

Location: Santa Monica Institute Meeting Room
Address: 330 Olympic Drive
Santa Monica, CA 90401
Purpose: Bi-Monthly Meeting
Date and Time: December 5, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Distribution: Los Angeles WaterReuse Association Chapter Members and Supporters

Below is a summary of the highlight from the December 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 Presentation: Santa Monica's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project and Future for DPR (Alex Waite, City of Santa Monica)

The City of Santa Monica provides drinking water, wastewater, and recycled water services to 93,000 residents and 2,700 commercial customers. The City of Santa Monica previously served about 77,000 gallons of recycled water from the Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility (SMURRF). Now on the City of Santa Monica is on the precipice of serving 1.5 million gallons per day of advanced recycled water from the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project.

In 2014, the City of Santa Monica created the Sustainable Water Master Plan and updated it in 2018. This was a directive from City Council for the City of Santa Monica to become self-sufficient from local water supplies. The goals were to create a diverse, sustainable, and drought resilient water supply to support a sustainable community; reduce energy footprint to support carbon reduction goals for the City; and establish long term cost benefits for rate payers.

The Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project (SWIP) is consists of two components and four different water supplies. The first component is the 1.0 million gallons per day (MGD) Advanced Water Treatment Facility (AWTF), which takes in raw wastewater as well as a blend of stormwater and urban runoff. The second component is the 0.5 MGD Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling Facility that treats stormwater, urban runoff, and brackish groundwater. Both waters are blended resulting in 1.5 MGD. The 1.5 MG is used for non-potable water services, e.g. toilets, irrigation, etc. The City of Santa Monica also has one groundwater injection well that is almost ready to start operation, as well as two more that are in the design process. The SWIP AWTF is a multistep treatment process that includes a membrane bioreactor (MBR), cartridge filtration, reverse osmosis (RO), ultraviolet (UV)/free chlorine advanced oxidation process (AOP), and free chlorine disinfection. This is the first project in California granted log removal credits for a membrane bioreactor and cartridge filtration processes. It is also the first underground AWTF in California. The SMURRF was a facility built in the early 2000s for stormwater best management practices and recycled water for non-potable application. However, the City of Santa Monica upgraded the facility to include RO and with RO, the water is now meeting Title 22 diluent water pending WDR/WRR permit amendment. The facility is the first stormwater direct injection project in California.

Additionally, the City of Santa Monica's has a new drinking water treatment facility that is currently under construction named the Olympic Advanced Water Treatment Facility that treats wellhead industrial contaminated water. The City of Santa Monica is installing a UV/hydrogen peroxide

(H₂O₂) system and granular activated carbon (GAC) for peroxide quenching. The City of Santa Monica also has its existing Arcadia Water Treatment Plant with a capacity of 13MGD. The City is retrofitting their existing RO facility at the Arcadia Water Treatment Plant to flow reversal/RO, and with the upgrade, they are expected to increase recovery from 82% to 90%.

Some of the reasons the City of Santa Monica is moving towards DPR are: limited groundwater injection capacity, limited space for new injection wells, and limited new infrastructure required. Looking at the draft DPR treatment requirements, the City of Santa Monica, will have to look into some things related to treatment processes. In terms of drinking water, they will have to look at adjustments of the overall flow, how to bring in the alternative source, as well as evaluate capacity limitations in the GAC system. There are also permit considerations. Using the new UV system with the new H₂O₂ and the GAC as well as blending, The City of Santa Monica is looking at potential log reduction values (LRVs) beyond the requirements. That does include a Tier 2 validation of the MBR process and maybe looking at RO credits via strontium and/or chlorine disinfection, but in general, they are there in terms of the treatment scheme. They will also be investigating the alternative clause treatment alternatives. Currently, they have a good handle on the treatment side, but when looking at the staffing side that does raise concerns and that will be something they will have to focus on.

2. Sponsor presentation: Updates from LA County Water Plan (*Brian Dietrick and Dawn Flores; Woodard and Curran*)

The Los Angeles County Water Plan is a regional plan. The spatial scope of the plan is to cover the entire county. That is something the county has not done before. The plan is intended to be a collaborative plan and to use information that is already available and consolidate it. Conceptualization of the plan began in 2018 and development of the plan started in summer 2020. During development, the goal was to make it an implementable plan. As part of the regional collaboration process Woodard and Curran started by speaking to individual agencies and getting a needs assessment done, then put together working groups to discuss issues in Los Angeles County that were not currently being addressed. Woodard and Curran presented to different stakeholder groups for as much input as possible. The objective was to build on current plans and complement other initiatives and efforts, as well a regional and local recycled water programs.

Woodard and Curran had four focus areas in completing the plan: regional water supply reliability, groundwater management and quality, small at risk system resilience and drinking water equity, and watershed sediment management, which were areas with identified gaps that should be addressed. The main elements of the water plan are to create a vision that would help develop numerical targets to see how the plan is doing, identify strategies and actions to meet the targets, and an implementation component and actions for the Los Angeles County and other agencies. The targets are not stand alone they have to work with other local and regional efforts to get to the County Water Plan targets. The to be answered: what can they do county wide to connect different areas that might need more water resources or might not have as resilient water supplies. The idea is to look at ways to connect different areas.

3. Regulatory Agency Spotlight (*LA County Department of Public Health*)

- Project delays
 - Plan approval
 - Following directions for smooth approval

4. CA State Section Update (*Rafael Villegas*) (1:04:54)

- Last WRCA Board Meeting: November 5, 2023
- Finance Report
 - 2023 Finances to date
 - Revenues came in higher than budgeted and expenditures
 - Reserves rolled into T-Bills
 - Motion to Approve; 2024 Budget Adopted
- WaterReuse California 2023 Conference Update
 - 689 registrations
 - Conference sold out –at capacity
 - Biggest year in sponsorships: \$253k (goal was \$200k)
 - Sold out golf tournament
- Recycled Water Funding Opportunities
 - Have not gone out yet; Rafael Villegas will work with Jennifer Jacobus to get out list of funding opportunities
- WRA Executive Director's Report
 - Membership
 - Net 40, California net 5 members
 - National Symposium – Denver
 - Upcoming year, focus on Colorado River
 - a. GM panel on RW implications for Colorado River
 - b. Regulatory Summit – States can learn from each other
 - c. Reimagining Water Together
 - i. Update from March 10-13, 2024 to March 11-14, 2024
 - ii. Early bird registration ends 12/13/2023

5. Chapter Updates *(Fred Gerringer)*

- Weymouth Treatment Plant Tour (in La Verne) – November 1, 2023
 - 10:00 am -12:00pm
 - Lunch planned after the tour
- Rising Professionals Committee
 - Chair: Seto Cherchain Scherchian@BrwnCald.com
- Communications
 - Chair: Oliver Slosser oslosser@lvmwd.org
 - Next Fall-Winter Newsletter coming in February 2024

- Meeting Summary – June 2023
 - Thank you Annie Chen and Karina Gonzalez (LA Sanitation and Environment)
- Volunteer Opportunity
 - Leg/Reg Updates

6. Membership Roundtable (*Alex Waite*)

- How does your organization champion public outreach?
- Looking for host and lunch sponsors for October and December meetings
 - Thank you Brown & Caldwell

7. Next Meetings

- February 13, 2023
 - Host: TBD
 - Sponsor: TBD

8. Adjournment 1:00 p.m.

9. Tour of the Sustainable Water Infrastructure Project.....1:15 p.m.

Los Angeles Chapter Officers for 2023/2024

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