



Sent via email: Commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

September 11, 2024

Chairman E. Joaquin Esquivel
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 24th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Attention: Courtney Tyler, Clerk to the Board

**RE: 09/17-18/2024 BOARD MEETING – ITEM #7 –
Consideration of a proposed Resolution adopting emergency regulations revising
the Core Water Quality Regulatory Fee Schedules contained in Title 23, Division
3, Chapter 9, Article 1, Sections 2200, 2200.6, 2200.7 and 2200.8 of the
California Code of Regulations.**

Dear Chairman Esquivel:

WaterReuse California (WRCA) and the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA) are pleased to submit comments on the proposed Resolution adopting emergency regulations revising the Core Water Quality Regulatory Fee Schedules. WRCA represents over 220 public agencies, consulting firms, and companies dedicated to expanding the use of recycled water in California. CASA represents more than 130 public agencies and municipalities.

The state of California through statutes and State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) policies has long encouraged the development of recycled water and potable and non-potable reuse as drought and climate resilient water supplies. We share the Governor's robust vision as outlined in his August 2022, [*California's Water Supply Strategy: Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future*](#) (Water Supply Strategy) which identifies increasing the use of recycled water as a key strategy: *Recycle and reuse at least 800,000 acre-feet of water per year by 2030 and 1.8 million acre-feet by 2040* (page 3). The *Water Supply Strategy* further highlights the importance of developing these supplies and details several actions for increasing recycled water and potable reuse in the state.

Consistent with the state's goals to expand recycled water production, the entire state benefits from recycled water freeing up potable supplies. WRCA urges this new fee be implemented in a manner that supports agencies that are planning to produce recycled water as well as those that already have established permits.

Best Path Forward

We appreciate the State Board staff's commitment to avoiding duplicative charges and feels that these Water Recycling Fees and Surcharges [most recently known as "Option F" proposed fees for Recycled Water Permits for fiscal year 2024-25] where a fee would be assessed based on the type of recycled water produced is the most reasonable path forward. Due to the budget change proposal, we understand the requirement that the State Board adopt these fees. We are comfortable with the adoption of "Option F" as the best path forward.

Request for ongoing meaningful stakeholder engagement

We greatly appreciated the State Board staff holding several Recycled Water Permits Fees Stakeholder Meetings over Zoom with both the Division of Administrative Services Fee Unit and the Division of Water Quality staff. Additionally, we found a lot of value meeting with both divisions in-person in June of 2024.

We look forward to working with State Board staff and, if warranted, would like the opportunity to participate in a separate Recycled Water Permits Fees Stakeholder meeting in 2025. Thank you again for facilitating those opportunities in 2024 for stakeholders to ask questions and provide meaningful input in the fee setting process. We believe ongoing stakeholder input will allow for the recycled water community to understand the benefits they will be receiving from the implementation of this fee.

Conclusion

We share your commitment to climate-resilient water sources. We desire to work with the State Board on these issues to ensure cost-effective, fair and transparent fees are established.

For questions or additional information, please contact me at rcortes@watereuse.org.

Sincerely,



Rosario Cortés
Manager of Regulatory Affairs
WateReuse California



Jared Voskuhl
Director of Regulatory Affairs
California Association of Sanitation Agencies

cc: Board Members, State Board
Karen Mogus, Chief Deputy Director, State Board
David Ceccarelli, Chief, Fee & Revenue Branch, Division of Administrative Services, State Board
Phil Crader, Deputy Director, Division of Water Quality, State Board
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