

WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT**JANUARY 11, 2007 – Water Resources**
Little, Smith**JANUARY 22, 2007 – Board Meeting**

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Approved by: Rich Nagel

ACTION CALENDAR

LOS ANGELES COUNTY RECYCLED WATER TASK FORCESUMMARY:

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors has adopted various measures to facilitate and encourage the use of recycled water in the County. In spite of those measures, the amount of recycled water used has not met the goals established for the county. Supervisor Don Knabe introduced a motion on May 23, 2006, which was approved by the Board, directing L.A. County Public Works to assemble a Task Force to make recommendations to the Board for a broad, County-wide policy that would further expand the use of recycled water. This motion reflected information provided by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works 2003 report that dealt with water recycling issues in Los Angeles County, such as creating a Recycled Water Task Force.

The Task Force was established in 2006 with over forty delegates from various agencies in the County including West Basin Municipal Water District (District) staff. The Task Force has developed Policy Recommendations that will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in January 2007. The Report includes the following:

INSTITUTIONAL

The Task Force determined that one significant role the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors can take to increase the use of recycled water is that of coordination and facilitation. The Task Force recommends establishing an Office of Water Recycling to address issues and coordinate efforts related to increasing the use of recycled water in the County.

Policy Recommendation:

- Modify County of Los Angeles 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 for 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 connect all County parks, golf courses, and facilities to recycled water supplies by 2020;
- Instruct the Director of Public Works to modify the rules and regulations of the County Waterworks Districts by July 1, 2007, to require Waterworks Districts' customers to use recycled water for non-potable purposes where available and feasible; and
- By July 1, 2007, establish an Office of Water Recycling within the Department of Public Works staffed by a high-level official from Public Works to assist the Director of Public Works in coordinating and implementing water recycling policies within the County.

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Task Force recognizes that the County has a variety of roles to play to facilitate the development of the facilities required to increase use of recycled water. The County's most significant role is in implementing a policy to utilize recycled water to serve County facilities. The Board of Supervisors can also require Waterworks customers to utilize recycled water where appropriate.

Policy Recommendations:

Instruct the Office of Water Recycling to perform the following:

- Develop a recycled water master plan as a joint effort between appropriate County departments and recycled water producers that is consistent and integrated with existing recycled water plans. This master plan will focus on County-owned facilities, unincorporated County areas, and the service areas of the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts and will be completed by June 2008; and
- Work with the Building Industry Association to develop a County ordinance requiring dual plumbing 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.

REGULATIONS

Project proponents have experienced difficulties in receiving approval from State and local regulatory entities for recycled water projects. This is a result of conflicting or differences in interpretation of the regulations. Recycled water is a resource, not a waste, and this should be a consistent characterization in all State and local regulations.

Policy Recommendations:

Instruct the Office of Water Recycling to perform the following:

- Work with agencies producing recycled water in identifying and rectifying regulations or permitting requirements that are inconsistent with considering recycled water as a resource, rather than a waste, or that discourage the use of recycled water, such as the Regional Water Quality Control Boards of the State of California's groundwater anti-degradation policy and National Pollution Discharge Elimination System discharge permit requirements; and
- 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. Provide this document as a model for all cities in Los Angeles County to use in their jurisdictions.

OUTREACH

Public perceptions regarding the use of recycled water have forced some agencies to abandon recycled water projects. A proactive outreach program is essential for educating stakeholders to accept the use of recycled water.

Policy Recommendations

Instruct the Office of Water Recycling to develop a communications strategic plan integrated with existing plans prepared by other entities that educates stakeholders on recycled water issues, including the safety and benefits of recycled water.

The policy recommendations will be brought to the County Board of Supervisors in February 2007. The County has requested Task Force members to consider providing letters of support encouraging the adoption of the policy recommendations. The County staff has also requested the input of agencies to help fund the office of water recycling.

FISCAL IMPACTS:

None.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE:

Not applicable.

COMMITTEE STATUS:

This item was reviewed by the Water Resources Committee on January 11, 2007 and was recommended for approval at the January 22, 2007 Board meeting.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

That the Board authorizes the General Manager to prepare a letter of support for the Board President's signature that encourages the County Board of Supervisors to adopt the Recycled Water Task Force recommended policy recommendations.

LIST OF EXHIBITS:

None.