

State Recycled Water Policy

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http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_recycling_policy/index.shtml

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Why did the State Water Board adopt a Recycled Water Policy?

- State Water Board is concerned about the state running out of water and believes that additional water recycling is necessary to meet the states water demands.
- June 2003 Recycled Water Task Force Report found **inconsistent regulation** of recycled water to be an impediment to increasing the use of recycled water.

1. Preamble

- Goal is sustainable water management
 - Increase use of recycled water:
 - one million afy by 2020
 - two million afy by 2030
 - Increase use of storm water:
 - 0.5 million afy by 2020
 - One million by 2030
 - Increase water conservation by 20% by 2030
 - Replace potable water with recycled water as much as possible by 2030.
- Policy concerns use of municipal recycled water.

2. Purpose of the Policy

- Provide direction to regulators, producers and users
- Implement state and federal water quality laws
- Streamline permitting
- Increase consistency of regulation
- State Water Board will establish policies for water conservation and use of storm water in the future.

3. Benefits of Recycled Water

- By definition, use of recycled water has beneficial impact. Use this assumption when evaluating impacts under CEQA.

"Recycled water" means water which, as a result of treatment of waste, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use that would not otherwise occur and is therefore considered a valuable resource.
[CWC section 13050 (n)]

4. Mandate for the Use of Recycled Water

- Increase the use of recycled water
 - 0.2 million afy by 2020
 - 0.3 million afy by 2030
- Agencies producing recycled water shall make it available at a reasonable price.
- Waste of water to *not* use recycled water when an adequate supply/quality is available.
- State Water Board shall use its authority under Water Code section 275 to enforce the mandate.
- Mandate assumes that sufficient capital funding will be available.
- Communities agree to advocate for funding.

5. Roles of the Agencies

- State Water Board
- California Department of Public Health
- Regional Water Boards
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Public Utilities Commission

6. Salt/Nutrient Management Plans

- Regulation of recycled water alone will not solve the problem. All sources must be considered.
- Adoption Process
 - Water and Wastewater agencies have agreed to fund local development.
 - Stakeholders will prepare plans, including compliance with CEQA.
 - For each groundwater basin within the state.
 - Must be completed within five years, although EO may authorize two more years if progress is being made.
 - Regional Water Board must consider adoption of implementation plans within one year from receipt from stakeholders.

6. Salt/Nutrient Management Plans

Components of plans:

- Source ID with fate and transport
- Antidegradation analysis
- May address additional constituents (Fe, Mn)
- Monitoring
 - Focus near supply wells and recycling projects, particularly recharge.
 - Monitoring must include CECs.
 - Identification of parties responsible for doing the monitoring.

7. Landscape Irrigation Projects

- Control Incidental Runoff
 - Implement an operations and management plan
 - Proper sprinkler design
 - Don't irrigate during storms
 - Prevent discharge up to the 25-year, 24-hour storm.

7. Landscape Irrigation Projects

- Streamlined Permitting
 - Absent unusual circumstances
 - Enrolled in general WDR within 60 days or must consider adoption within 120 days
 - No groundwater monitoring, unless required by a salt/nutrient management plan.
 - Criteria
 - compliance with Title 22
 - application at agronomic rates
 - compliance with salt/nutrient management plan
 - accounting for nutrient levels in the recycled water
 - monitoring for priority pollutants and CECs

8. Groundwater Recharge

- Site-specific project review
- Compliance with CDPH regulations
- Monitoring for CECs
- Priority permitting for projects that use both spreading basins and RO treatment

9. Antidegradation

- Addressed in salt/nutrient management plan
- A landscape irrigation project that meets streamlined permitting conditions is compliant.
- A recharge/irrigation project is compliant with the antidegradation policy provided:
 - It uses less than ten percent of assimilative capacity within a basin as measured by comparing the objective with the average mineral quality within the basin.
 - 20% for multiple projects

10. Constituents of Emerging Concern (CECs)

- Establishes a scientific advisory panel to provide advice to the State Water Board on how to deal with CECs.
- Report due in one year must include recommendations on:
 - Analytical methods
 - Detection limits
 - Health impacts
 - Appropriate monitoring

11. Incentives

- Funding – Request Funding, Promote SRF
- Storm water – State Water Board encourages less stringent monitoring for storm water treatment projects
- TMDLs – State Water Board recommends that credits be given for water recycling.

Funding Sources

Funding Source	Construct Loans	Construct Grants	Planning Grants	Total Loans and Grants	Expected Recycled Water Deliveries
1978 Bond Law	N/A	\$11,194,122	N/A	\$11,194,122	4,791
Renewable Resources Investment Fund (General Fund)	N/A	\$4,500,000	N/A	\$4,500,000	3,600
1984 Bond Law	\$57,437,401	N/A	N/A	\$57,437,401	26,548
1988 Bond Law	\$37,610,923	N/A	N/A	\$37,610,923	15,985
1996 Bond Law	\$1,811,841	N/A	\$545,000	\$2,356,841	412
2000 Bond Law (Prop. 13)	\$39,350,000	\$59,511,290	\$4,332,500	\$103,193,790	134,001
2002 Bond Law (Prop. 13)	N/A	\$50,755,375	\$900,000	\$51,655,375	88,652
State Revolving Fund	\$372,904,578	N/A	N/A	\$372,904,578	65,571
TOTAL	\$509,114,743	\$125,960,787	\$5,777,500	\$640,853,030	339,561

Policies and Tools Regulating Recycled Water

- Basin Plan
 - Action Plan on Water Reclamation
 - Factoring Water Supply Considerations into Water Reclamation
 - Discharges to Coastal Lagoons from Pilot Water Reclamation Projects
 - Discharges to Inland Surface Waters
 - Implementation of Ground Water Quality Objectives for Reclaimed Water Dischargers
- Master Reclamation Permits (CWC 13523.1)
 (WDR + Water Reclamation Requirements (CWC 13260, 13523))
- Waivers (CWC 13269, Resolution RP-2007-0104)
 - Short-term projects
 - Temporary waivers for permanent projects

Future Actions of Regional Board

- Participate in stakeholder meetings to develop salt/nutrient management plans (section 6)
- Review Master Reclamation Permits to determine consistency with Streamlined Permitting section 7b.
- Apply measures prescribed in Policy to proposed Groundwater Recharge Reuse Projects (section 8)
- Apply antidegradation analysis to proposed projects. (section 9)
- Apply recommendations of panel regarding chemicals of emerging concern (section 10)
- Apply less stringent monitoring and regulatory requirements for stormwater treatment and use requirements than projects involving untreated stormwater discharges. (section 11.b)
