

Water Recycling Project Development Actions

1. Water Recycling Planning and Implementation

Purpose: Provide a uniform, verifiable, locally directed process for recycled water market identification and integrated water and wastewater project planning for water recycling. *plan for water recycling*

Presently, all urban water agencies that are required to prepare Urban Water Management Plans (California Water Code §§10610 et. Seq.) must also prepare a water recycling feasibility plan within the UWMP process (Water Code §§10631). The 1995 UWMP's were the first that included this required feasibility analysis. [Water recycling is not listed as one of the BMPs listed in the 1991 MOU. This action would be assisted by creating a new BMP encouraging water recycling market evaluation and project feasibility evaluations.]

action

2. Water Recycling Technical and Planning Assistance

Purpose: Ensure that lack of technical and planning expertise does not impede implementation of cost-effective water recycling projects by providing easily accessible assistance for planning and implementing local water recycling market evaluations, integrated water and wastewater project planning, and financial evaluations leading to accessing special water recycling funding opportunities.

Technical and planning assistance is critical to the successful achievement of feasible water recycling plans, and ultimately, projects. Assistance ^{will} be directed in three key areas. ^{third} The first is the identification and successful introduction to local agencies of *regional-scale* opportunities for additional water recycling ~~participation in cooperative regional recycling feasibility studies~~ such as the Southern California Comprehensive Water Reclamation and Reuse Study and the Central California Regional Water Reclamation and Reuse Study, are examples of this process. (see activity 4 below).

The ^{first} ~~second~~ key area is identification of *local scale* water recycling projects (guidebook ^{describing} development ^{establishing} methods for the evaluation of water recycling projects, CALFED agencies) ^{with provide} technical and planning assistance to facilitate use of ^{this} guidebook, ^{helping local agencies carry out the} engineering, economic, and financial evaluations, and ^{that can} forms of assistance leading to successful project implementation on the local level.

The ^{second} ~~third~~ is local agency encouragement leading to participation in regional-scale project planning by evaluating and ^{informing} ~~instructing~~ them about the benefits to them of participation. DWR provides some local-scale technical and planning assistance through their Water Recycling Specialist and USBR. Under this action, DWR will continue to provide and USBR will establish a program to provide technical and planning assistance and continue to participate on regional water recycling feasibility studies. Assistance programs will be expanded as necessary to ensure that lack of technical and planning expertise does not impede implementation of cost-effective

Action #2 under Urban Water Conservation Act is the certification of water mgmt plans by DWR. This action includes certification of agencies' compliance with water recycling feasibility plan that meets the requirements of State law - the UWMP Act.

measures. Additional assistance may be provided by regional water agencies and sanitation districts whose member units may require this type of assistance.

3. Funding Assistance

Purpose: Ensure that lack of financing ability does not impeded implementation of cost-effective measures. Provide easily accessible funding for planning and implementing local water recycling projects.

Funding assistance is an integral part of the successful optimization of water recycling potential. CALFED will facilitate the implementation of local water recycling projects by making available flexible funding assistance programs or augmenting funding in existing programs at the State level. Both SWRCB and DWR have financing programs for the purpose of funding recycled water treatment plant and distribution facilities. Funding programs like those at DWR, SWRCB, and USBR, through Title 16, P.L. 102-575, will continue under this action. Establishment of appropriate guidelines for awarding the funding should be developed in cooperation with the water recycling industry and other interested parties.

4. ^{encourage} Identify and ~~implement~~ regional water recycling opportunities that maximize reuse at minimum cost

Purpose: Provide opportunities for local water and sanitary agencies to join together to plan regional projects to their mutual benefit. ^{Regional water recycling projects have the potential advantage of} single-community, local projects, to optimize water reuse in those regions.

Optimization of water recycling potential at minimal cost can best be realized by evaluating the transfer of recycled water from areas of excess supply to areas of excess demand, identify regional seasonal storage opportunities, and regional brine line feasibility. Regional partnerships between local water and wastewater agencies can enhance the success of regional projects. ~~Planning activities such as the~~ ^{what's this?}

Presently both USBR and DWR participate with water and wastewater agencies in some regional-scale feasibility studies of water recycling potential through ~~USBR's Title 16, P.L. 102-575~~ along with ~~additional~~ local and regional water and sanitation agencies ^{that} who cost-share with DWR and USBR on these studies. CALFED will encourage participation in additional regional studies with the intent of optimizing recycled water use at minimum cost. Financial assistance (see activity #3), should be used to encourage local agency participation in the regional planning activities. ~~Financial incentives should favor projects that result from the regional plans.~~

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To be inserted at the end of the "Public Policy Foundations" section:

California Water Code §461 provides that the public policy of the State requires the maximum re-use of wastewater. California Water Reclamation Law (Cal. Water Code §§13550-13556) declares that the people of California have a primary interest in developing water reclamation facilities to meet the State's reliable water needs and augment existing surface and groundwater resources. California Water Code §13512 declares the intent of the Legislature and the State to undertake steps to encourage development of water reclamation facilities and beneficial reuse of reclaimed water. The Water Recycling Act of 1991 (Cal. Water Code §§13577) set recycling goals of 700,000 acre-feet of water annually by year 2000 and 1,000,000 acre-feet annually by 2010.

Further legislative and regulatory steps reiterated the general tenets of California Water Reclamation Law, specifically focussed on coastal areas. In coastal zone areas, water recycling of treated water that would have otherwise been disposed into the ocean, creates a "new" supply of water for that region. This is recognized legislatively in California Water Code §13142.5(e), which urges wastewater treatment agencies located in a coastal zone to reclaim and re-use as much of ^{their} treated effluent as is practicable. It is also recognized through regulation by ^{the SWRCB in} its 1984 decision 'in the matter of the Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter', Order #WQ 84-7, where the ~~State Water Resources Control~~ Board held as follows:

"In this case and all other cases where an applicant" (i.e., for a permit to discharge effluent into receiving waters)...., proposes to discharge effluent once-used wastewater into the ocean, the report of the discharge should include an explanation of why the effluent is not being reclaimed for further beneficial uses." ~~This is consistent with State policy established by the Legislature in~~ ^{SWRCB} ~~Cal. Water Code §13142.5(e)~~ ^{SWRCB}

Additionally, SWRCB in its 'Bay-Delta Standards' Order #163 (1992), stated, "Wherever practicable, all agencies should reduce imported water demand by maximizing water reclamation re-use."