COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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January 30, 2007

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: A-0
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TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Dean D. Efstathiou, Chairman
Recycled Water Task Force

RESPONSE TO MOTION OF MAY 23, 2006, AGENDA ITEM 20
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT
RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE

On May 23, 2006, the Board of Supervisors approved a motion instructing the Director of Public Works to convene and chair a task force, comprised of appropriate County departments, water recycling agencies, representatives from the County's local cities, and the building industry, to assess the complex nature and issues surrounding the development and use of recycled water. The Board directed the task force to make recommendations for a broad, Countywide policy that would further expand the use of recycled water for nonpotable purposes.

In response to the Board's motion, Public Works convened the Recycled Water Task Force. The Task Force focused on the role the Board could play in increasing the use of recycled water. The attached report addresses the issues raised by the Board's motion and recommends policy changes, including the creation of the Office of Water Recycling. The estimated initial annual budget for the Office is $400,000 at no net cost to the County's General Fund. The report is consistent with the recently adopted Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Implementing the recommendations contained in the report will assist the County in increasing the use of recycled water from 167,400 to 333,600 acre-feet by 2030. The 166,200 acre-feet increase will be comprised of the 130,000 acre-feet IRWMP target, 17,400 acre-feet projected use per the Castaic Lake Water Agency 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, 13,400 acre-feet projected demand in the Antelope Valley, and 5,400 acre-feet projected use per the Newhall Ranch Specific Plan. The 166,200 acre-feet increase in the use of recycled water will enable an equivalent amount of potable water to be utilized to satisfy the demands for an additional 1.3 million people. The recommendations contained in the report are summarized in the attached executive

summary. Also attached are letters from various entities supporting the recommendations contained in the report.

It has been my pleasure to work with members of the Task Force on such an important issue as securing and providing reliability in the area of water supply. I am looking forward to working with your Board in implementing the Task Force recommendations.

DDE:plg
A2003

Attach.

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office
Recycled Water Task Force Members

RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE
POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS FORE THE
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force identified four major categories for recommendations: Institutional, Infrastructure, Regulations, and Public Outreach. The Institutional section of the report describes the structure and staffing needed to implement the Task Force recommendations. The Infrastructure section contains recommendations for developing the facilities necessary to increase use of recycled water. The Regulations section identifies efforts needed to improve the regulatory framework governing recycled water use. The Public Outreach section describes the type of information and campaigns needed to garner public support for using recycled water. Task Force recommendations within each category are provided below and supporting information is contained within the body of the report.

INSTITUTIONAL

Policy Recommendations

- Amend Los Angeles County Code Section 2.18.015 to appoint the Director of Public Works, or his designee, as lead County officer for water recycling issues and assign primary responsibility to the Director of Public Works to coordinate and implement all policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors in the area of water recycling.

- Instruct the Directors of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Internal Services Department to work with the Director of Public Works to insure that all County parks, golf courses, and other County-maintained parkways and expansive greenbelts are connected to recycled water supplies where available by 2020.

- Instruct the Director of Public Works to propose rules and regulations by July 1, 2007, to require Waterworks Districts' customers to use recycled water for nonpotable outdoor purposes where available and feasible for adoption by the Board.

- Adopt as County policy the use of recycled water in irrigating golf courses, parks and other expansive areas in unincorporated County areas where feasible. Instruct the Director of Public Works to develop a County Ordinance that mandates such use.

- Instruct the Director of Public Works to convene the Task Force at least semi-annually over the next five years to follow up on recommendations approved by the Board and develop additional recommendations to the Board as necessary. The Task Force will report to the Board as significant events dictate.

- Establish an Office of Water Recycling within Public Works staffed by a high-level official from Public Works by July 1, 2007.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Policy Recommendations

- Develop a recycled water master plan focusing on County-owned facilities, unincorporated County areas, and the service areas of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts to be completed by June 2008. The master plan should be a joint effort between appropriate County departments and recycled water producers that is consistent and integrated with existing recycled water plans.

- Work with the Building Industry Association to develop a County Ordinance requiring dual plumbing for toilet and urinal flushing and other nonpotable uses in new development in the unincorporated areas where use of recycled water is feasible. Provide this ordinance as a model for all cities in Los Angeles County to use in their jurisdictions.

- Prepare a guidance document for the preparation of engineering reports for dual-plumbed buildings as defined by Title 22 in coordination with State and County Departments of Health Services utilizing the Irvine Ranch Water District as a model.

- Advocate for Federal, State, and local funding that supports recycled water projects.

- Advocate that regulatory agencies permit recycled water projects.

REGULATIONS

Policy Recommendations

Instruct the Office of Water Recycling to:

- Work with agencies producing recycled water in identifying and rectifying regulations or permitting requirements that are inconsistent with utilization of recycled water as a resource.

- Work with agencies that principally see recycled water as a waste to value it highly as a resource and encourage its use.

- Work with appropriate agencies to increase the use of recycled water at groundwater recharge facilities.

RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE

Policy Recommendations for the

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors

January 30, 2007

RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE
MEMBERSHIP

Los Angeles County Department of Public Works

Dean D. Efstathiou, Chairman
Allen Gribnau, Advisor

Los Angeles County Departments

Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office (David Dijkstra)
Los Angeles County Counsel (Fred Pfaeffle/Michael Moore)
Los Angeles County Internal Services Department (Howard Choy)
Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation (Patrick Reynolds)
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (Carlos Borja)
Los Angeles County Regional Planning Commission (Paul McCarthy)
County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Jim Stahl/Earl Hartling/Bob Horvath)

Outside Agencies

State of California Department of Health Services (Stefan Cajina)
City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (Thomas Erb/William Van Wagoner)
West Basin Municipal Water District (Richard Nagel)
Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District (Timothy C. Jochem)
Castaic Lake Water Agency (Dan Masnada)
Newhall Land and Farming/Building Industry Association, L.A. Region (Mark Subbotin)
City of Signal Hill (Charlie Honeycutt)
City of Downey (Desi Alvarez)
City of Lancaster (Randy Williams)
Water Replenishment District (Robb Whitaker)
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Tim Blair)
Mono Lake Committee (Frances Spivy-Weber)
Southern California Water Committee (James Noyes)

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INTRODUCTION

Ten years ago, the County of Los Angeles Civil Grand Jury investigated water use within the County. One of its findings identified water recycling as an important component in the State's overall water supply solution, as it is the most reliable local resource that would lessen the region's dependency on imported sources, especially during drought periods. The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors (Board) has also adopted policies to encourage the use of recycled water within the County. Despite these policies, the Task Force determined there is much more that could be done. On May 23, 2006, the Board approved a motion directing the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works (Public Works) to convene a Task Force to make recommendations to the Board for a broad, Countywide policy that would further expand the use of recycled water for nonpotable purposes. This motion reflected information provided by Public Works' 2003 report that dealt with water recycling issues.

The 2005-06 Civil Grand Jury decided to revisit the issue to measure the progress made in increasing the use of recycled water since its report ten years ago. The Grand Jury met with management staff from Public Works and numerous other agencies. They determined that while there had been significant increases in recycled water use, there were also opportunities to use more recycled water. The Grand Jury made two recommendations to the Board in its 2005-06 final report.

One recommendation was to convene a summit of experts in recycled water that would include representatives from the Metropolitan Water District, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and Public Works, along with other regulatory agencies, to review current regulation of recycled water for nonpotable uses. The purpose of this summit corresponds with the Board's motion to create the Recycled Water Task Force and to provide policy recommendations. The other Grand Jury recommendation was to establish a comprehensive public outreach program that could be used to educate school children, community groups, and those at institutions of higher learning on recycled water.

In response to the Board's motion of May 23, 2006, Public Works convened the Recycled Water Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force focused on the role the Board could play in increasing the use of recycled water. This report addresses the issues raised by the Board's motion and recommends policy changes, including the creation of the Office of Water Recycling. The estimated initial annual budget for the Office is $400,000 at no net cost to the County's General Fund. The report is consistent with the recently adopted Greater Los Angeles County Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP). Implementing the recommendations contained in the report will assist the County in increasing the use of recycled water from 167,400 acre-feet to 333,600 acre-feet by 2030. The 166,200 acre-feet increase will be comprised of the 130,000 acre-feet IRWMP target, 17,400 acre-feet projected use per Castaic Lake Water Agency 2005 Urban Water Management Plan, 13,400 acre-feet projected demand in the Antelope Valley, and 5,400 acre-feet projected use per the Newhall

Ranch Specific Plan. The 166,200 acre-feet increase in the use of recycled water will enable an equivalent amount of potable water to be utilized to satisfy the demands for an additional 1.3 million people.

BACKGROUND

Two-thirds of the potable water supply for Los Angeles County comes from Northern California and the Colorado River via a series of aqueducts, canals, and pump stations. This makes the County reliant on supplies that vary with the climate fluctuations and places the County at risk should there be a prolonged drought or other natural disaster. Additionally, the quantity and quality of local supplies are threatened by degradation over time.

These issues place an increased demand on the imported supplies the County relies upon and leads to the conclusion that the County can no longer rely on increases in imported supplies to meet future local demands.

The remaining one-third of the County's water supply needs are met by local sources, such as groundwater, surface water, and recycled water. Increasing local supplies reduces the pressures on imported supplies and provides for greater reliability in meeting both our present and future water demands. However, a myriad of problems exist in attempting to substantially increase either groundwater production or diversion of additional surface water – issues that have been subject to substantial litigation.

Presently, recycled water production, the water produced as effluent from the regions' wastewater treatment plants, far exceeds the beneficial uses to which this water is applied creating an underutilized resource. The current single greatest beneficial use for recycled water in Los Angeles County is in groundwater replenishment. This use will remain the dominant volumetric use for the foreseeable future; however, there are significant opportunities to expand the uses of recycled water. Nearly all of the recycled water used for groundwater recharge in Los Angeles County occurs in the southwestern portion of the County. There is little recycled water utilized for groundwater recharge in the remainder of the Los Angeles, San Gabriel and Santa Clara Rivers' watersheds, or in the Antelope Valley. Some of these areas are the fastest growing within the County. Meeting the increased demands for potable water is essential for continuing growth within the County. Providing the facilities necessary to conduct groundwater recharge operations with recycled water will enhance our ability to meet both present and future demands and provides the largest single project use of this supply.

Groundwater recharge is just one use for recycled water. Replacing potable water with recycled water would make more potable water available for truly potable needs. Irrigation of parks, golf courses, median strips, and other expansive landscaped areas is an ideal use for recycled water. Dual plumbing for buildings with numerous toilets would allow recycled water to be used for flushing purposes and, likewise, increase the availability of potable supplies. Certain industrial processes may be candidates for recycled water as well. Focus on increasing the use of recycled water in all these areas is needed if Los Angeles County is going to continue to meet its anticipated regional water demands.

In all these areas, recycled water can be used while ensuring public health. Groundwater recharge with recycled water has been an ongoing practice for decades in

Los Angeles County with no adverse health effects. Similarly, irrigating with recycled water has been safely practiced here and elsewhere for decades. Dual-plumbed buildings are governed by Federal, State, and local regulations that safeguard public health. Plan checkers and inspectors in various agencies scrutinize these systems to eliminate the potential for cross connection to potable systems.

More can and should be done to increase the use of recycled water within the County. Implementing the recommendations described in this report will assist in this effort.

The Task Force met monthly since June 2006 to develop the recommendations described in this report. The Board could take these recommendations to promote the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County and to educate the people within Los Angeles County on the benefits of using recycled water. The Task Force identified four major categories for recommendations: Institutional, Infrastructure, Regulations, and Public Outreach. The Institutional section of the report describes the structure and staffing needed to implement the Task Force recommendations. The Infrastructure section contains recommendations for developing the facilities necessary to increase use of recycled water. The Regulations section identifies efforts needed to improve the regulatory framework governing recycled water use. The Public Outreach section describes the type of information and campaigns needed to garner public support for using recycled water. Task Force recommendations within each category are provided, and supporting information is contained within the body of the report.

INSTITUTIONAL

Having the latest recycled water information available in a centralized and accessible location is necessary to implement projects in an effective and efficient manner. Currently, there are efforts throughout Los Angeles County and the State of California that centralize information with some success. Some of these efforts are being conducted by recycled water producers and others by State and national recycled water organizations. However, to implement the recommendations proposed to the Board, a focused approach that would bring those efforts together under one management umbrella is necessary. To accomplish this objective, an Office of Water Recycling should be established.

The Office of Water Recycling would have many responsibilities, including advocating and promoting the use of recycled water and projects that help achieve quantifiable regional goals/targets. Quantifiable regional targets are being defined through the IRWMPs and Urban Water Management Plans. The Office of Water Recycling would be staffed by a high-level manager within Public Works. The Office would coordinate efforts between and among several County Departments, such as Health Services, Regional Planning, Parks and Recreation, Internal Services, Public Works, and external entities, such as the California Department of Health Services, the Regional Water Quality Control Boards, the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, other agencies producing recycled water, and cities. Coordination would include identifying opportunities to improve efficiencies in processing a recycled water project from conception to actual delivery to the end user.

To avoid duplicating efforts currently being undertaken by others, the Office will perform an analysis of industry efforts to increase use of recycled water. It will tailor its own efforts to supplement those already being performed by others. The following is a description of the issue affecting the centralization of information and coordination efforts related to recycled water.

Case Studies

The Alondra Park Golf Course (a County facility) is located immediately adjacent to a West Basin Municipal Water District recycled water line, yet the facility continues to use only potable or groundwater for irrigation. The golf course is operated and maintained by private management companies that have lease agreements with the Department of Parks and Recreation. For three reasons, the golf course management has chosen not to utilize recycled water for irrigation:

- The County of Los Angeles holds groundwater rights to pump water from the West Coast Basin. The cost to use this water is significantly less than the cost for recycled or potable water.

- The private management companies operate the golf course under a lease agreement for a specific time period. The payback period for converting the

distribution system at the golf course to use recycled water on the fairways is longer than the companies' lease agreement with the County.

- The golf course was at one time connected to West Basin's recycled water system while the wells at the facility were out of service. At that time, the greens on the golf course could not handle the higher salt concentrations that are present in recycled water and began to deteriorate. West Basin confirmed this is always a potential problem when the greens at any golf course are irrigated with recycled water and is usually the justification for modifying the distribution system at a golf course to a dual-plumb system with potable water used on the putting surfaces and recycled water for the fairways, tee boxes, and rough. Those who operate Alondra Park Golf Course are hesitant to again use recycled water for irrigation out of fear that it will negatively impact the entire golf course.

The case studies in the other sections of this report also provide the context for the recommendations within the Institutional section of the report. Reference can be made to those case studies to further understand the Institutional policy recommendations.

Issue

There is no single organization or system in place in Los Angeles County that:

- Acts as a repository of current information on legislation impacting recycled water.
- Acts as a repository of current information on regulations that impact recycled water providers and end users.
- Provides current technical information on the development and implementation of recycled water projects.
- Provides up-to-date information on the most state-of-the art, proven technologies available for recycled water treatment for various reuse applications.
- Provides up-to-date information on current and past research related to recycled water (treatment technology, public perception surveys, etc.).
- Acts as a repository of information for actual construction and operation cost information for recycled water projects throughout Los Angeles County.
- Provides current information from a public relations and public health perspective on the impact of recycled water on humans.
- Provides current information on completed, proposed, and suggested recycled water projects.
- Provides strategies and opportunities for funding projects and programs.

- Advocates for the implementation of quantifiable regional targets on the use of recycled water.

- Provides leadership to garner support for projects and programs.

- Provides direct answers to questions from the public, building industry, and developers.

Policy Recommendation

- Amend Los Angeles County Code Section 2.18.015 to appoint the Director of Public Works, or his designee, as lead County officer for water recycling issues and assign primary responsibility to the Director of Public Works to coordinate and implement all policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors in the area of water recycling.

- Instruct the Directors of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Internal Services Department to work with the Director of Public Works to insure that all County parks, golf courses, and other County-maintained parkways and expansive greenbelts are connected to recycled water supplies where available by 2020.

- Instruct the Director of Public Works to propose rules and regulations by July 1, 2007, to require Waterworks Districts' customers to use recycled water for nonpotable outdoor purposes where available and feasible for adoption by the Board.

- Adopt as County policy that recycled water shall be used to irrigate golf courses, parks and other expansive areas in unincorporated County areas where feasible. Instruct the Director of Public Works to develop a County Ordinance that mandates such use.

- Instruct the Director of Public Works to convene the Task Force at least semi-annually over the next five years to follow up on recommendations approved by the Board and develop additional recommendations to the Board as necessary. The Task Force will report to the Board as significant events dictate.

- Establish an Office of Water Recycling within Public Works staffed by a high-level official from Public Works by July 1, 2007, with an initial estimated annual budget of $400,000 at no net cost to the County's General Fund. Instruct the Office of Water Recycling to:

    - Implement recycled water policies previously adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

    - Work with cities, water recycling producers, and the Building Industry Association to implement, as appropriate, recommendations of the California

Water Plan Update 2006 (Bulletin 160) and recommendations of the California Recycled Water Task force (Water Recycling 2030).

- Prepare a five-signature letter from the Board to the Governor of California requesting that the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) review its current use of recycled water for irrigation of its rights of way throughout the State, and request Caltrans to prepare a report identifying locations where Caltrans can increase the use of recycled water for this purpose.

- Train Public Works staff on the benefits and applicable uses of recycled water and the County's commitment to utilize it for nonpotable purposes.

- Advocate for local water retailers and wastewater agencies to establish agreements that designate which agencies will bear specific costs for using recycled water and how those costs will be passed on to customers.

- Become a member of the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Advisory Committee, the local chapter of the WateReuse Association's California Section.

- Work with County departments to improve the efficiency of review and approval processes for projects and programs related to water recycling to increase the use of recycled water.

- Work with producers of recycled water to ensure that County policies are integrated and consistent with other regional water recycling efforts.

- Work with the newly established County Energy and Environmental Team to implement further use of recycled water in County facilities.

Working in cooperation with the WateReuse Association to avoid duplication of effort, the Office of Water Recycling will also:

- Provide information on Federal, State, and local legislation, its potential impact on the County, and the proposed course of action if necessary.

- Provide information regarding regulations at the Federal, State, County, and local levels.

- Support or lead advocacy efforts at the Federal, State, and local levels related to issues on recycled water in the County.

- Identify funding opportunities for projects and programs. This would include opportunities to integrate a project with other projects or opportunities to develop multibenefit projects with partnering organizations for more efficient use of funding resources.

- Identify new and emerging recycled water technologies for potential use on projects.
- Develop flow charts for recycled water project development including possible permitting (including CEQA), inspections, approvals, and other critical milestones.
- Provide information on costs related to the construction and maintenance of recycled water projects in Southern California.
- Provide information on current and past research related to recycled water.
- Provide technical documents and case studies that openly discuss health issues related to recycled water.
- Identify locations of existing and proposed recycled water systems, preferably in GIS.
- Provide information on recycled water conferences and educational opportunities.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The use of recycled water requires infrastructure to transmit recycled water from a supplier to an end user capable of using the recycled water. The backbone of the recycled water delivery system must be built first to enable reliable delivery of this resource. New buildings and other facilities that are most likely to be sites for recycled water use in the near future also need to be built with the appropriate infrastructure to facilitate connecting to recycled water supply lines when available.

Case Studies

The cost to construct a recycled water backbone system in north Los Angeles County to serve the customers of Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, has been estimated at $145 million (based on the Facilities Planning Report for this project prepared by the Los Angeles County Waterworks District No. 40, Antelope Valley, in cooperation with other stakeholders in the Antelope Valley). The report identified 13,400 acre-feet (AF) of annual demand for recycled water in the project area. The cost to construct and operate the new recycled water system would be $775 per AF of water delivered for the first 20 years that the system operates. This cost does not include the cost that must be negotiated with the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County to purchase the treated wastewater for the distribution system, and it is still more than twice the cost the District pays for imported potable water. In addition, limited use of recycled water during the winter season may create a significant need for additional large reservoirs to store the water until it can be used during the summer months. In order for the distribution of recycled water to be a viable option for local water retailers to provide to their customers, retailers and wastewater agencies must work out a fair agreement defining which agencies will bear which costs and how those costs will be passed on to customers.

Issue

There are obstacles to overcome before the necessary infrastructure to fully utilize recycled water resources can be built. These obstacles include:

- Recycled water treatment and transmission infrastructure is expensive.
- Financial subsidies are necessary to make recycled water projects cost effective.
- The long payback period for retrofitting existing sites to use recycled water is frequently unacceptable to those who will own and operate these facilities.
- Some sites have been determined to be too isolated from an existing or proposed recycled water distribution system to consider retrofitting them for recycled water use.

- Developers and/or builders lack of knowledge and awareness of the availability of recycled water.

- Existing problems unrelated to recycled water at facilities immediately adjacent to recycled water lines are treated as more critical than converting the irrigation at these facilities to use recycled water.

- Existing regulations require that recycled water be blended with other water sources when used for groundwater recharge.

Policy Recommendations

- Develop a recycled water master plan focusing on County-owned facilities, unincorporated County areas, and the service areas of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts to be completed by June 2008. The master plan should be a joint effort between appropriate County departments and recycled water producers that is consistent and integrated with existing recycled water plans.

- Work with the Building Industry Association to develop a County Ordinance requiring dual plumbing for toilet and urinal flushing and other nonpotable uses in new development in the unincorporated areas where use of recycled water is feasible. Provide this Ordinance as a model for all cities in Los Angeles County to use in their jurisdictions.

- Prepare a guidance document for the preparation of engineering reports for dual-plumbed buildings as defined by Title 22 in coordination with State and County Departments of Health Services utilizing the Irvine Ranch Water District as a model.

- Advocate for Federal, State, and local funding that supports recycled water projects.

- Advocate that regulatory agencies permit recycled water projects.

REGULATIONS

State and local Codes provide inconsistencies, contradictions, and other hurdles to the widespread use of recycled water. The State Water Code encourages the use of recycled water and sets target goals for such use while at the same time it provides for penalties and injunctions for "improper" use of recycled water. In addition, State agencies, particularly the Regional Water Quality Control Board, have restrictive and inconsistent regulations that discourage the use of recycled water. Local governments' codes and Ordinances are also not consistent with one another, and while most encourage, they do not mandate use of recycled water. Other local Ordinances (Plumbing Codes, etc.) provide additional hurdles to the use of recycled water.

Case Studies

Discussions with various recycled water producers have highlighted misinterpretations and inconsistencies in the application of the waste discharge requirements by various staff of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. In certain cases, irrigation with recycled water is only permitted with the requirement that groundwater be monitored; yet in other cases, monitoring is not required. No analysis was made of the actual probability of properly applied irrigation water to percolate into the aquifer in quantities significant enough to degrade water quality. Some technical experts interviewed were of the opinion that there was actually higher risk for groundwater degradation to occur once a monitoring well is installed than by the irrigation itself as the monitoring well provides a potential pathway for contaminants.

In addition, the policy of "anti-degradation" is not clearly defined or applied and does not take into account the beneficial uses of the groundwater supplies, but only defines degradation as "one molecule added to the aquifer." This "zero tolerance" policy creates challenges and poses the potential to significantly increase the cost of supplying recycled water.

In another case, one producer was not allowed to utilize the recycled water for a use that had been approved on other discharge permits issued by the same regional board, to the same producer. The reason given was that the use was "not listed" specifically in the language of the permit, the board completely ignored the appropriateness of the usage, and followed form over substance to the detriment of the producer and the project.

Issue

The current regulatory framework surrounding recycled water is often contradictory and poses significant legal and practical challenges to those working to increase the use of recycled water. Regulatory agencies need to be encouraged to apply consistent application of regulations, while working to see that the regulations are based on common sense and solid science consistent with the value of each particular project.

Policy Recommendations

Instruct the Office of Water Recycling to:

- Work with agencies producing recycled water in identifying and rectifying regulations or permitting requirements that are inconsistent with utilization of recycled water as a resource.

- Work with agencies that principally see recycled water as a waste, to value it highly as a resource and encourage its use.

- Work with appropriate agencies to increase the use of recycled water at groundwater recharge facilities.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

In parts of the United States, public support for water recycling has been very strong, and many projects have been implemented without public objection. However, locally many recycled water projects have experienced sufficient public opposition to halt implementation. Educating the public on the many benefits to be derived from recycled water projects while also addressing some of the misperceptions of recycled water use must occur to ensure public acceptance before these projects can be implemented.

Successful public support and participation in the use of recycled water generally involve identifying key audiences and specific community issues at a very early stage of a project, and offering information and opportunities for input in a clear, understandable way. Effective public involvement begins at the earliest planning stage and lasts through implementation and beyond.

Case Studies

The City of San Francisco surveyed the general public to measure public acceptance of a proposed recycled water project. The overall majority strongly felt that recycled water was beneficial. The findings show that the responders felt positively about all of the proposed uses of recycled water that included fire fighting, irrigation of golf courses and parks, street cleaning, toilet flushing, and drought protection (Filice 1996).

Clark County (Las Vegas, Nevada) conducted a series of surveys that included two face-to-face intercept surveys and two direct-mail surveys. A total of 883 persons participated in the surveys. The majority of the responses were very positive and indicated that recycled water usage are very beneficial. There was a small minority who had concerns with environmental safety, bacteria, and general health risks to children. The public's enthusiasm for recycled water may reflect the hypothetical conditions set up by the survey questions and interviews and not a genuine willingness to endorse local funding of real programs that involve distribution of recycled water. Survey results do indicate, however, that, at least intellectually, the public is receptive to use of recycled water in well-thought-out programs (Alpha Communication, Inc., 2001).

In Tampa, Florida, a survey that included direct mailing and public opinion assessment was conducted on a residential recycled water project. Information was sent to 15,500 potable water customers in the conceptual project area. Out of the pool of potential reuse customers, 84 percent of the residential users and 94 percent of the commercial users thought that recycled water was safe for residential and commercial landscape irrigation. Of the same group, 84 percent of the residential responders and 90 percent of the commercial responders replied that the project was appealing. The responses met the design criteria of 90 percent participation (Grosh, et al., 2002).

The above assessments showed that, in some areas, the general public is supportive of the use of recycled water. Further, support by the general public increases as the risk for direct contact with recycled water decreases. In Los Angeles County, however,

there have been two fairly high-profile recycled water projects that were not favorably received.

In the San Fernando Valley, the City of Los Angeles proposed a pipeline to deliver recycled water for groundwater recharge purposes from their Tillman Plant to spreading grounds located in the northeastern part of the Valley. Part of the project development and construction included efforts to educate the public and policymakers on the many benefits and safety of using recycled water for groundwater recharge. The efforts garnered broad support for the project from the environmental community but the project became entangled in the political electoral process and was never operated as envisioned. Rather than providing water for groundwater recharge purposes, the recycled water delivered by the project is now used solely for irrigation and industrial cooling.

Similarly, a project in the San Gabriel Valley would have delivered recycled water from the County Sanitation Districts' plant at San Jose Creek to the Santa Fe Spreading Grounds for groundwater recharge. This project also included efforts to educate the public and policymakers on the many benefits and safety of using recycled water for groundwater recharge. However, the project encountered stiff opposition from Miller Brewery, which perceived the project to negatively impact their operations. The project was ultimately suspended.

Issues

Public perceptions of recycled water projects often must be addressed before implementation. Concerns of the public include:

- Discomfort with any contact with recycled water. Often described as the "yuk factor," some people simply do not trust the water purification process and rather rely on a general impression that recycled water is unfit for any use.
- Perceptions that the additional cost for projects utilizing recycled water rather than potable supplies are not justified.
- Perceptions that increasing the use of recycled water will be growth inducing.
- Perceptions that recycled water projects will be utilized only in areas that are economically disadvantaged.

Policy Recommendations

Instruct the Office of Water Recycling to develop a public relations strategic plan that incorporates existing public relations efforts to educate stakeholders on recycled water issues, including the safety and benefits of recycled water. Elements of the plan should include the following:

- Defining target audience:

The Office of Water Recycling should identify the audience its outreach effort should be targeting. In the long term, the audience should be the general public, community and neighborhood groups, business organizations, and children in K-12. The focus of the public relation efforts should be to enhance general awareness of the benefit of using recycled water.

- Identifying supporting scientific information:

  The Office of Water Recycling should work closely with the scientific community and recycled water providers to gather the latest studies and research findings related to the health and safety of the use of recycled water. This information should be made available to the public with the hope that it may ease the fear the public may have in the use of recycled water.

- Engaging stakeholders early in the planning process:

  The Office of Water Recycling should be informed of all the recycled water projects and programs in the County. The Office should work closely with all recycled water project proponents to bring the public on board at the earliest time so that they can be informed of the project concept and participate in the project decision process.

- Utilizing all available forms of media communications:

  The Office of Water Recycling should use a variety of communication tools to reach the targeted audience. Efforts should also be made to assess and utilize the most current and state-of-the-art communication tools to outreach to the targeted audience.

- Establishing performance measures:

  The Office of Water Recycling should work with recycled water project proponents and citizens that may be impacted by the recycled water projects to identify milestones along the project schedule that will illustrate the progress of the project. This process may empower the citizen/neighbor groups to actively participate in the project progress oversight and generate a positive momentum in seeing the recycled water project moving towards completion.

- Identifying opponents' issues of concern:

  The Office of Water Recycling should work to understand more completely the concerns of those opposed to increased use of recycled water. By doing so, the Office can tailor outreach materials to address the specific concerns of those opposed.

- Creating a school program in coordination with other entities:

  Reaching children at an early age provides an opportunity to create a lifelong proponent for recycled water. Often children learn about issues at school that they then relate to other family members in their home. Creating an outreach program that caters to school-aged children is essential to educating the public on the benefits and safety of increased use of recycled water.

C:/MYFILES/RWTF REPORT TO BOS-1-30-07

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Sachi A. Hamai, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Public Works

At its meeting held May 23, 2006, the Board took the following action:

20

The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Knabe:

"Our region has a diverse and growing economy that needs a sustainable and reliable water supply. Southern California is heavily dependent upon imported water sources in meeting these needs. These imported water sources are becoming less dependable due to water quality issues, environmental concerns, drought cycles, and increased demand in other regions that share these resources.

"The recent events of New Orleans and the 100th anniversary of the devastating San Francisco earthquake remind us of the vulnerabilities of relying on imported water to meet our local needs. To ensure that our water supplies remain sustainable and reliable, our water managers have focused on developing a mix of complementary water resources, including efforts to maximize our local supplies.

"To help drought-proof our area from disruptions to our imported water supplies, we need to make more use of our locally available supplies. The use of recycled water is one area of water management available to do this. The State of California, in its Water Plan Update 2005, has identified water recycling as an important element of California's water supply policy. In September 2003, our Board received a report, prepared by Public Works, in cooperation with other County departments on water recycling. The report included recommendations on what the County could do to utilize recycled water for nonpotable purposes. Water from our local reclamation plants is readily available for such uses, but is not being fully utilized. Recycled water is highly treated, making it safe for nonpotable permitted uses. Recycled water is strictly regulated by State and local agencies, and its use must comply with a set of laws and regulations requiring a high level of quality and treatment to fully protect human health.

(Continued on Page 2)

20 (Continued)

"Our Board is on record in support of various principles and specific legislation that support recycled water use, but we do not have adopted ordinances or official policies mandating the use of recycled water – even at our own County facilities. Public Works uses recycled water for groundwater recharge and for use in seawater barriers. Some of our County golf courses and parks use recycled water for irrigation. Other current uses within the County include industrial processes, landscape irrigation, recreation, and wildlife habitat maintenance.

"We recognize water's importance to our economic prosperity and the quality of life enjoyed by our citizens."

Therefore, at the suggestion of Supervisor Knabe, and on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Antonovich, unanimously carried (Supervisor Knabe being absent), the Board took the following actions:

1. Adopted as policy that recycled water be used for irrigation at County parks and golf courses, and on County-maintained parkways and other large County-maintained expansive greenbelts where the use of such recycled water is available at a reasonable cost and meets Health and Safety Codes; and

2. Instructed the Director of Public Works to convene and Chair a Task Force, comprised of appropriate County departments, water recycling agencies, representatives from the County's local cities, and the building industry, to assess the complex nature of issues surrounding the development and use of recycled water;

3. Directed the Task Force to make appropriate recommendations for a broader Countywide policy for the expanded use of recycled water for nonpotable purposes for Los Angeles County, with the Task Force to be guided by the appropriate recommendations of California's Recycled Water Task Force "Water Recycling 2030" report; and

4. Directed the Task Force to provide a report back to the Board within 180 days.

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Copies distributed:
Each Supervisor
Chief Administrative Officer
County Counsel

Appendix 2

Recycled Water Usage
2005

Quantities of Reuse in Los Angeles County

Water Recycling Agency	Effluent[1] (AF/year)	Reclaimed[2] (AF/year)	Reused (AF/year)
Los Angeles City[3]	487,000	64,450	64,450
Sanitation Districts of LA County[4]	579,957	216,095	68,568
Others[5] (City of Burbank, Glendale, Santa Monica, Central Basin MWD, Las Virgenes, and West Basin MWD)	25,157	49,370	34,452
Total	1,092,114	329,915	167,470

1. Treated wastewater discharged.
2. Effluent available for reuse.
3. City of LA Department of Water & Power 2005 UWMP
4. County Sanitation Districts, 16th Annual Status Report FY 2004-05
5. 2005 UWMPs

Quantity and Percentage of Reuse in Los Angeles County

	Usage (AF/year)		
Reuse Category	Los Angeles City[2]	Sanitation Districts[3]	Others[4]
Direct, Non-Potable[1]	30,450 (47.0%)	38,087 (55.5%)	30,652 (89%)
Groundwater Recharge	0	30,329 (44.3%)	0
Seawater Intrusion Barrier	0	152 (00.2%)	3,800 (11%)
Total	30,450	68,568	34,452

1. Includes irrigation, industrial, agricultural and recreational uses.
2. City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power 2005 UWMP
3. County Sanitation Districts, 16th Annual Status Report FY 2004-05
4. City of Glendale, Santa Monica, Burbank, Las Virgenes MWD, Central Basin MWD, and West Basin MWD 2005 UWMPs.

Projects Using Recycled Water at Los Angeles County-Owned Recreation Facilities

Site	City	Source
Alondra Park	Lawndale	West Basin
Apollo Lakes Reg. Park	Lancaster	Lancaster WRP
Bonelli Reg. Park	San Dimas	Pomona WRP (Pomona)
Carolyn Rosas Park	Rowland Heights	Pomona WRP (Rowland WD)
Cerritos Park	Cerritos	Los Coyotes WRP (Cerritos)
Chester Washington Golf Course	Hawthorne	West Basin
Del Aire Park	Hawthorne	West Basin
Diamond Bar Golf Course	Diamond Bar	Pomona WRP (WVWD)
Lakewood Golf Course	Long Beach	Long Beach WRP (Long Beach)
Lennox Park	Lennox	West Basin
Mountain Meadows Golf Course	San Dimas	Pomona WRP (Pomona)
Rowland Heights Park	Rowland Heights	Pomona WRP (WVWD)
Schabarum Reg. Park	Rowland Heights	Pomona WRP (Rowland WD)
Sorenson Park	Whittier	San Jose Creek WRP (CBMWD)
Sunshine Park	La Puente	Pomona WRP (Rowland WD)
Victoria Golf Course	Carson	West Basin
Whittier Narrows Recreation Area	So. El Monte	WNWRP (USGVMWD)

Partial List of Major Projects in the County of Los Angeles

Los Angeles City[1]		
Existing		
Project	**Location**	**Source**
Japanese Garden	San Fernando Valley	Tillman WRP
Wildlife Lake	San Fernando Valley	Tillman WRP
Balboa Lake	San Fernando Valley	Tillman WRP
Los Angeles Greenbelt Project	Central City	Los Angeles/Glendale WRP
Griffith Park	Central City	Los Angeles/Glendale WRP
Westside Project	West Los Angeles	West Basin WRP
Harbor Water Recycling Projects	Harbor City	Terminal Island TP
Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County[2]		
Existing		
Distribution System/Project Name	**Source**	
La Cañada-Flintridge Country Club	La Cañada WRP	
Long Beach Water Department	Long Beach WRP	
City of Bellflower	Los Coyotes WRP	
City of Cerritos	Los Coyotes WRP	
City of Lakewood	Los Coyotes WRP	
Central Basin MWD (Century)	Los Coyotes WRP	
Pomona Water Department	Pomona WRP	
Walnut Valley Water District	Pomona WRP	
Water Replenishment District	San Jose Creek WRP & Whittier Narrows WRP	
City of Industry	San Jose Creek WRP	
California Country Club	San Jose Creek WRP	
Chuy's Nursery	San Jose Creek WRP	
Central Basin MWD (Rio Hondo)	San Jose Creek WRP	
Puente Hills/Rose Hills	San Jose Creek WRP	
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD (phase I)	San Jose Creek WRP	
F.L. Norman's Nursery	Whittier Narrows WRP	
Upper San Gabriel Valley MWD (phase II)	Whittier Narrows WRP	
Piute Pond	Lancaster WRP	
Nebeker Ranch	Lancaster WRP	
Apollo Lakes County Regional Park	Lancaster WRP	
Antelope Valley Farms	Palmdale WRP	
Others		
Existing		
Project	Location	Source
Burbank Water and Power – Power Plant[3]	Burbank	Burbank Dept of Water and
Santa Monica Urban Runoff Recycling	Santa Monica	City's urban runoff

1. Based on comments received from the City of Los Angeles.
2. Based on comments received from the Sanitation Districts.

List of Future Projects Using Recycled Water

Los Angeles City[1]		
Future		
Project	**Location**	**Source**
Headworks Project	San Fernando Valley	Tillman WRP
Central City/Elysian Park Water Recycling Project	Central City	Los Angeles/Glendale WRP
Sepulveda Basin Project	San Fernando Valley	Tillman WRP
Hanson Area Water Recycling Project	San Fernando Valley	Tillman WRP
East Valley Water Recycling Project	San Fernando Valley	Tillman WRP

Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County[2]		
Future		
Project	**Location**	**Source**
Main San Gabriel Basin Recharge Project (USGVMWD)	Irwindale	San Jose Creek WRP
Castaic Lake Water Agency	Santa Clarita	Valencia WRP
Southeast Water Reliability Project (Central Basin MWD)	Monterey Park, Montebello, Pico Rivera, Vernon	San Jose Creek WRP
East San Gabriel Valley Project (Industry)	Industry, West Covina, Walnut, Rowland Heights	San Jose Creek WRP
City of Long Beach expansion	Long Beach	Long Beach WRP
City of Arcadia	Arcadia	Lancaster WRP
Eastern Agricultural Site	Lancaster	Lancaster WRP
Division Street Corridor	Lancaster	Lancaster WRP

1. Based on comments received from the City of Los Angeles.
2. Based on comments received from the Sanitation Districts.

State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Services

California Department of Health Services
SANDRA SHEWRY
Director

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER
Governor

January 25, 2007

Mr. Dean D. Efstathiou
Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 S. Freemont Avenue
Alhambra, California 91803

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE – POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

The California Department of Health Services, Southern California Drinking Water Field Operations Branch (CDHS) appreciates the opportunity to participate in the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force. CDHS establishes the statewide water recycling criteria, reviews proposals for recycled water use, and advises the Regional Water Quality Control Board on the issuance of water reclamation requirements. We have reviewed the Policy Recommendations Report prepared by the Task Force, and find that the recommendations are consistent with protecting public health and improving the reliability of the regional water supply.

In particular, we support the recommendation that the Board of Supervisors establish an Office of Water Recycling to coordinate recycling efforts in Los Angeles County. Such an organization could be tremendously helpful in facilitating communication amongst the various recycling agencies, regulatory agencies, and recycled water users. The Office of Water Recycling could also play an important role in outreach and education, helping to ensure both public acceptance and safe use of recycled water.

Flex your POWER
Do your part to help California save energy. To learn more about saving energy, visit the following web site:
www.consumerenergycenter.org/flex/index.html

Southern California Drinking Water Field Operations Branch, Los Angeles Region
1449 West Temple Street, Room 202, Los Angeles, CA, 90026
Telephone: (213) 580-5723 *FAX:* (213) 580-5711
Internet Address: www.dhs.ca.gov/ps/ddwem/

CDHS looks forward to continued collaboration with the County in the implementation of recycled water projects, and hopes to work closely with the Office of Water Recycling. We are continually available to provide training in the regulatory and public health aspects of water recycling. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Stefan Cajina at (213) 580-3127 or myself at (805) 566-4745.

Sincerely,

Kurt Souza, P.E., Chief
Southern California Section

MWD
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Executive Office

January 25, 2007

Mr. Dean Efstathiou
Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Efstathiou: DEAN

Los Angeles County Water Recycling Task Force Final Report

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California thanks the County of Los Angeles, Department of Public Works for the opportunity to serve on the Water Recycling Task Force established by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors. Metropolitan has been involved with water recycling since 1982, and we are currently financially supporting the production of approximately 130,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water in six Southern California counties. We have reviewed the Water Recycling Task Force Final Report and agree with and support the recommendations it contains including: the creation of a County Office of Water Recycling, the plan to use recycled water at as many County facilities as possible, the plan to engage local regulatory agencies on permitting and regulatory requirements that affect water recycling, the commitment to work with neighboring recycled water entities to promote and maximize the use of recycled water, and the proposal for an outreach program to increase the public's awareness and acceptance of recycled water use.

Metropolitan's staff will be available to attend the semiannual reconvening of the Task Force in order to evaluate and assist the County's efforts at implementing the recommendations in the Task Force's Report. Thank you again for the opportunity to serve on this important Task Force and for your planned efforts to increase the use and acceptance of recycled water in Southern California.

Best regards,

Jeff Kightlinger
General Manager

TB:tw
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MONO LAKE
COMMITTEE
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Hwy 395 and Third Street
Lee Vining, CA 93541
Phone (760) 647-6595
Fax (760) 647-6377

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Genny Smith

Executive Directors
Geoffrey McQuilkin, Operations
Frances Spivy-Weber, Policy

Southern California Office
322 Culver Blvd.
Playa Del Rey, CA 90293
(310) 316-0041

On the Internet
www.monolake.org
www.monobasinresearch.org

January 25, 2007

Mr. Dean D. Efstathiou
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Mr. Efstathiou,

Thank you for including the Mono Lake Committee in the diverse group of stakeholders you convened for the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force. It was a pleasure to attend the meetings and help advise you and your colleagues on ways the County can take a leadership role on recycled water.

We are pleased with the list of recommendations you will make to the Board of Supervisors, and we urge them to act promptly on them. We are particularly eager to see an Office of Water Recycling established within the Department of Public Works. We envision it performing an important and currently unfilled role of regional clearinghouse and advocate for greater use of recycled water.

The Mono Lake Committee's interest in recycled water dates back to the late 1980s and early 1990s when we worked with West Basin MWD and the City of Los Angeles to get funding for recycled water that would be used to serve the LA in lieu of water from the Eastern Sierra. Over time we have remained strong supporters of this local, drought-proofing water resource, and we are very happy to have the County stepping up to work with all regional interests to increase the amount of recycled water being used in the area.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Frances Spivy-Weber

Frances Spivy-Weber
Senior Los Angeles Policy Associate

Printed on recycled paper

Department of Water and Power the City of Los Angeles

ANTONIO R. VILLARAIGOSA
Mayor

Commission
H. DAVID NAHAI, *President*
EDITH RAMIREZ, *Vice President*
MARY D. NICHOLS
NICK PATSAOURAS
FORESCEE HOGAN-ROWLES
BARBARA E. MOSCHOS, *Secretary*

RONALD F. DEATON, *General Manager*

January 25, 2007

Mr. Dean D. Efstathiou, Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue, 12th Floor
Alhambra, CA 91803-1331

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

Subject: Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force: Final Report

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) appreciated the opportunity to participate in the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force (Recycled Water Task Force), and supports the Recycled Water Task Force's recommendations including the establishment of a County Office of Water Recycling. LADWP has faced many challenges during the development of our recycled water program including inconsistent regulatory permitting, public awareness and acceptance, and project financing. Establishing the Office of Water Recycling will greatly benefit Los Angeles County by providing a conduit for coordinating water recycling efforts, smoothing the way for expanded use of recycled water in the County. As proposed, the Office of Water Recycling would take an active roll in the resolution of regional and statewide water recycling issues such as inconsistent regulatory permitting, which will help encourage development of water recycling projects statewide. Furthermore, the recommended public outreach aspect of the Office of Water Recycling would be very beneficial in providing information to potential recycled water customers and the public to increase their understanding and awareness of recycled water as a valuable resource.

LADWP looks forward to working with Los Angeles County as it implements the recommendations of the Recycled Water Task Force, including participation in future meetings.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact Mr. Thomas M. Erb at (213) 367-0873, or Mr. William T. Van Wagoner at (213) 367-1138.

Sincerely,

Ronald F. Deaton
General Manager

c: Mr. Thomas M. Erb
Mr. William T. Van Wagoner

Water and Power Conservation ... a way of life

111 North Hope Street, Los Angeles, California 90012-2607 *Mailing address:* Box 51111, Los Angeles 90051-5700
Telephone: (213) 367-4211 *Cable address:* DEWAPOLA

Recyclable and made from recycled waste.

CITY OF Lancaster

January 24, 2007

Bishop Henry W. Hearns
Mayor

Ed Sileo
Vice Mayor

Jim Jeffra
Council Member

Ronald D. Smith
Council Member

Andrew D. Visokey
Council Member

Robert S. LaSala
City Manager

Mr. Dean Efstathiou, Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, California 1802-1460

Re: Final Report of the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

The City of Lancaster is highly encouraged by the deliberations of the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force and their final report which will soon be presented to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for their consideration.

As you know, approximately two years ago the City of Lancaster decided to jump start municipal reuse of recycled water within our sphere of influence. We will soon have completed the construction of a major transmission main to deliver recycled water to customers along the routing of that 4-plus mile long pipeline. County Waterworks District 40 joined us in that undertaking, having asked that we upsize the pipe to meet the District's needs. Our project is an example of what can and must be achieved when multiple public agencies work together to preserve and efficiently use all water resources.

We have reviewed the Final Report of the Recycled Water Task Force and agree with the recommendations it contains. We support the objectives and the directions proposed within the report. We believe the establishment of a Los Angeles County Office of Water Recycling will be an important and effective mechanism to advocate using recycled water at as many facilities as possible throughout the County. The Office of Water Recycling will assist all public agencies that have water or wastewater responsibilities to promote and maximize the use of recycled water. There remain several regulatory and social hurdles that stymie widespread reuse of recycled water. These hurdles must be cleared to make it possible to ensure future water availability for our collective citizens. The Office of Water Recycling will focus on clearing these hurdles.

Our commitment to the recommendations of the Recycled Water Task Force extends to continued participation in meetings of the group as well as what assistance we can provide to the proposed Office of Water Recycling. Lancaster will also contribute financially to the start up costs of establishing this new office.

Sincerely yours,

James R. Williams

James R. Williams, PE
Director of Public Works

JRW/vp

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES
Public Health
Environmental Health

January 24, 2007

County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Attn: Mr. Dean D. Efstathiou, Assistant Director

Regarding: **Los Angeles County Water Recycling Task Force Final Report**

As the representative for Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Cross-Connections & Water Pollution Control Program, it was an honor, a privilege and a pleasure in being part of the assembled Recycling Water Task Force. The interaction of the various agencies and groups who participated was inspirational, i.e. there exits a resounding interest in the use of recycled water by many. There is a definite sense of willingness by those who participated to be a part of the ever growing field and developments that surrounds Title 22 water, which we casually refer to as, simply, recycled water, formerly called reclaimed water. Agencies with many years in this field seemed to be genuinely pleased that Public Works was, essentially, joining the fray.

This department has reviewed the final draft document produced by Los Angeles County Public Works and the Recycling Task Force. The focus of the final report is well placed and essential. Within Los Angeles County the use of recycled water by the County has not kept up with the industry as a whole. The planned coordinated efforts by the Recycled Task Force and the resultant Office of Water Recycling should, if implemented, bridge the gap from potential users to actual users. Numerous potential users, under the management of Los Angeles County, should be retrofitted for the use of recycled water, and many new sites should incorporate in their construction plans the use of recycled water. This department finds the Task Force's recommendations appropriate and necessary in achieving the goals set by Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, which, in a nut shell, is in the progressive use of recycled water by Los Angeles County Departments.

This Department appreciates the efforts of the Los Angeles County Public Works and the Water Recycling Task Force in producing the Final Report. This department looks forward to the inclusion and future participation of Los Angeles County Public Works in the efficient and proper use of recycled water in a manner that not only serves to diminish our dependency on potable water resources for non-potable use, but also maintains our objectives in the protection of the health and welfare of the residents of Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Carlos Borja, R.E.H.S. IV
Los Angeles County Department Public Health
Cross-Connections & Water Pollution Control Program
5050 Commerce Drive, RM 116
Baldwin Park, CA 91706-1423

Phone: 626-430-5290 Fax: 626-813-3025
E-mail: caborja@ph.lacounty.gov

UPPER SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

January 24, 2007

Mr. Dean Efstathiou, Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Subject: Los Angeles County Water Recycling Task Force Final Report

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

The Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Water Recycling Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors and to provide input on the Final Report to the Board. The Upper District has been implementing water recycling projects for almost fifteen years. We have developed system capacity of approximately 7,000 acre-feet per year to deliver recycled water to numerous sites for beneficial reuse. This District recognizes the important role the County can play in the further expansion of water recycling in this region.

We have reviewed the Final Report and agree with and support the recommendations it contains including, but not limited to, the creation of a County Office of Water Recycling, the plan to use recycled water at as many County facilities as possible, the proposed recycled water Master Plan for areas served by County Waterworks and the encouragement of other entities within these areas to use recycled water, the commitment to work with neighboring recycled water entities to promote and maximize the use of recycled water, the promise to engage local regulatory agencies on both permitting and regulatory requirements that affect water recycling, and the proposal for an outreach program to increase the general public's awareness and acceptance of recycled water use.

We will be available to attend your planned semiannual reconvening of the Task Force in order to evaluate and assist the County's efforts at implementing the recommendations in the Task Force's Final Report. We look forward to continuing our work with the Task Force and the proposed Office of Water Recycling.

Sincerely,

Timothy C. Jochem
General Manager

cc: USGVMWD Board of Directors

11310 VALLEY BOULEVARD • EL MONTE, CALIFORNIA 91731
PHONE: (626) 443-2297 • FAX: (626) 443-0617
www.usgvmwd.org

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WRD
WATER REPLENISHMENT DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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ROBB WHITAKER, P.E. GENERAL MANAGER

January 23, 2007

Mr. Dean D. Efstathiou
Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Dear Dean:

It has been my great pleasure to represent the Water Replenishment District on the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force and to participate in its important work. The recommendations of the Task Force are sound and informed and, when implemented, will lead to a renaissance of recycled water use in the County.

One of the more important recommendations of the Task Force is to establish an Office of Water Recycling within the Department of Public Works to serve as a clearinghouse of information, an advocate for recycled water programs and projects within the County and an overseer of implementation of other recommendations of the Task Force. I want you to know that I will strongly recommend to my Board that the Water Replenishment District provide financial support for that Office.

The work of that Office will go a long way toward increasing the use of recycled water in the County and in that respect will reduce dependence on water imported from Northern California and the Colorado River. Additionally, the increased use of recycled water is absolutely essential to assuring a reliable water supply in this region for generations to come, especially given the fragile nature of our two main sources of current imported supply.

The County Sanitation Districts and WRD, in cooperation with what is now the County Department of Public Works, pioneered the use of recycled water for groundwater recharge starting in 1962 and since that time, we have beneficially used more than 1.3 million acre-feet of recycled water for groundwater recharge. Since 1979, working with your Department, West Basin Municipal Water District, and the City of Los Angeles, we have used nearly 400,000 acre-feet for protection against seawater intrusion into the groundwater basins along our coastline. That is 1.7 million acre-feet of locally-produced water that has reduced a like amount of demand for imported water. While those numbers are impressive, I genuinely believe they can be matched and even exceeded by the initiatives, programs and projects recommended by the Task Force. And that objective starts with the Office of Water Recycling.

I commend your leadership of the Task Force and the work product you shepherded. Please let me know how the District and I may continue to assist your fine efforts.

Sincerely,

Robb Whitaker
General Manager

12621 E. 166th Street, Cerritos, California 90703, Phone (562) 921-5521, Fax (562) 921-6101, www.wrd.org

West Basin Municipal Water District
17140 S. Avalon Blvd • Suite 210 • Carson, CA 90746-1296
telephone 310-217-2411 • fax 310-217-2414

January 22, 2007

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Statement of Support for County Recycled Water Task Force Report

The West Basin Municipal Water District (West Basin) Board of Directors commends the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for taking steps to develop policy recommendations to encourage and enhance the use of recycled water. It is our understanding that the board directed staff to form a County-wide recycled water task force to support the development of draft policy recommendations. The West Basin Board of Directors strongly support and encourage the County Board of Supervisors to consider adopting the task force recommendations.

Adoption of these recommendations will substantially assist our region in providing a basic, but critical, resource for a safe and reliable water supply for a healthy economy, the environment, and reliability for future generations.

If West Basin can be of any further assistance, please contact me or staff at (310) 660-6229.

Thank you,

Donald L. Dear

Donald L. Dear
President

WATER RECLAMATION
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS
OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998
Telephone: (562) 699-7411, FAX: (562) 699-5422
www.lacsd.org

STEPHEN R. MAGUIN
Chief Engineer and General Manager

January 17, 2007
File No. 31-370.40.4A

Mr. Dean Efstathiou, Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
P.O. Box 1460
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

Los Angeles County Water Recycling Task Force Final Report

The Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County appreciate the opportunity to serve on the Water Recycling Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors and to provide input on the Final Report to the Board. The Sanitation Districts have been involved with water recycling since 1962, and we are currently supplying approximately 80,000 acre-feet per year to over 525 individual reuse sites. We have reviewed the Final Report and agree with and support the recommendations it contains including, but not limited to, the creation of a County Office of Water Recycling, the plan to use recycled water at as many County facilities as possible, the proposed recycled water Master Plan for areas served by County Waterworks and the encouragement of other entities within these areas to use recycled water, the commitment to work with neighboring recycled water entities to promote and maximize the use of recycled water, the promise to engage local regulatory agencies on both permitting and regulatory requirements that affect water recycling, and the proposal for an outreach program to increase the general public's awareness and acceptance of recycled water use.

Sanitation Districts' staff will be available to attend your planned semiannual reconvening of the Task Force in order to evaluate and assist the County's efforts at implementing the recommendations in the Task Force's Final Report. Your future contact at the Sanitation Districts is Mr. Earle Hartling, Water Recycling Coordinator, who can be reached at (562) 908-4288, extension 2806.

Very truly yours,

Stephen R. Maguin

Robert W. Horvath
Department Head
Technical Services Department

RWH:ECH:drs

Recycled Paper

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"
Russ Guiney, Director

January 30, 2007

Mr. Dean Efstathiou
Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91802-1460

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

LOS ANGELES COUNTY WATER RECYCLING TASK FORCE FINAL REPORT

The County of Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation appreciates the opportunity to serve on the Water Recycling Task Force created by the Board of Supervisors, and to participate in this important regional project. The Department also appreciates the opportunity to provide input on the Final Report to the Board. Our Department's contribution and belief in this water conservation effort has been demonstrated in our ongoing efforts to convert our parks and golf courses to recycled water use.

We have reviewed the Final Report and agree with and support the recommendations it contains including, but not limited to: 1) the creation of a County Office of Water Recycling; 2) the reduction of imported water from Northern California and the Colorado River; 3) the intent to use recycled water at as many County facilities as possible; 4) provide for a proposed recycled water Master Plan for areas served by the County and encourage other entities within these areas to utilize recycled water; 5) to promote and maximize the commitment to work with neighboring recycled water entities to use recycled water; 6) to partner with local regulatory agencies on both permitting and regulatory requirements that affect water recycling; and 7) the proposal for an outreach program to increase the general public's awareness and acceptance of recycled water use. The Department believes this plan will go a long way toward guaranteeing the region has a reliable water supply for the future generations.

Parks and Recreation staff is available and will continue to participate in the ongoing process of the Task Force to assist in the County's efforts to implement the Task Force's Final Report recommendations. Your future contact at the Parks and Recreation is Mr. Patrick Reynolds, Planning Division, Supervising Landscape Architect, who can be reached at (213) 351-5136.

Sincerely,

Russ Guiney
Director

RD:PR:ee(ad

CASTAIC LAKE WATER AGENCY

January 29, 2007

Mr. Dean D. Efstathiou
Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Re: Los Angeles County Water Recycling Task Force Recommendations

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

On behalf of the Castaic Lake Water Agency (CLWA) Board of Directors, I thank you for providing CLWA the opportunity to serve on the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force formed by the Board of Supervisors last year. CLWA General Manager Dan Masnada's participation on the Task Force has greatly benefitted CLWA as it embarks upon a major expansion of its recycled water program. CLWA's Recycled Water Master Plan calls for the construction of recycled water sources, conveyance and storage facilities to meet Santa Clarita Valley recycled water demands of over 17,000 acre-feet per year by the year 2030.

The recommendations of the Task Force's Final Report will go a long way toward increasing the use of recycled water in the County and, thus, reducing dependence on imported water. We support the recommendations including the (1) creation of a County Office of Water Recycling, (2) commitment to engage local regulatory agencies on both permitting and regulatory requirements that affect water recycling and (3) proposed outreach program to increase the general public's awareness and acceptance of recycled water use.

CLWA appreciates your strong leadership of the Task Force. Please let me know how CLWA may continue to assist in your fine efforts.

Sincerely,

William Pecsi
Board President

DIRECTORS
E.G. "JERRY" GLADBACH
DEAN D. EFSTATHIOU
WILLIAM C. COOPER
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SECRETARY
APRIL JACOBS

CITY OF SIGNAL HILL

2175 Cherry Avenue • Signal Hill, California 90755-3799

January 29, 2007

Dean Efstathiou
Assistant Director of Public Works
Los Angeles County Department of Public Works
900 S. Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

Subject: Support for the Establishment of an Office of Water Recycling

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

It has been a pleasure to participate on the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force. I feel the recommendations formed by this Task Force will serve the County well in its efforts to expand the use of recycled water.

A key recommendation of the Task Force is to establish an Office of Water Recycling within the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works. The City of Signal Hill supports this recommendation. This Office will be instrumental in advocating for funding, development of regulations and infrastructure, and public acceptance of the use of recycled water. Recycled water is a valuable underutilized resource. The expanded use of recycled water will reduce our dependence on imported water and provides a reliable alternative water supply for the region.

The City of Signal Hill is available to assist the County in its efforts to expand the use of recycled water. Thank you for leading the Recycled Water Task Force.

Sincerely,

Charlie Honeycutt
Director of Public Works

Greater L.A. /
Ventura Chapter

Building Industry Association
of Southern California

28460 Ave. Stanford, Suite 110
Santa Clarita, California 91355
661.257.5046
Fax 661.257.5045
www.bialaventura.org

January 26, 2007

Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Recycled Water Task Force Policy Recommendations

Dear Chairman Yaroslavsky,

On behalf of the approximately 500 companies and their representative employees who make up the Greater Los Angeles /Ventura Chapter of the Building Industry Association of Southern California, thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Recycled Water Task Force's Policy Recommendations to further expand the use of recycled water for non-potable purposes.

We commend the County of Los Angeles in taking these proactive measures in order to ensure reliable and sustainable water sources for our residents. By increasing the use of recycled water, the County will lessen the region's dependency on imported sources, especially during drought periods. Increasing these local supplies provides greater reliability in meeting both our present and future water demands.

The Recycled Water Task Force identified four major categories for recommendations: Institutional, Infrastructure, Regulations and Public Outreach. The Building Industry supports this multi-prong approach to increase the use of recycled water within the County and we look forward to working with the various County agencies to help craft and implement the needed policy changes to ensure success.

As LA County begins determining the specifics of an ordinance requiring the use of dual plumbing in new developments, as mentioned in the Infrastructure Policy Recommendations, we encourage the County to use the Building Industry Association and its vast expertise as a tool in drafting such a policy. The BIA and its member companies support your efforts to further expand the use of recycled water for non-potable purposes.

Sincerely,

Terra C. Donlon
Vice President of External Affairs, Building Industry Association
Greater Los Angeles/Ventura Chapter

Cc:
Paul Novak, Office of Supervisor Antonovich
Dean Efstathiou, LA County Dept. of Public Works
Don Wolfe, LA County Dept. of Public Works
Patty Garcia, LA County Dept. of Public Works
Mark Subbotin, Newhall Land

City of Downey

FUTURE UNLIMITED

January 25, 2007

Mr. Dean D. Efstathiou
Assistant Director
County of Los Angeles Department of Public Works
900 South Fremont Avenue
Alhambra, CA 91803

SUBJ.: Los Angeles County Water Recycling Task Force Final Report

Dear Mr. Efstathiou:

On behalf of the City of Downey, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to your office for allowing the City to participate in the Los Angeles County Recycled Water Task Force meetings. Participants in the meetings represented a wide variety of city, county and special district interests, all working together to develop recommendations that will help to maximize the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County.

We fully support the recommendations contained in the final report, prepared for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, especially the commitment to engage with local regulatory agencies to standardize permitting and regulatory requirements. The development of an outreach program to increase the general public's awareness, and most importantly the acceptance of the safety and use of recycled water is critical if we are to provide a reliable water supply to our residents and businesses.

The establishment of an Office of Water Recycling (Office) within the Department of Public Works to serve as a focal point for the coordination of the activities that are identified in the final report must be implemented. The Office will serve as a clearinghouse of information pertaining to projects, programs, grant and loan funding opportunities, legislation efforts, and public outreach information and assistance information. This information will not be limited to the Los Angeles County area but will include activities throughout the State.

The City of Downey has used recycled water since 1992 and has relied on using recycled water to meet our water supply needs. The City currently provides over 625 acre-feet of recycled water to 38 sites each year. This number is projected to increase as we expand our recycled water distribution system in an effort to reduce our dependence on imported water.

The City looks forward to actively supporting the efforts of the Task Force and working with the Office of Water Recycling. We commend your leadership of the Task Force and the results of the Final Report.

Sincerely,

Desi Alvarez, P.E.
Director of Public Works

C: City Council
City Manager

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

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ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE: A-0
A2003i

November 8, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe
Director of Public Works

BOARD MOTION OF MAY 23, 2006, AGENDA ITEM 20
RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCE
FINAL REPORT SUBMITTAL EXTENSION

On May 23, 2006, your Board adopted a motion instructing me to convene and chair a Recycled Water Task Force comprised on representatives from various agencies having expertise in the use of recycled water. Your Board requested that the Task Force assess the complex nature of issues surrounding the development and use of recycled water and to provide policy recommendations for the expanded use of recycled water for nonpotable purposes for Los Angeles County. Your Board directed the Task Force to provide a report back to the Board within 180 days. The Task Force has conducted monthly meetings since June 2006 and made significant progress in identifying barriers and developing policy recommendations to address them.

The Task Force is conducing a benchmark analysis of other agencies with successful recycled water programs. This outreach will require additional time to complete. Therefore, we are requesting an extension for submitting the final report to January 31, 2007.

DDE:plg
A2003i

cc: Chief Administrative Office
Executive Office