

**DRAFT WATER RECYCLING ELEMENT**  
**CALFED WATER USE EFFICIENCY COMPONENT**

March 3, 1997

[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 State Water Resources Control Board in its 1984 decision 'in the matter of the Sierra Club, San Diego Chapter', Order #WQ 84-7, where the 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 Cal. Water Code §13142.5(e).

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."