



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:

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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.

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“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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