



June 2021

President's Message

While there have been significant improvements to the pandemic in recent months, the same cannot be said of the water supply situation in California. Precipitation this last winter ranged from about 40 to 50% of the historical average, contributing to a situation where most reservoirs are well below typical for this time of year. No relief is expected from runoff from the Sierra Mountains because the snowpack has already melted. Next month, Lake Mead could drop below the limit that would trigger a water shortage declaration from the US Bureau of Reclamation. These events highlight the continued importance of developing drought-resilient water supplies, such as potable reuse, in California.



At the same time, the release of the Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) draft criteria in late March has attracted a lot of attention over the past couple of months. While those criteria are not expected to be final until the end of 2023, this development is a significant milestone on the path to DPR becoming a reality in California.

Other notable developments include the preparations for the next WaterReuse California Annual Conference, which will be in downtown LA. Many LA Chapter members, including Co-Chairs Lyndsey Bloxom (WRD), Paul Liu (LADWP), and Raymond Jay (MWD), are working hard to deliver a conference that navigates the uncertainties of hosting an in-person event as we emerge from the pandemic while also providing the networking opportunities and technical program that we have all been craving for so long. I am excited for the LA Chapter to be hosting the conference and hope to see many of you there in September.

Have a great summer!

Fred Gerringer, President
WaterReuse California, Los Angeles Chapter

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NEXT MEETING:

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

LOCATION:
Virtual Meeting

Newsletter designed by:



2021 WateReuse California Annual Conference

The LA Chapter is working closely with WateReuse California (WRCA) to plan our annual conference, which will be held in-person and on-line September 19-21 at JW Marriott Hotel Los Angeles at L.A. LIVE. There is tremendous excitement that California's reuse community will be able to gather together again in person. This will be one of the first in-person events since the pandemic began and all state and local health requirements will be closely followed. Registration will open June 16. Please mark your calendars! For more information, [click here](#).

2021 WateReuse Symposium in Review

700

total registrants

28

technical sessions

5,000

views of content during
March and April

8

roundtable
discussions

DPR Regulation Development News

By Jing-Tying Chao Senior Sanitary Engineer at DDW's Recycled Water Unit.

The State Water Board released an Addendum to the Framework for Regulating Direct Potable Reuse in California on March 29, 2021. The Addendum consists of an early draft of the anticipated regulations for DPR, which is the planned introduction of recycled water either directly into a public water system or into a raw water supply immediately upstream of a water treatment plant. The State Water Board is seeking feedback from the public and stakeholders on the Addendum. The deadline for submitting comments is 12:00 noon on Friday June 25, 2021.

The early draft includes requirements to reduce chemicals and pathogenic microorganisms present in municipal wastewater to safe levels suitable for drinking water. For pathogens, reliable multi-barrier treatment is specified to reduce the concentration of the following infectious pathogenic organisms found in raw municipal sewage: virus, Giardia, and Cryptosporidium. The early draft includes requirements for the design, operation, monitoring and control of the treatment to ensure microbiologically safe water.

The early draft includes monitoring for chemicals and requires that drinking water delivered must comply with drinking water standards and notification levels. To address chemicals without regulatory drinking water limits, these are controlled with reliable multi-barrier treatment to produce water that is free of harmful levels of chemicals. The treatment must also address the possibility of short-term discharges of chemicals into the sewer system, which would also be controlled with flow mixing to dilute the concentration and total organic carbon limits. The draft provides a pathway for alternatives to specified treatment be proposed.

The draft proposed regulation includes other requirements such as limiting toxic chemical discharges into the sewer system, monitoring and reporting, advanced operator certification, operations plan criteria, and other criteria related to technical, managerial, and financial capacity. For more information about regulating DPR in California, [click here](#).

Trustee Update

Hello LA Chapter!

I hope this update finds you safe and healthy as we continue to overcome these challenging times. During my first few months as your Chapter Trustee, I have been impressed by all the great work our members and our Chapter does to continue advancing recycled water initiatives in our State. Despite the challenges we face, WateReuse California continues to bring our members together at events such as the WateReuse Symposium and later this year, at the 2021 WateReuse California Annual Conference in Los Angeles.

The theme of the conference is “building a resilient future together.” The entire California Section has continued to exemplify this theme throughout 2021 as we push for innovations in areas such as DPR to secure that resilient future. The State section has also been working to establish a standing committee for agriculture, update strategic plans, and track the latest on emerging concerns such as PFAS-PFOA. As we begin to move into a post-Covid world, I look forward to continue to serve you as your Chapter Trustee.

Please continue protecting yourselves and each other!

Your Los Angeles Chapter Trustee,
Rafael Villegas, P.E., MSCE
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power



Potable Reuse Communications in the DPR Era

By Camille Stephens, Katz & Associates

After years of communicating the value and safety of alternative water supplies, the messages are resonating. Water is too valuable to only be used once. But as the state of California moves forward with a framework for DPR regulations and as we once again enter into serious drought conditions in California, we need to make sure we are not taking our foot off the “proactive communications” pedal: momentum must continue. As our colleague, Patricia Tennyson, often reminds us, “It is always public or political opposition – NEVER the technology – that has kept a potable reuse project from moving forward.”

The release of the DPR framework marks a major milestone in the development of regulations in California – teeing up water providers across the state to consider the options and alternatives that will be available in the near future. So how do we continue to bring our communities and our rate payers with us on this journey toward a safe, reliable, local water supply?

Many LA Chapter members and southern California agencies are actively participating in the WateReuse California Communications Collaborative Group (CCG) which creates a forum for public outreach professionals and other interested parties to discuss all types of recycled water efforts and projects, and how best to communicate about potable reuse including terminology, signage and messaging. Having already featured Kevin Hardy, NWRI Executive Director, discussing the DPR regulations process, you can expect the group to be center stage in advancing important messaging about DPR in California.

To learn more about the WRCA Communications Collaborative Group, [click here](#).

Our Members



AECOM	HDR	SPI
Arcadis	Jacobs	Stantec
Black & Veatch	John Robinson Consulting	Tetra Tech
Brown and Caldwell	Katz & Associates	Trussell Technologies
Carollo Engineers	Kennedy/Jenks	Walnut Valley Water District
CDM Smith	Los Angeles County Department of Public Works	West Yost Associates
ESA	Rowland Water District	Woodard & Curran
Hazen and Sawyer		