

Statement of Principles Sacramento Water Recycling Coalition

We, the undersigned organizations, have come together to form a Coalition to advance the use of recycled water in the Sacramento region. This Statement of Principles outlines our purpose in forming this Coalition and what we intend to achieve together.

Mission / Vision Statement

Water recycling has many benefits including the potential for providing a sustainable source of water for many uses as described in the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) Water Recycling Opportunities Study and other regional planning documents. Some of these uses include agriculture and landscape irrigation, water supply for wildlife habitat and mitigation lands, industrial uses, and as a source to supplement limited state and regional water resources. The objective of our Coalition is to work collaboratively to identify, develop, and promote opportunities for the use of recycled water within the Sacramento region, and to seek political support and funding for those opportunities.

Preamble

The State of California has established goals for recycling water to move toward sustainable management of surface waters and groundwater, enhanced water conservation and water reuse. Recycled water is currently used in the Sacramento region on a small scale and on a larger scale in several other regions within our state. Water recycling is included in the 2009 California Water Plan within Objective #2 titled “Use and Reuse Water More Efficiently” which states “*Use water more efficiently with significantly greater water conservation, recycling, and reuse to help meet future water demands and adapt to climate change.*”

The Water Code distinguishes between effluent disposal and water recycling, and defines recycled water as “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.*” Recycled water use must comply with Title 22 water recycling criteria (Water. Code, §§ 13520, 13521) that specify levels of treatment, land use and operational requirements for permissible recycled water uses, including the irrigation of food crops and fodder and fiber crops.

There are some state and federal programs that have been identified as sources of funding for recycled water projects including US Bureau of Reclamation Title XVI, CALFED funding, Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), Proposition 84, Proposition 50, and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund. In addition, the Comprehensive Water Package / Safe, Clean, and Reliable Drinking Water Supply Act of 2011/12 may include a provision for funding recycled water, if approved by voters.

The existing SRCSD Water Reclamation Facility was designed to produce up to 5 million gallons per day (mgd) of tertiary recycled water. This recycled water is currently used at a localized level by the Sacramento County Water Agency for landscape irrigation in south Sacramento County, and by the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. The facility is permitted for up to 10 mgd.

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We support expansion of the existing local recycled water program into a regional program whenever feasible as a means to provide a sustainable water supply and an opportunity for water quality benefits. However, in order to expand the use of recycled water on a regional scale, state and federal funding will be needed to help offset project costs and to guide the future direction for water recycling in the Sacramento region.

Coalition Efforts

Members of this Coalition pledge to collaborate to identify and support recycled water projects in the Sacramento area that have regional benefits and will seek to build consensus to support a comprehensive water reuse program.

The Coalition members will evaluate opportunities to provide input and comment regarding proposed legislation and regulation related to recycled water use in the state and in the Sacramento region. The members will investigate and seek funding opportunities for recycled water studies, planning, construction of pilot projects, treatment systems, transmission and distribution systems, associated monitoring and testing programs for these projects and other identified similar projects. The Coalition will seek projects that have multiple benefits and potentially multiple funding sources and opportunities.

As Stakeholders, we commit to the development of policies that promote mutually beneficial projects that meet state health standards, support agricultural, wildlife habitat and ecological needs, water supply needs and other needs as identified by the Coalition.

Recycled water treatment standards will be addressed on an individual project basis. The Coalition is committed to maintaining compliance with regulatory requirements and remaining actively engaged in current and evolving research and scientific studies related to recycled water use. Coalition members pledge to actively search for and provide current technical and educational materials related to regulatory requirements, legal issues, health and safety issues, water quality data, environmental issues, and recycled water use experiences and opportunities in other regions. This information will be shared with the Coalition members and other affected parties so that they may make informed decisions related to recycled water use.

Participation in the Coalition or support of these principles does not place a specific obligation on any individual Coalition member related to a specific recycled water project or Coalition efforts.