

Los Angeles Chapter of the WaterReuse Association
MEETING SUMMARY



Location: City of Los Angeles

Address: Environmental Learning Center
Hyperion Treatment Plant
12000 Vista Del Mar
Los Angeles, CA 90293

Purpose: Bi-Monthly Meeting

Date and Time: October 14, 2014 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Distribution: Los Angeles WaterReuse Association Chapter Members

Lunch: Sponsored by CH2M HILL

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

1) Special Guest: Jennifer West, Managing Director, WaterReuse California

Jennifer began serving as the CA Section's Managing Director in September, 2014. She had been a lobbyist for 20 years, and represented several water agencies before the State Legislature, including Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Sonoma County Water Agency, Irvine Ranch Water District, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority. She also did strategic planning for water for the CA Municipal Utilities Association. She has opened one room office in Sacramento to advance professionalism and visibility of the WaterReuse Association.

Jennifer focused her discussion on legislative outcomes in 2014 noting the drought has brought with it tremendous support for recycled water solutions, and significant role that the WaterReuse Association played in shaping legislation.

Proposition 1 and the Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) program have significant funding potential for recycled water projects. Of the \$800M approved by the State Water Board for low interest loans for recycled water projects to produce 150,000 AF annually, about \$200M has been authorized thus far.

She noted the following important accomplishments in which the CA Section WaterReuse was involved last year:

- Recycled Water Building Standards – With passage of AB 2282, the CA Building Standards Commission will develop cost-effective standards for use of recycled water by residential and commercial buildings. WR CA will be following this closely.
- Moving of the Drinking Water Program from the CDPH to the State Board – WR CA is on the State Board transition team.
- Gov. Brown's support for expediting the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse (DPR) in his letter to the Senate when signing AB 322.
- WaterReuse completed a model public communications plan for developing public acceptance at both the community level & state level. Beginning implementation.



Jennifer noted that WR CA will be partly responsible for implementing statewide DPR outreach.

- WR CA will also focus on enhancing member communications and materials related to legislative as well as other issues.
- Jennifer plans to put the list of bills, positions taken, etc. – on CA Section website

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

2) Venue host/sponsor presentation: City of Los Angeles' One Water LA 2040 Plan (Chris DeMonbrun, Rosalba Santana, Judi Miller)

This presentation began with a tribute to the professional accomplishments of Heather Van Meter by Judi Miller. Heather was the Project Manager for the Environmental Learning Center in which the meeting was being held, as well as of the Water Integrated Resources Plan (IRP), the predecessor to the One Water LA 2040 Plan.

Judi then introduced Chris DeMonbrun and Rosalba Santana, jointly presenting on behalf of LA Sanitation and LA Department of Water and Power, respectively.

Chris and Rosalba described the need for innovative, integrated watershed planning to meet the City of LA's year 2040 water management challenges. Collaboration and coordination among all of the City's multiple departments on water resource generation and utilization will identify opportunities to leverage and optimize the City's resources (financial, human and water), will facilitate the development and implementation of multi-benefit projects, and will enhance the collaborative working relationships to achieve the One Water Plan objectives.

The One Water LA 2040 Plan builds on the success of the Water IRP and greatly expands on it. The Water IRP facilities plans and EIR were completed in 2006. While many of the project and policy recommendations have been implemented since then, some projects will only be implemented if triggers are met, and some policies continue to be formulated and refined. Key recommendations of the IRP included expanding the use of recycled water for both potable and non-potable reuse. The Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant's Groundwater Replenishment Project and several major purple pipe projects were described.

Phase 1 of the One Water Plan is currently underway in which an initial planning baseline is established that informs the development of guiding principles through an extensive stakeholder engagement process. The second phase will develop facilities plans that reflect the planning conditions (such as lower wastewater flow projections than the IRP predicted) and future system needs and opportunities.

The One Water LA presentation can be found on the LA Chapter WaterReuse website.*

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

Raymond noted that the by the September 30 end of the Legislative session, the Governor had signed 930 bills, and vetoed approximately 430 bills. He discussed the following recycled water bills that were passed:



- *AB 2282 Building Standards–Recycled Water Infrastructure:* Timeline for adoption was shortened to 2016; Now the Building Standards Commission needs to decide how to address these requirements and WaterReuse can help them with this process. The issues are broader than just dual plumbing with recycled water. The definition of recycled water includes not just from municipal wastewater treatment facility but also graywater, onsite wastewater, etc.
- *AB 2636 CalConserve Water Use Efficiency Revolving Fund:* Funding for recycled water and conservation projects. Similar to State Revolving Fund process, but managed by the Dept. of Water Resources. Projects need to tie in greenhouse gas emission strategies.
- *AB 2071 Recycled Water for Animals –* The State Board must explore whether it is safe for animals to drink disinfected tertiary treated recycled water.
- *AB 2403 Local Government Assessments –* Only a ½ vote majority rather than a 2/3 vote is needed for approval of new water supply projects under Proposition 218.
- *AB 2443 Duplication of Service: Mutual Water Companies –* Removes existing limitations on the provision of recycled water by others in the service areas of mutual water companies without payment to the water companies. These do not include investor-owned utilities.
- *SB 1168 Groundwater Management–* While most groundwater basins in southern CA are adjudicated, this bill addresses the numerous un-adjudicated basins in the State. It does provide for local control, with the State stepping in only if the local entities do not develop the required groundwater management plans.
- *2014 Water Bond –* Provides \$725M for recycled water. There is some overlap with the other funding categories. Will be on the Nov. 1 ballot.

Raymond will begin asking the LA Chapter membership for input on legislative and regulatory suggestions for next year.

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

4) Regulatory Agency Update:

a. LA County Department of Public Health (*Carlos Borja*)

Carlos noted that plans for new projects need to go to LA County DPH and contact water purveyors as soon as possible. He also noted that some buildings are converting from dual plumbing to potable water, driven by problems such as staining and odor due to the use of larger distribution lines.

Carlos emphasized the need for crossover devices needed such as swivel ell (which are currently prohibited). It is very important to be able to tap alternate water sources if the recycled water is not available.

He also noted that while retrofitting of existing buildings is considerably more expensive than new construction, WR should explore how to advance dual plumbing retrofits and suggested starting a spinoff group to discuss.



b. LA Regional Water Quality Control Board (*Elizabeth Erickson*)

Elizabeth mentioned that there is a lot happening at State Board, but the local Regional Boards are only seeing parts of it. They are working on series of discharges to surface water – more water is going to groundwater recharge, and less into the river. Discharge permits are being updated so that water is of the best quality to facilitate groundwater replenishment.

The Regional Board has committed to reviewing Title 22 reports at same time as Drinking Water Program to expedite processing. Salt and Nutrient Management Plans are working their way through the system.

A question was raised about the use of the new Statewide General Permit for Non-Potable Recycled Water use. There does not seem to be any value in applying for the General Permit, which is a much more complicated process, when you can just apply for a regular permit. Elizabeth indicated that the Regional Board has had just one inquiry.

5) California State Section Update (*Monica Gasca*)

a. 2015 CA Section Conference:

- March 15-17 at Millennium Biltmore in downtown LA
 - Need more volunteers – moderators, offering CEUs and will need help.
 - Over 80 abstracts submitted. (Only 64 last year).
 - Have student poster competition – can submit online.
 - \$50 for 1 day registration for students.
 - 2 workshops w/CEUs -Site Supervisor Training, TBD (e.g., RW use for cooling towers)
 - 2 tours – to Hyperion Treatment Plant/Environmental Learning Center + Edward C. Little, NBC Universal City tour
 - K-12 art contest
- Call for award nominations going out beginning of November.
- Next CA Section Board meeting scheduled for November 7.

6) Chapter Updates (*Judi Miller*)

- a. August Chapter Meeting Notes were approved.
- b. Proposed Bylaws Changes: The bylaws were modified and distributed to the membership for consideration via email on October 8. The intent of these changes were primarily to more effectively tap the knowledge and concerns of our Executive Committee organizations, and their respective representatives, by identifying specific points of engagement and by clarifying their responsibilities in this role. The major revisions proposed were:
 - Specific milestone activities to obtain Executive Committee member input (officer nominations, review of chapter goals, review of annual reports) – Article VII, Sections 1 & 3

Los Angeles Chapter of the WaterReuse Association

October 14, 2014 MEETING SUMMARY



- Specific measures of active participation in bimonthly member meetings and Executive Committee meetings - Article VII, Section 2
 - The formal addition of a "Past President" Officer position for Board continuity - Article VIII, Sections 1 and 5
 - Minimum 2-year term durations for all newly elected officers to become familiar with the national, section and chapter operations and membership priorities - Article VIII, Section 4
- c. Officer nominations were solicited for elections to be held at the December 2, 2014 meeting.

7) Focus Areas

a. Funding Opportunities (*John Robinson*)

Local

- Metropolitan Water District is changing the Local Resources Program (LRP), by increasing their sliding scale incentives from \$250/AF to \$340/AF or up to \$475/AF over 15 yrs, or fixed incentive of \$305/AF over 25 yrs. LRP also now includes onsite retrofits and seawater desalination.
- To expedite development of recycled water to meet their 2020 and IRP goals, Metropolitan can also partner with agencies to design, build operate for 5 years and then turn over to agencies who will then pay Metropolitan back.
- Of the \$7.5M of funding available, only \$1.2M has been committed through 15 approved applications with a target of 63K AFY. So, apply quickly!
- The LRP is not on BeWaterwise.com, but the Onsite Retrofit Program is.

State

- The State has \$800M for low interest loans.
- Greater LA got \$27.2M from DWR Prop 84 Round 3, Part 1; Part 2 coming next year.
- Water-energy grants - in the DWR PSP (Proposal Sonication Package)

Federal

- The Federal WaterSmart Water and Energy Efficiency grants are coming out around in early November and due mid-January 2015..

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

8) Other Topics

a. Industrial Use Committee (*Joe Walters*)

Conference to be held in Austin TX, February 1-3, 2015. Looking for a couple of key speakers, sponsors & exhibitors. Contact Elise Goldman. They are trying to include more commercial organizations.



9) Membership Roundtable (*Kraig Erickson*)

- Thierry Rivard with TreePeople noted that they only recently began to consider how to engage communities more with recycled water use. Is there a role that TreePeople can play? For example, they figured how to truck recycled water in for tree planting in the forest as part of the Angeles National Forest Restoration Program.
- Cameron Church mentioned the Net Positive Water Forum where they are focusing on opportunities for smaller scale onsite water recycling. The LA Chapter of Living Building Challenge is looking to build “net zero” water projects. There is great demand in design community for example a skid mounted 40,000 gallon per day system was identified for an ecodistrict in Portland. Are they impractical? Too expensive?
- Ryan Sinclair, and Environmental microbiologist from Loma Linda University has an EPA-funded project on the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility (SMURRF).

10) Next Meeting

- December 2, 2014 – Host/Sponsor: Carollo Engineers

Los Angeles Chapter Officers for 2014

Raymond Jay, President	213-217-5777	rjay@mwdh2o.com
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Judi Miller, Secretary/Treasurer	213-228-8236	judi.miller@ch2m.com
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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>