Construction of the El Toro Water District (District) Recycled Water Expansion Project is well underway! The Project is a comprehensive, multi-phase effort that will significantly increase the amount of recycled water produced for irrigation in the District service area. Nearly tripling the production of recycled water, the El Toro Water Recycling Plant is being expanded to increase deliveries from 500 acre-feet per year (AFY) up to 1,480 AFY. A new recycled water distribution system consisting of over 100,000 linear feet of pipeline will convey the recycled water to customers in Laguna Woods and Laguna Hills. Disinfected tertiary effluent complying with all Title 22 requirements will be used to irrigate golf courses, school yards, athletic fields, parks, medians and common areas in residential neighborhoods. By offsetting potable water demands, the Project will decrease the demand for imported water and lower greenhouse gas emissions associated with pumping imported water to the region. Other benefits of the Project include reducing the volume of treated wastewater discharged to the ocean, making beneficial use of the water, and enhancing local water supply reliability.

The District, like most other water districts in south Orange County, relies on imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta and Colorado River to meet up to 95% of its customer demands. The Project comes at a time when much of California is experiencing drought conditions, and available water sources are limited. The additional 980 AFY of recycled water produced by the Project will directly offset potable water demands used for irrigation.

The El Toro Tertiary Treatment Plant will use new cloth media disk filters to polish secondary effluent. The tertiary effluent will be disinfected using chlorine. The recycled water will be pumped from a new storage reservoir to the distribution system. Divided into three systems, the East Side, the West Side, and the North Side, the distribution system will involve pipelines ranging in diameter from 4” to 20”. The Project will convert over 200 existing potable water dedicated irrigation meters to recycled water.

The total estimated cost of the Project is nearly $36 million. Funding for the Project comes from several sources: (1) a $4.6 million grant from the State Water Resources Control Board (2) a low-interest state revolving fund loan, (3) rebates from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Local Resources Program, and (4) District capital construction reserves.

Construction on the East Side System is now complete. The West Side System is nearly 90% complete. Construction on the North Side System has just commenced and is expected to be complete by August, 2014. The Tertiary Treatment Plant construction is underway and is expected to be complete in August.

For more information, check the District’s website for the El Toro Recycled Water Expansion Project: www.etwd.com. And, if the information videos on the website only “whet your appetite” for more details, call the Project Helpline at 949.837.0880 or send an email to district@etwd.com to find out the latest.
Regulatory & Legislative Corner
by Christine Compton | Irvine Ranch Water District

2014 Water Bond – Last year the Legislature began a process to reformulate the water bond after 2012 polling showed voters would not support an $11.14 billion water bond. Currently there are a number of active bills related to the water bond. The two most active bills continue to be AB 1331, SB 848, AB 2686, and SB 1250. Any changes to the existing bond will require a two-thirds vote in both the Assembly and State Senate. The final bond will have to win the support of a majority of voters in a statewide election.

AB 2282 (Gatto) – AB 2282 would require the Department of Housing and Community Development to conduct research to assist in the development, proposal, and the adoption by the California Building Standards Commission, of mandatory building standards for the installation of future recycled water infrastructure for single-family and multifamily residential buildings.

AB 2417 (Nazarian) – AB 2417 is sponsored by WateReuse, Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), and California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA). It would exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act projects for the construction and installation of a recycled water pipeline, not exceeding 8 miles in length, within a public street, highway, or right-of-way.

Transfer of the State’s Drinking Water Program – The Health and Human Services Agency and Cal/EPA released the long-awaited “Drinking Water Reorganization Transition Plan” outlining the Administration’s proposal for moving the Drinking Water Program from the Department of Public Health to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). A copy of the “Drinking Water Reorganization Transition Plan” can be found at http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinkingwater/index.shtml. The Administration has proposed that the transfer of the Drinking Water Program be completed on July 1, 2014, and that the needed legislation be adopted as part of the Fiscal Year 2014-15 budget.

Metropolitan’s On-Site Retrofit Pilot Program
by Ray Mokhtari, PE | Metropolitan Water District

Metropolitan’s 2010 Integrated Water Resources Plan (IRP) Update calls for the development of a diverse resource portfolio, including recycled water projects to help meet expected future demands and secure supply reliability in the region. In addition, the IRP Update sets water use efficiency goals that include a 20 percent reduction in urban per capita water use by 2020. Increased conservation efforts and expanded use of recycled water are two ways of achieving this goal.

Recycled water projects usually take several years to achieve capacity because each site must be retrofitted to accept recycled water. The cost associated with the on-site retrofit of potable water systems to recycled water is an impediment to recycled water use. To help with the site conversion costs, Metropolitan will launch an On-site Retrofit Pilot Program (Program) on July 1, 2014. The Program goal is to encourage property owners to convert from potable water to recycled water use, which will increase use of recycled water and achieve IRP Update and 20x2020 goals. Increased recycled water use also will help respond to the Governor’s recent declaration of a statewide drought and request to increase water savings throughout the state.

The Program is open to public and private property owners with access to recycled water within Metropolitan’s six county service area.
The Annual CA Conference Comes to Orange County!

by Debbie Burris | DDB Engineering, Inc.

AWARD WINNERS

Lifetime Achievement Award
Dave Requa

Recycled Water Agency of the Year
- Small - Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District
- Medium - City of Santa Clara
- Large - Santa Clara Valley Water District

Recycled Water Community Outreach and Public Education Program of the Year
Pure Water San Diego

Recycled Water Customers of the Year
- Gibson Ranch
- Napa-Sonoma Salt Marsh Restoration Project
- Tuftex Carpet Mill

Recycled Water Staff Person of the Year
Daniel Rydberg, City of Oxnard

SPONSORS

Platinum
Cannon
CDM Smith
Irvin Ranch
Kennedy/Jenks Consultants
Moulton Niguel Water District
Orange County Water District
RBF Consulting, A Company of Michael Back International
RMC Water and Environment

Gold
AECOM
ARCADIS
Black & Veatch
Brown and Caldwell
Carollo Engineers, Inc.
Eastern Municipal Water District
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Silver
CH2M Hill
Dudek
El Dorado Irrigation District
GHD, Inc.
HDR Engineering, Inc.
Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
Parsons
Tetra Tech, Inc.

Bronze
Castaic Lake Water Agency
El Toro Water District
Hazen and Sawyer
Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Santa Clara Valley Water District
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District
West Basin Municipal Water District
Western Municipal Water District

Purple
Central Basin Municipal Water District
Infrastructure Engineering Corporation
Katz & Associates
Larry Walker Associates
Long Beach Water Department
Olivehain Municipal Water District
Orange County Sanitation District
Psomas
San Diego County Water Authority
SPI
Stantec

EXHIBITORS

Aqua-Aerobic Systems, Inc
Babcock Laboratories, Inc
Calgan Carbon Corp.
Cannon
CSM
Degremont Technologies
DN Tanks
Incrementum
Irvine Ranch Water District
NOVA Water Technologies
Pacific Tank Solutions
Process Solutions
RBF Consulting, A Company of Michael Baker International
RMC Water and Environment
Spears Manufacturing Company
The Covello Group
Trojan Technologies
Water Finance Authority
Xylem

continued on page 4
Annual CA Conference Comes to Orange County! (cont...)

ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE PICTURES

DO ensure that no plumbing cross connections exist or are created between recycled water systems and all other water systems.

DON'T remove or alter water system and/or site identification materials.

GOT NEWS?

We’re always looking for interesting stories and informational articles to keep our members up to speed on all that’s happening in water reuse and reclamation. If you would like to contribute an article or have other ideas about this newsletter, please email Debbie Burris (dburriss@ddbe.com) or Lisa Knox (lknox@dudek.com)

WateReuse Association www.watereuse.org/sections/california/orange-county

Newsletter design by DUDEK