LA, Bureau of Sanitation; Sponsor: CH2M HILL
- December 2, 2014 – Host/Sponsor: Carollo

Los Angeles Chapter Officers for 2014

Raymond Jay, President	213-217-5777	rjay@mw dh2o.com
Kraig Erickson, Vice President	805-550-5232	kerickson@rmcwater.com
Judi Miller, Secretary/Treasurer	213-228-8236	judi.miller@ch2m.com
Monica Gasca, Chapter Trustee	562-908-4288 x2838	mgasca@lacs d.org
John Robinson, Past-President	626-375-9389	jrobinson@johnrobinsonconsulting.com

* The presentations from this meeting can be found at:
<http://www.watereuse.org/sections/california/losangeles/meetings>

Meeting Attendees

Member	Organization
Abraham Razon	LA Sanitation
Amy Martin	Carollo Engineers
Andrew Lazenby	Black and Veatch
Bryan Trussell	Trussell Technologies
Cameron Church	Cameron Church Consulting
Carlos Borja	Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health
Charles Guel	Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power
David Ebersol	CDM Smith
Deb Whitney	US Bureau of Reclamation

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Dmitriy Ginzberg	State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
Dusty Moisio	Rowland Water District
Elise Goldman	West Basin MWD
Elizabeth Erickson	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Elizabeth Sobczak	Castaic Lake Water Agency
Eric Smith	CDM Smith
Gerry Filteau	Separation Processes, Inc.
Ginachi Amah	Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board
Jason Yim	Castaic Lake Water Agency
Jocelyn Carrillo	LA Sanitation
Joe Yersky	Walnut Valley Water District
John Morris	Morris Water Resources Consultants
John Robinson	John Robinson Consulting, Inc.
Judi Miller	CH2M HILL
Julia Aranda	MNS Engineers
Kira Z. Alonzo	Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Kraig Erickson	RMC Water and Environment
Kun Cheng	State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water
Leslie Moulton	ESA
Luis Macias	Los Angeles Dept. of Water and Power
Maria Alvarez	AECOM
Matt Bequette	LA Sanitation
Mercedes Passanisi	LA County Flood Control District
Monica Gasca	Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County
Peggy Vogt	Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Peter Brooks	Xylem Inc.
Quang Ly	Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health
Raja Takidin	Glendale Water and Power
Ray Mokhtari	Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Robert Bueras	Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health
Rosanna Lau	Glendale Water and Power
Seth Carr	LA Sanitation
Sereywath Keng	LA Sanitation
Shadi Bader	Burbank Water and Power
Sharona Sokolow	UCLA
Sunny Wang	Black and Veatch
Terri Slifko	Metropolitan Water District of So. Calif.
Thierry Rivard	TreePeople
Tom Monk	Walnut Valley Water District
Tony Umphenour	Burbank Water and Power
Viet Ha	Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Health

TOTAL ATTENDEES: 50

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