

How Permitting Can Support or Disincentivize Water Recycling

WaterReuse Association Northern
California Chapter & Bay Area Clean
Water Agencies (BACWA) Joint Workshop
April 29, 2025



**Dublin San Ramon
Services District**

Water, wastewater, recycled water

Jan Lee, General Manager

Overview

1. DSRSD's Water Recycling Program
2. Water Recycling as a Nutrient Management Strategy
3. How does the Permit **Support** Water Recycling?
4. How does the Permit **Disincentivize** Recycling?
5. DSRSD's Path Forward



About DSRSD

Our History

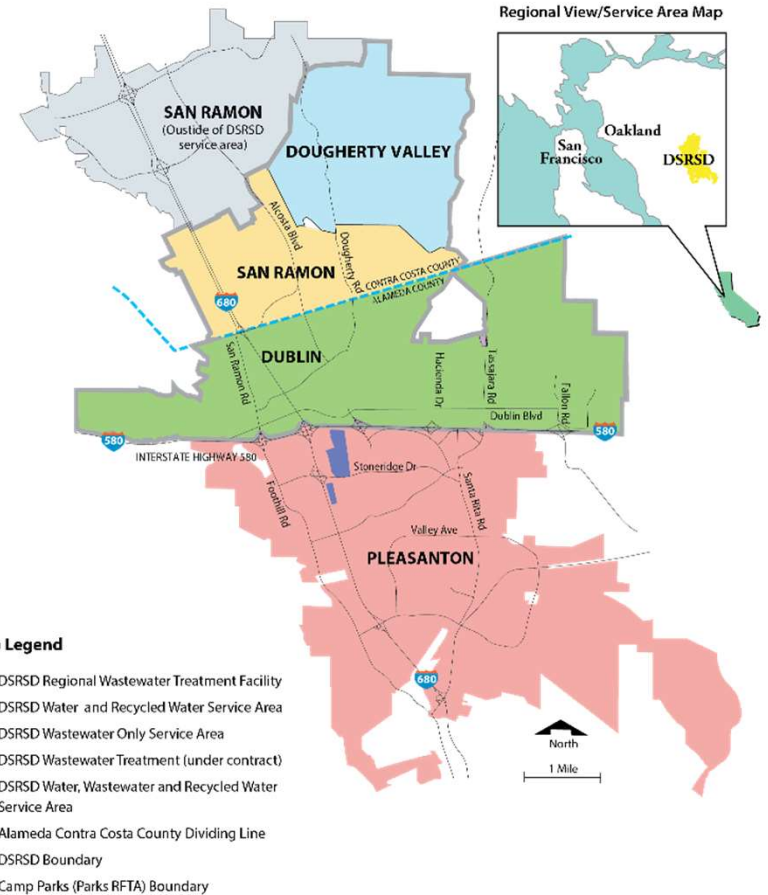
- Founded in 1953

Water Services

- Potable Distribution
- Recycled Water Treatment & Distribution

Wastewater Services

- Collection & Treatment



History of Water Recycling at DSRSD



1995
DERWA
Formation

2019
New
Connection
Moratorium

2022
Interim
Agreement for
Supply & Sale of
Recycled Water

2006
First Delivery
of Recycled
Water

2020
Temporary
Supplemental
Supply



2024
DERWA Supply
Management Plan &
Nutrient Watershed
Permit



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Multiple Benefits



Conserves limited drinking water supplies



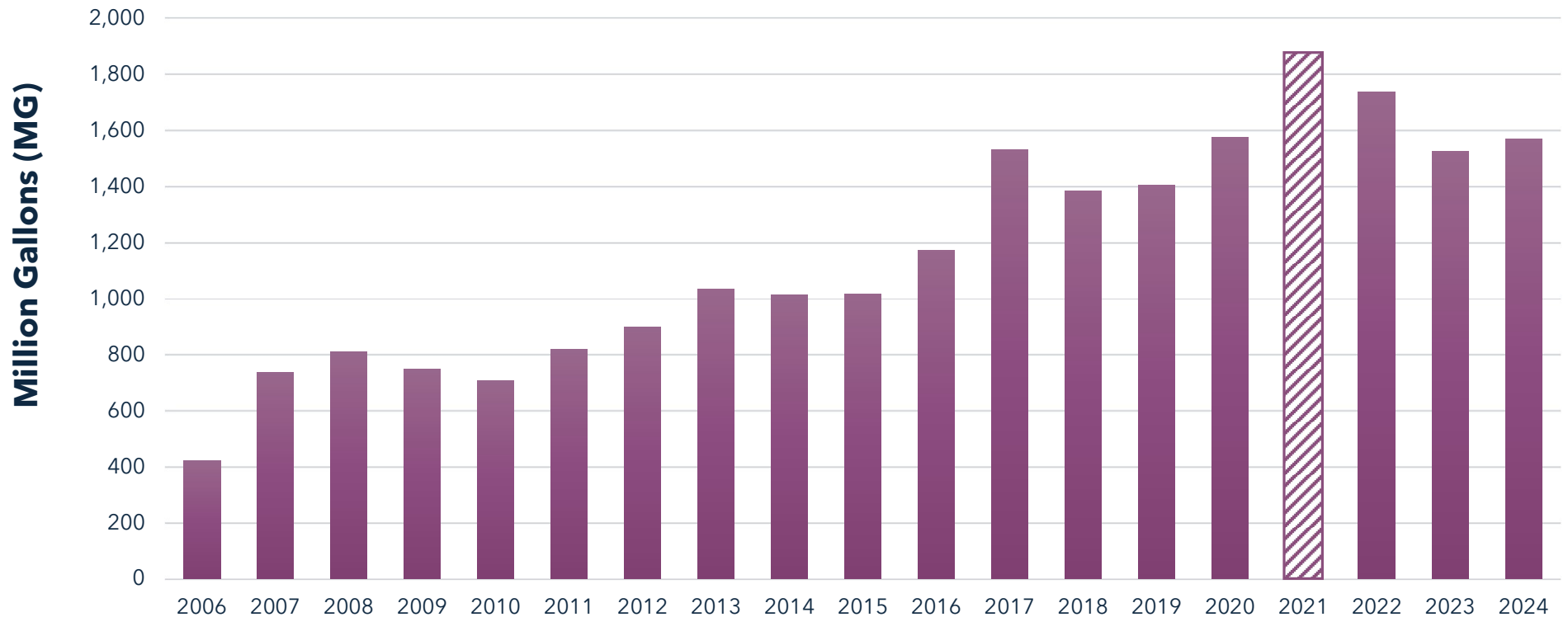
Provides a sustainable and climate resilient water supply for the region



Diverts nitrogen from the San Francisco Bay



Annual Recycled Water Production



Funding Invested in Recycled Water:

\$240 million





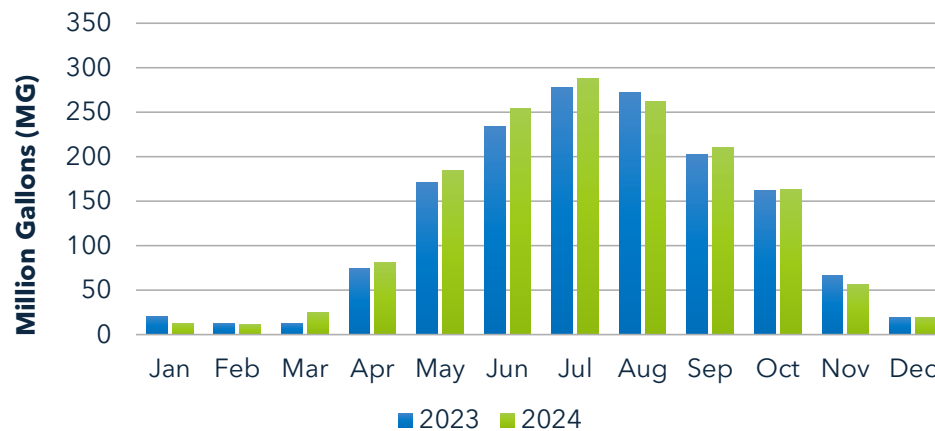
NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Water Recycling

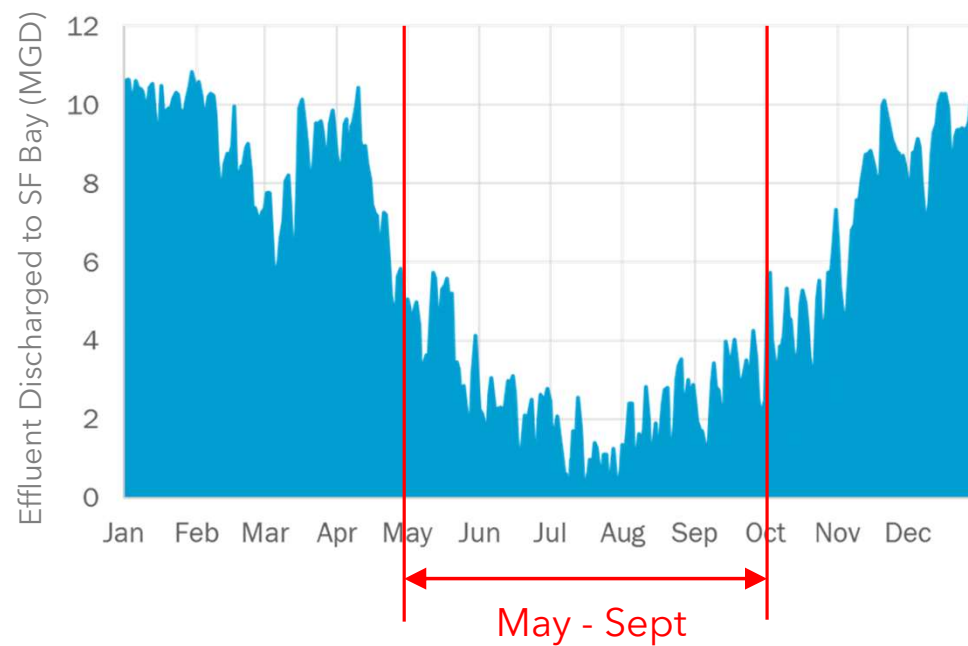
Why It Works

Seasonal demand for recycled water coincides with the dry season – a critical time for algal blooms.

Monthly Recycled Water Demand



Nutrient Reduction



Nutrient Reduction



3,300 TONS

of total inorganic nitrogen has been diverted from the Bay since 2006. That's the same weight as 2,500 cars!



UP TO 80%

nitrogen removal in the dry season from recycled water production





How Does the Permit Support Water Recycling?



Stated support for multi-benefit solutions



Adjusted compliance reporting timelines



Commitment to explore longer compliance timelines



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How Does the Permit Disincentivize Water Recycling?



Compliance
Timelines



Inherent
Uncertainties



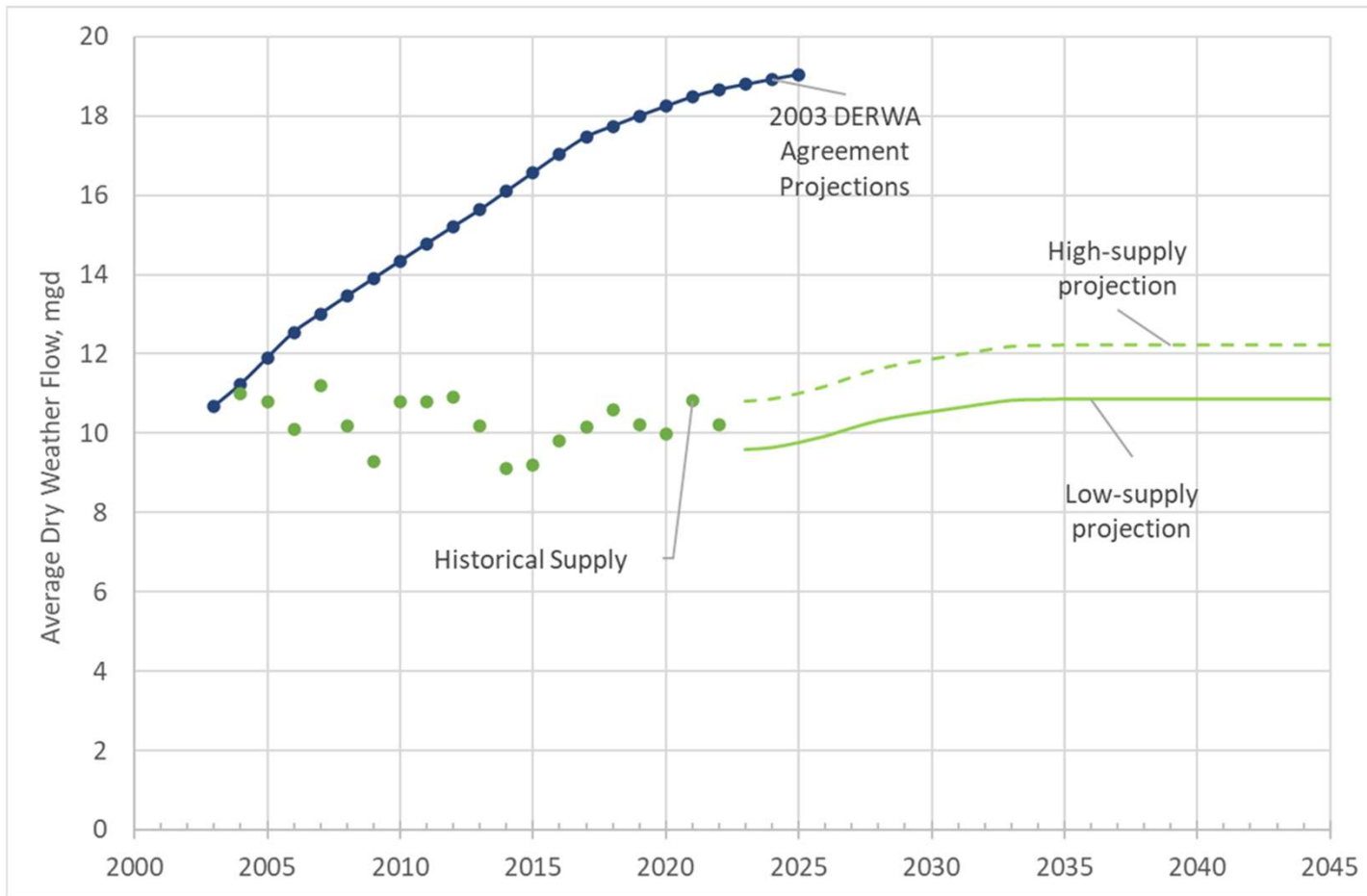
Conflicting
Regulations



DERWA Recycled Water Service Areas



Conservation Effects on Wastewater Supply





Path Forward

- Continue to pursue recycled water as primary nutrient management strategy

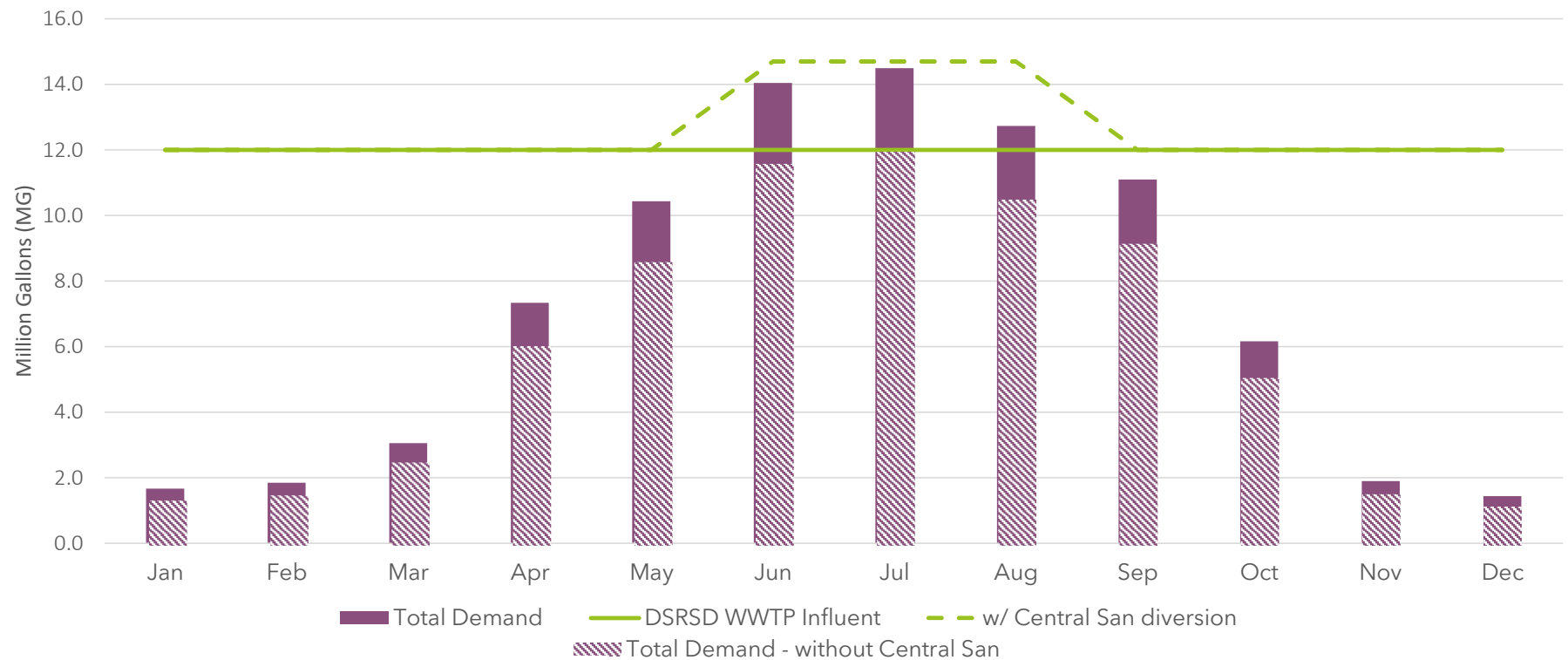




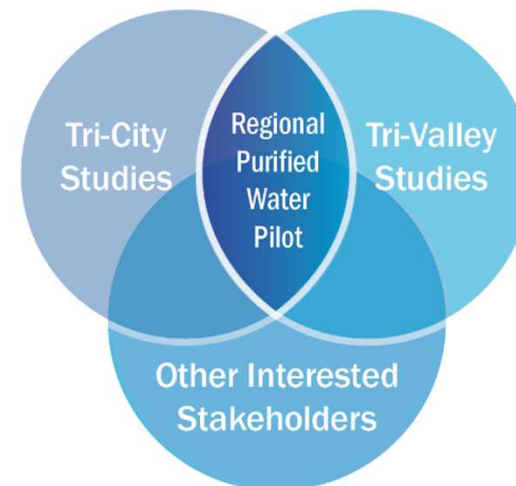
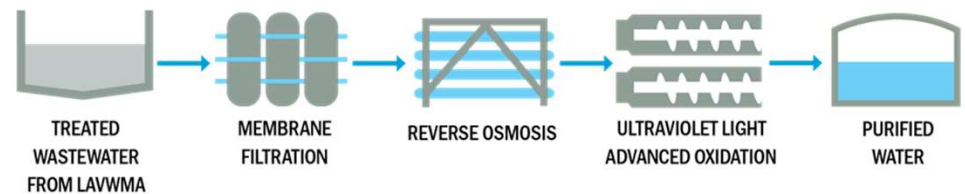
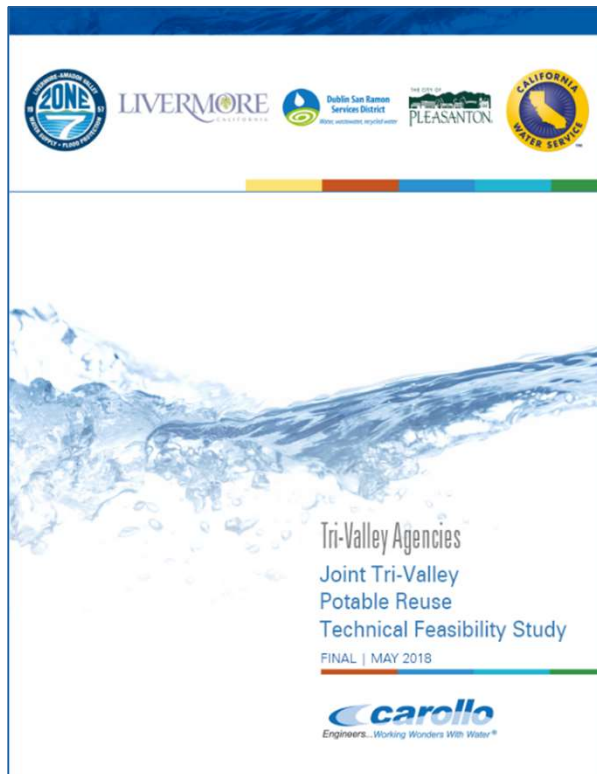
Collaborative Partnerships



2035 Recycled Water Projected Demand



Purified Water Opportunities





Additional Options

- Plant optimization
- Conventional treatment methods



Key Takeaways



1. Water recycling can be an **effective nutrient management strategy**
2. Multi-benefit solutions are **complex** and require time to develop and implement
3. **Certainty and flexibility** needed to support water recycling as a compliance pathway
4. Opportunities to **innovate** and **collaborate**



Questions?

Jan Lee

General Manager
jlee@dsrsd.com



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Supplemental Supply Opportunity

