

Location: Rowland Water District
Address: 3021 Fullerton Road
Rowland Heights, CA 91748
Purpose: Bi-Monthly Meeting
Date and Time: October 10, 2023 from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Distribution: Los Angeles WaterReuse Association Chapter Members and Supporters

Below is a summary of the highlights from the October 2023 bimonthly member meeting of the Los Angeles Chapter of the WaterReuse Association.

The presentations from this meeting can be found at:

<http://www.watereuse.org/sections/california/losangeles/meetings>

1. Host/Sponsor Presentation: Rowland Water District's Recycled Water System (Alex Zaragoza; Rowland Water District)

The Rowland Water District was established in 1953. It has a 17.2 square mile service area in LA County and delivers drinking water to 59,000 customers. There are 13,800 service connections including commercial, light industrial, and residential. Rowland Water District is a leader in recycled water use using impaired groundwater and treated wastewater (up to 13,000 GPM). The district has multi-agency agreements with the City of Industry and Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts for their recycled water source of supply which comes from extraction and utilization of groundwater rights held in local basins and non-potable effluent from an EPA Superfund site.

Rowland Water District expanded their recycled water system in 2014 from 8 original service connections to 152 recycled water service connections currently. They also developed a Master Plan that has future phases.

The District's Plan targets retrofitting customers with larger irrigation systems including parks, schools, nurseries, commercial properties. One of their largest customers is a Peaker Plant which uses recycled water for cooling towers. The District converts customers to recycled water through pre-construction surveys, connecting with customers, planning approvals & permit applications, construction, and final inspections and closing of permits with different agencies.

The latest project is a proposed development, the Rowland Town Center, a 120,530 square foot shopping center and hotels, that will require a potable water supply guaranteeing 90 AF per year. In 2015, the drought and water scarcity in California was really bad. The RWD could not guarantee water supply unless the developer could offset additional water demand. Another project is the Future 3 Project. In 2017, a \$2 million agreement with the developer was approved to expand the recycled water system. RWD began planning and design and in 2021, a 1.5 mile recycled water pipeline connects businesses at an existing retail development.

The results are offsets of more than 100 AF potable water demand, no capital cost to district or customer, saving newly converted recycled water customers more than \$60,000 per year, and \$90,000 returned to the developer through the recycled water on-site retrofit rebate incentive program.

RWD is focused on completing the master plan.

2. Technical Presentation: Los Angeles River Flows Project: Development of Decision Support Tools for Flows in the Los Angeles River (*Kris Taniguchu-Quan, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project*)

The Los Angeles River's water use practices are changing. The overall question posed by the project was "What are the potential impacts (+ or -) to instream beneficial uses in the Los Angeles River caused by reductions of wastewater treatment plant discharges and/or stormwater capture?"

The project goals were to quantify the relationship between streamflow and beneficial uses in the LA River, provide a toolkit to evaluate effects of stormwater management and 1211 wastewater change petitions, and engage local stakeholders and receive feedback on study and application.

Overall Outcomes

- We have developed a set of tools that can be used to inform decisions about establishing flow management targets
- We have developed tools that can easily be used to evaluate potential effects of a broad range of potential management scenarios on in-river flows
- The tools are highly flexible and transferable
 - https://sccwrp.shinyapps.io/lar_eflows_shinyapp/
- There is broad agreement among stakeholders on the application and utility of these tools

An overview of the methods was given along with the species occurrence models and the overall flow management targets and the sensitivity curves to assess effects of water reuse. Water quality and restoration analysis were conducted to see how management scenarios might affect water quality and what changes to channel design can accommodate altered flows to support ecological beneficial uses.

This project required a lot of coordination and outreach including a year-long scoping process – 4 stakeholder meetings, seven TAC meetings since January 2019, four stakeholder workgroup meetings, two workshops on recreational uses, and numerous briefings and presentations to community groups and associated LA River programs.

There is an online dashboard with data. Future use of the decision support tools can help municipalities evaluate proposals to regulatory agencies, regulatory agencies to evaluate potential flow requirements, planning entities to inform restoration and management decisions and conducting temperature analysis influenced by climate change and reduced effluent discharge.

3. Water Recycling Legislative/Regulatory Updates (*Jennifer West, WRCA Executive Director*)

Direct Potable Reuse

- WRCA DPR Water Board Panel
- Los Angeles Times Editorial: *"You're already drinking dinosaur pee. So don't be afraid of recycled wastewater"*
- Changes in DPR Regs Since 2021
 - Pathogen control
 - Differentiation of RWA and TWA: regulations now give pathogen credit for reservoirs, aquifers, and blending
 - Greater flexibility to operate between 16/10/11 and 20/14/15 LRVs

- Chemical control
 - Greater flexibility in O3; TOC ratio and BAC empty bed contact time
 - TOC monitored in RO permeate every 15 min rather than 5 min
 - Greater flexibility for TOC critical limit if project includes blending
- Source control
 - Replaced sewershed surveillance in the collection system with early warning at WWTP
- Staffing and Operator Certifications
 - 24/7 staffing required but after one year agency can submit plan to DDW to reduce staffing requirements
 - Reduced AWT certification requirements (only for facilities providing chemical control)
- TMF: reduction in requirements
- Broad Flexibility for Chemical Control
 - *"A DiPPRA may use an alternative to a treatment or treatment sequence requirement in subsections (a) through (l) and (o) if the DiPPRA"....provided that it is equivalent or better than the current chemical control requirements and is approved by DDW*
 - Existing Water Board process allows for validation and use of new technology for DPR
 - Note: flexibility also exists for pathogen treatment though trains must provide 1) membrane separation, 2) UV inactivation, and 3) chemical inactivation
- DPR Advocacy Highlights
 - Need Board Alternatives Clause that applies to the entire regulations – as in previous potable reuse regulations
 - Need greater consistency with CEC monitoring requirements and thresholds. Asking for one Water Board Expert Panel to act as clearinghouse rather than each DiPPRA doing this analysis

Making Conservation a Way of Life – Reuse Issues

- Timeline:
 - Workshop 10/4/23
 - Comment letters due 10/17/23
 - Adoption expected Spring/Summer 2024
 - Annual reporting begins January 2024
 - Water Use Objective annual calculation begins January 2025
 - Compliance begins 2027
- Water Use Objective and Reuse

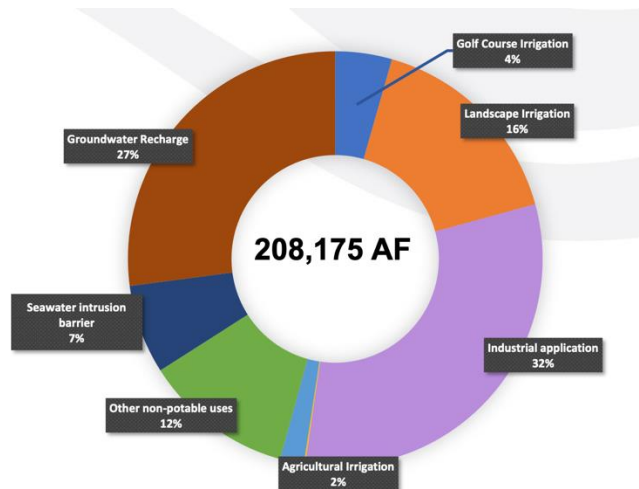
- Water Use Objective = Residential Indoor + Residential Outdoor and CII Outdoor + Water Loss + Variance + Bonds
 - Reduced residential indoor flows may have impacts on wastewater and reuse
- WRCA Focus on Reuse Issues
 - Ensure recycled water landscape sites remain 1.0 ET
 - This is consistent with MWELO but MWELO could change in the future
 - Maintain High TDS Recycled water irrigation variance
 - Up to 1.24 ET but very cumbersome variance process
 - Maintain potable reuse bonus incentive (adding up to 10 to 15% to your Water Use Objective) as described in the statute and DWR appendix
 - Ask that a DPR process be established after the DPR regulations are adopted
- Residential Indoor Standards

Effective Date	Gallons per Capita per Day (GCPD) Standard
Until January 1, 2025	55
January 1, 2025 – January 1, 2030	47
January 1, 2030 on	42

- Established by SB 1157 (2022)
- DWR to conduct studies to quantify impacts on water, wastewater, and recycled water systems by October 2028
- Governor's signing message encourages State Water Board to adopt variances to reflect local investments in recycled water and infrastructure
- "SB 1157 Process" for Impacts to Wastewater
 - Suppliers may request temporary provision to respond to negative impacts to wastewater collection, treatment, and reuse systems
 - Demonstrate need to adhere to the indoor standard to meet the overall water use objective; and
 - Demonstrate that it is causing challenges
 - Submit a request for approval by October 1 each year
 - Demonstrate how it protects beneficial uses
 - Quantify and substantiate each request
 - Demonstrate that it would not jeopardize permit compliance
 - WRCA Request: Make this every five years/streamline process

4. Regulatory Agency Spotlight – Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board (Adam Taing)

- Update on the Region's Recycled Water Program
 - Annual Volumetric Reporting
 - 2022 Volumetric Data released
 - 100% reporting for Region 4
 - https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/recycled_water/volumetric_annual_reporting.html
 - Influent and Effluent in Acre-Feet per Year (AFY) decreased in 2022 from previous years and Recycled Water AFY increased from previous years
 - Recycled Water Usage in 2022



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- Regional Trends
 - Increase in Groundwater Recharge and Landscape Irrigation
 - Decrease in Seawater Intrusion, Industrial and Agricultural Application
- Employment Opportunities
 - (2) Water Resource Control Engineer Vacancies
 - Develop waste discharge requirements and water reclamation requirements for recycled water facilities
 - Health and savings benefits
 - CalPERS Retirement
 - Final Filing Date: 10/19/2023
 - RPA #23-140-019
 - <https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=390773>

5. CA State Section Update (*Rafael Villegas*)

- Last Board of Trustees Meeting: August 11, 2023
- SWRCB 9/7/23 DPR Regs Mtg
 - Need a Broad Alternative Clause (BAC)
 - BAC included in IPR Regulations
 - Complexity + Coordination needed for DPR is unprecedented
 - Don't Restrict Innovation – Add a BAC
- SWRCB 10/4/23 Conservation a California Way of Life
 - WRCA provided public comment
- Recruitment – New Managing Director
 - Jennifer West stepping down 12/31/2023
- WaterReuse California Industry Technical Leaders Forum – 9/21/2023
 - Two In-depth Panel Discussions:
 1. Focus Potable reuse and Recycled Water Issues
 2. Direct Potable Reuse Regulations
 - Goals:
 1. Sharpen WRCA positions and develop agency expertise on these issues
 2. Network/learn from other agencies – how they are handling recycled water regulatory issues
- Reminder
 - All reservations to the Hyatt Regency Indian Wells Resort & Spa must be made by October 5th, 2023, to take advantage of the discounted rate
- Reimaging Water Together
 - Schedule and Technical Program are currently being continually updated
- 2204 WaterReuse Symposium: Call for Presentations
 - The WaterReuse Association invites proposals for presentations at the 39th Annual WaterReuse Symposium
 - September 14, 2023 - Proposals Due via Online Submission Form
 - November 10, 2023 – Speakers Notified
 - January 15, 2023 – Deadline for Speaker Registration Discount
 - February 16, 2024 – PowerPoint Presentations Due
 - March 11-14, 2024 – 2024 WaterReuse Symposium

6. Chapter Updates (*Jennifer Jacobus*)

- Rising Professionals Committee

- Chair: Seto Cherchian Scherchian@BrwnCald.com
- Communications Lead
 - Chair: Oliver Slosser oslosser@lvmwd.com
- Awards Champion
 - Chair: Everett Ferguson eferguson@wrd.org
- Meeting Summary – June 2023
 - Thank you Karina Gonzalez, LA Sanitation & Environment
- Next Meeting
 - Tuesday, December 5, 2023
- Volunteer Opportunity
 - Leg/Reg Updates - Thank you Raymond for many years of service!

7. Membership Roundtable (*Alex Waite*)

- Technical Topic Suggestioons
 - Climate Action Plans/Climate Mitigation Plans
 - Potable reuse for inland communities and agriculture
 - FAT v non-RO based advanced treatment processes
 - Oxidation chemicals (Cl₂ v H₂O₂) in potable reuse
 - Innovative procurement of reuse projects
 - Drought resiliency through recycled water
 - Stormwater capture and reuse
 - Novel instruments for real-time monitoring of pathogens
- Please contact Alex Franchi (alex.franchi@aecom.com) if interested to present!

8. Next Meeting

- Tuesday, December 5, 2023
 - Host: TBD
 - Sponsorship: TBD

9. Adjournment1:00 p.m.

Los Angeles Chapter Officers for 2023/2024

Jared Lee, President	626-379-8443
Alex Waite, Vice President	424-399-6733
Jennifer Jacobus, Secretary/Treasurer	213-448-2586
Rafael Villegas, Chapter Trustee	213-367-1289
Fred Gerring, Past-President	626-319-1107

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