**Los Angeles Chapter of the WateReuse Association**

**October 20, 2022 MEETING SUMMARY**

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| **Location:** | **SoFi Stadium** |
| **Address:** | 3599 W. Century Blvd.<br>Inglewood, CA 90303 |
| **Purpose:** | Bi-Monthly Meeting |
| **Date and Time:** | October 20, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. |
| **Distribution:** | Los Angeles WateReuse Association Chapter Members and Supporters |

Below is a summary of the highlight from the October 2022 bimonthly member meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter of the WateReuse Association.

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

## 1. Water Recycling Legislative/Regulatory Updates *(Raymond Jay)*

California Legislation

- CA Legislative Calendar: September 30 was the last day for Governor to sign or veto bills. The legislative calendar will start up again on January 1, 2023. (http://assembly.ca.gov/legislativedeadlines).
- Water Legislation of Interest: WateReuse California now has a web site that tracks legislation.
- SB 1157 (Hertzberg): Hertzberg: Urban water use objectives: indoor residential water use; WRCA = neutral after amendments; Approved by Governor & Chaptered 9/28/22
- SB 991 (Newman): Public Contracts: progressive design-build: local agencies; WRCA = Support; Chaptered 9/02/22
- SB 230 (Portantino): SWRCB: Constituents of Emerging Concern in Drinking Water Program; WRCA = Support; Approved by Governor and Chaptered 9/28/22
- AB 2247 (Bloom): PFAS disclosure; Amended to intentionally add PFAS; WRCA = Support; Enrolled & sent to Governor 9/12/22; Vetoed by Governor 9/29/22

Link to more information:

http://watereuse.org/sections/watereuse-california/legislativerefulatory-committee/

California Budget and RW Funding

- Governor's Budget for FY22/23 approved at $300B with $49B projected in budget surplus. There is $1.63B for drought and water resilience and $80M for Pure Water Southern California.
- $400M for RW and groundwater recovery (WRCA requests 50% for RW)
  - $200M in FY 21/22
  - $100M in FY 22/23 & FY 23/24
  - Encourage all agencies to vie for these funds for their RW projects.

- $100M for PFAS support
- WRCA requests $750M in RW in FY 22/23

Link to the final approved budget: https://www.ebudget.ca.gov/

Regulatory Update

- CWSRF and DWSRF Intended Use Plan
    - WRCA and CASA Comment Letter requests to adjust the funding list to include more projects, adjust future lending capacity, increase leveraging of available funding, include safeguards from adverse deferrals of projects, and transfer of CWSRF PFAS funding to DWSRF.
- Expert Panel met for discussion regarding the direct potable reuse regulations. WRCA seeking clarification. Considered to be a highly layered conservative approach, thus many agencies are requesting more flexibility. Remaining concerns:
    - LRV requirements
    - Treatment flexibility
    - Reduction of duplicative reports
    - Sewer shed monitoring
    - Operator requirements

  Want to be able to have safe direct potable reuse regulations, but not those that are so onerous that they cost additional monies and limit the amount of entities that can move forward with reuse options.

Federal Update

- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
    - Bipartisan infrastructure package and reconciliation package update. There is $1B set aside for western recycled water, for both Title 16 and large-scale grant program.
    - $48B for nationwide programs
    - Reauthorizes Alternative Water Source Grants
    - Establishes federal interagency water reuse group
- FY23 Appropriations for Reclamation and EPA programs not complete; intend to do a continuing resolution whereby they take the remaining Appropriations from FY22 and move them forward to be reconciled at a later date. Other large programs introduced as well:
    - Large Scale Water Recycling Program – MWD hoping to use this funding, also expected interest from LADWP, and entities from San Diego and Northern California.
    - Alternative Water Supply Program – Under the Bureau of Reclamation, most recycled water (Title 16 in this large scale) is only for to the 17 western states. This program will cover the nation as a whole, so more entities will be able to apply for more recycled and stormwater projects under that funding program.

- BABAA waivers – (Buy America/Build America Act) A lot of equipment required is not built or sold in America, so trying to figure out means to get American-made equipment, and, if unable to purchase, then the ability to get a waiver. Those out of the WIFIA program are reasonable but not programmatic. WRA is looking into a programmatic waiver to be used in large-scale desalination or recycled water projects, or similar related projects that if bundled could request a programmatic waiver.
- Industrial Tax Credit—For industries to help them expand their water recycled use with tax incentivization credits.
- PFAS -New regulations under development that may consider as hazardous waste. Could require WWTP and WTP to provide additional treatment and incur potential liability.

**2. California State Section Update** *(Rafael Villegas)*

- CA Board of Trustees met on September 11th, 2022. Next Trustee Meeting scheduled for November 18th, 2022.
- WRA '22 Strategic Plan
  - Initial recommendations include: delivery of excellent core services to CA Section, maintain CA Section Primacy in all state level policy decisions, revenue enhancement and dues management strategies, and bolster alliances with other association on funding and legislative initiative.
  - Additional comments include: to establish a WRA full time CFO and improve conference reporting, the need for in-house support for the WRA Conference, and possible supplemental funding to support the WRCA Conference.
- 2022 WateReuse California Annual Conference Awards
  - Recycled Water Staff Person of the Year was Joyce Lehman with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.
  - Recycled Water Customer of the Year was Valero Wilmington Refinery.
- DDW Draft Criteria
  - The WRCA letter in response to the June 28, 2022 Draft Criteria recommends expansion on the Alternative Clause and revising pathogen control requirements.
  - DDW will release another set of regulations early 2023
- Save the Dates
  - The 38th Annual WateReuse Symposium will take place from March 5-8, 2023, at the Marriot Marquis Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia.
  - The 2023 WateReuse California Annual Conference will take place from November 5-7, 2023, at the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells, Indian Wells, California.

**3. Chapter Updates** *(Judi Miller, Scott Lynch)*

- The summary of the LA Chapter's August member meeting was approved.
- Upcoming elections:

- Voting for Chapter Officers will be held during the December member meetings for both the LA and Orange County Chapters

**4. Sponsor Presentation: Comprehensive, Collaborative, and Coordinated: Lessons Learned from Central Coast Blue Project Environmental Process** *(Annaliese Miller Torres/Rincon Consultants)*

Central Coast Blue is a regional indirect potable reuse project that is a joint partnership between the cities of Pismo Beach, Grover Beach, and Arroyo Grande. The project has two primary purposes: recharge the underlying groundwater basin and create a seawater intrusion barrier for the basin. The project is composed of an advanced treatment facility, injection wells, monitoring wells and a pipeline system. The project is located in an unincorporated community in the City of Oceano and City of Grover Beach. Central Coastal Blue will consist of two phases, Phase 1 and Phase 2, where the first phase will treat secondary effluent from the Pismo Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant and the second phase will treat secondary effluent from the South San Luis Obispo County Sanitation District Wastewater Treatment Plant. The initial design capacity for the project is 1.3 MGD and the final treatment capacity will be 5.4 MGD. The project will be sized to initially produce a maximum of 1.0 MGD of advanced purified water and a final total of 3.9 MGD. Currently, the City of Pismo Beach and the other partnering cities have achieved compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the project approval. Rincon is currently assisting the project team with acquiring coastal development permits, which includes an addendum to the Final EIR to cover design changes.

Three lessons learned from the project to date are to take Comprehensive, Collaborative, and Coordinated approaches to problems. Taking a comprehensive approach entails taking a more conservative approach to things and considering different scenarios, leaving wiggle room for change. In the Central Coastal Blue project there was the possibility of location change of the project components. The approach that was taken was for the project's EIR to present a comprehensive and conservative analysis of the project's potential environmental impacts so that if certain project components shifted, an Addendum to the EIR could be prepared to cover the modifications rather than a more extensive document like a Supplemental EIR. As the project developed, some locations of injection wells and pipelines have shifted. The project team is planning to prepare an Addendum to cover the changes under CEQA because the analysis and mitigations of the certified final EIR were comprehensive enough to cover the new project scenario.

Another lesson learned was the benefit of collaboration. Taking a collaborative approach involves accepting challenging feedback and working with those who provided the feedback to clarify misunderstandings, answer questions, and solve problems. During the public review process for the Draft EIR, the project team received an unexpected comment letter from the California State Parks, who own and manage two creeks overlying the groundwater basin anticipated for future advanced purified water injection and future groundwater extraction. In response to the challenging comment letter, the project team decided to hold several collaborative meetings with the California State Parks to better understand the context and origin of their concerns, determine what data and analysis would be necessary, and present results of additional analysis that demonstrated little to no impacts to the surface water levels at the two creeks. Collaboration was key to avoiding further challenges from the California State Parks and demonstrated to stakeholder agencies responsible for permitting and financing the project that feedback is welcome and taken seriously.

Last lesson learned was the value of coordination. A streamlined process requires a lot of coordination and early engagement with the stakeholders. During the acquisition of a coastal development permit for the test groundwater well for the project, the project team was presented with opposition by a single member of the public who appealed the coastal development permit

granted by the County of San Luis Obispo to the County's Board of Supervisors and then to the Coastal Commission. The appeals process is normally very lengthy and underlying this whole process was the schedule constraint imposed by the project's funding source for when construction must be completed. Because the appeals process was jeopardizing the project's funding source, the City of Pismo Beach and other project team members engaged in early coordination with the County and Coastal staff to discuss the project, emphasize the constrained timeframe and regional importance of this project, review the issues raised in the appeal, and address any concerns that either agency might have had as to the validity of the appeal. Because of this upfront coordination, the appeal to the County Board of Supervisors was heard within a month of the appeal being filed and the appeal was denied by the Board and two months later by the Coastal Commission. Overall, the appeal process was expeditiously carried out because of the ongoing coordination between the City and Coastal staff to address concerns prior to the hearing. It minimized schedule delay and allowed for the project to meet funding requirements.

**5. Sponsor Presentation: Technological Features of the AQQA System** *(Bill Morton/Pacific Filtration Systems)*

The AQQA system is a submerged ultrafiltration system, which combines proven and new, unique features. The filter is submerged into wastewater and with a gentle pressure the water is sucked into the filter leaving all the particles and bacteria in the wastewater on the surface of the membrane. An optimized flow of air bubbles and water allow for a constant cleaning effect that can last for up to one year. The filters solid plates can be backwashed by reversing the flow and allowing a cleaning liquid into the filter. This allows for an optimal filter output and lower chances of clogging.

The AQQA filter is made up of stacks of filter plates that are preassembled and connected with a snap on system and can be easily lifted out of a frame. The stack allows for a robust unit that despite the conditions the setup does not change in geometry. Therefore, the system can be operated under very harsh conditions.

These filters can be used to treat municipal and industrial wastewater, greywater, cow or pig manure, surface water, and irrigation or drinking water. The AQQA filters can also be used for sludge thickening or for the pretreatment of desalinated water.

Advantages of the system features include:

- The filter is anchored to the plate and cannot tear.
- The hygienic safety is significantly higher than filters made with conventional welding technologies.
- A robust filter plate with full backflush capability up to 350 bar
- Replacement of existing hollow fiber systems without changes to the system
- The cleaning of the filter can be done in the membrane tank. It is not necessary to remove the filter from the tank. Cleaning can be automated
- The filter does not plug with fibers, which ensures operational safety and availability.
- The mechanical cleaning of the filter with air bubbles is much more efficient. It minimizes the use of cleaning chemicals and the energy input is reduced.
- The filter plates do not stick together.

- The total cost of the system is lower compared to other filter technologies and it needs less space.
- Retrofit with most modern filtration technology at lowest cost. No complex and time consuming alteration.

**6. Sponsor Presentation: Sustainable Water Resource Management System** *(Andy Komor/PACE Engineering)*

The SoFi stadium, home to the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers, features an advanced water resource management system of a multipurpose 5-acre lake designed by PACE Engineering. The lake serves as the site's central stormwater management system and includes water recycling and water conservation features. The lake also serves as a stormwater treatment system for the stadium and entertainment district watershed. Recycled water and stormwater are integrated into the lake providing water for an onsite irrigation system. During the dry weather, recycled water is obtained from the West Basin Municipal Water District and serves as the supply source for the lake make-up water. During wet weather, the lake serves as a short-term flood attenuation basin, reducing the risk of flood in the area.

An onsite treatment system provides further treatment of the recycled water before water enters the lake. It is a 200 gpm treatment process that addresses high levels of odorous ammonia and high phosphorus levels using ion exchange with zeolite, alum, and filtration to support nitrogen (ammonia) and phosphorus removal. Additionally, within the lake the water is continuously recirculated and treated with ozone and additional alum.

The reclaimed water and stormwater combined system is the first of its kind in the state of California. Currently permitting regulations are not set up to address this kind of water management approach. Because of this, the lake's stormwater discharge required a unique and lengthy permitting process to obtain an NPDES stormwater discharge permit approved by the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. The permit allows the excess water produced during storm events, which would be a mix of recycled water and stormwater, to be discharged.

Bimonthly meeting attendees were able to tour the site to see the water resource management system including the stormwater channel, the upper and lower lake, and the advance treatment system.

**7. Next Meetings**

- December 6, 2022 – Santa Clarita Valley Water District (+ virtual)

8. **Adjournment** …… 1:00 p.m.

## Meeting Attendees

| FIRST NAME | LAST NAME | ORGANIZATION |
|---|---|---|
| Garen | Abrahamian | Los Angeles County Department of Public Works |
| Ginachi | Amah | Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| Jenny | Anderson | Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency |
| Erik | Avila | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| Shadi | Bader | Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency |
| Felicia | Carlander | PACE Consultants |
| Paul | Chau | Kennedy Jenks |
| Annie | Chen | Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment |
| Madeline | Chen | Central Basin Municipal Water District |
| Evelyn | Choudhary | Kennedy Jenks |
| Denise | Chow | Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment |
| Rebecca | Christman | State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water |
| Tom | Coleman | Roland Water District |
| Lauren | Collins | Eurofins |
| Jason | Dadikus | Orange County Water District |
| Grace | David | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| Michael | De Ghetto | Glendale Water and Power |
| Chris | DeMonbrun | Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment |
| Danette | Erickson | Crescenta Valley Town Council |
| Kerry | Erickson | Crescenta Valley Water District |
| Hannah | Ford | El Toro Water District |
| Fred | Gerringer | Hazen |
| Preeti | Ghuman | Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts |
| Jesus | Gonzalez | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| Karina | Gonzalez | Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment |
| Lynn | Grijalva | Hazen |
| Han | Gu | Orange County Water District |
| Slavica | Hammond | Parsons |
| Andrew | Han | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| Cuong | Hong | Glendale Water and Power |
| Jose | Huerta | Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency |
| Robert | Huizenga | Burbank Water and Power |

| FIRST NAME | LAST NAME | ORGANIZATION |
|---|---|---|
| Jennifer | Jacobus | Rincon Consultants |
| Raymond | Jay | Metropolitan Water District of Southern California |
| Clarie | Johnson | Orange County Water District |
| Vanna | Kho | Long Beach Water Department |
| Jared | Lee | Burbank Water and Power |
| Qiong | Lei | Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment |
| Bowen | Liang | Los Angeles County Department of Public Works |
| Jose | Lozano | Metropolitan Water District of Southern California |
| Scott | Lynch | Jurupa Community Services District |
| Schober | Marvin | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| Katelyn | Matroni | ESA Associates |
| Judi | Miller | Jacobs |
| Dusty | Moisio | Roland Water District |
| Bill | Morton | Pacific Filtration Systems |
| Philip | Morton | Pacific Filtration Systems |
| Mariam | Panasyan | Los Angeles Sanitation & Environment |
| David | Pedersen | Las Virgenes Municipal Water District |
| Brianna | Plancarte | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| Julio | Polanco | Orange County Water District |
| Kajori | Purkayastha | Kennedy Jenks |
| Christmann | Rebecca | State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water |
| Chris | Repp | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| Julie Ann | Robinson | Glendale Water and Power |
| Michael | Romagnino | Glendale Water and Power |
| Jana | Safarik | Orange County Water District |
| Michael | Salas | Long Beach Water Department |
| Gabriela | Sanchez | Roland Water District |
| Marvin | Schoeber | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| Farzaneh | Shabani | Carollo |
| Oliver | Slosser | Las Virgenes Municipal Water District |
| Sarah | Spano | ESA Associates |
| Kevin | Stewart | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |

| FIRST NAME | LAST NAME | ORGANIZATION |
|---|---|---|
| Diana | Tang | Long Beach Water Department |
| Mark | Tettemer | Irvine Ranch Water District |
| Dung | Tong | |
| Annaliese | Torres | Rincon Consultants |
| Tai | Tseng | Long Beach Water Department |
| Rafael | Villegas | Los Angeles Department of Water and Power |
| My | Vu | Long Beach Water Department |
| Alex | Waite | City of Santa Monica |
| Steven | Webb | Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board |
| Jason | Yim | Santa Clarita Valley Water Agency |
| Alex | Zaragoza | Roland Water District |
| Yan | Zhang | Long Beach Water Department |
| Aimee | Zhao | Water Replenishment District of Southern California |

**TOTAL: 77**