

California Urban Water Agencies releases white paper on statewide water reuse advancements

June 10, 2014, WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — The California Urban Water Agencies has released a Water Reuse Update that addresses the importance of urban water reuse to the reliability of California water supplies. The paper details reuse methods and highlights the CUWA member agencies' current and planned water reuse projects.

“On a statewide basis, our traditional water supplies continue to be impacted by drought, climate change, regulations and other restrictions. Many agencies are looking to water reuse as an option to enhance water supply reliability.” says Marsi Steirer, deputy director of the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department and co-chair of CUWA's water reuse committee. “Water reuse, particularly for potable uses, is becoming an increasingly important component of water supply portfolios.”

The CUWA update emphasizes that there is not one solution to meet future water demands and acknowledges the importance of diverse water resource portfolios in future water supply planning. The report outlines how water reuse will continue to be a vital piece of the State's overall water supply portfolio and that it can be a good fit for many water agencies, depending on local, site-specific circumstances.

According to Beau Goldie, CEO of Santa Clara Valley Water District and co-chair of CUWA's water reuse committee, California's urban water agencies are making great strides in expanding annual water reuse. “To date, water reuse projects implemented by CUWA member agencies provide a total of 320,000 acre-feet/year, and our expectation is that our agencies will expand to at least 600,000 acre-feet by 2030.”

In addition, CUWA has developed Water Reuse Policy Principles to summarize its perspectives.

“The policy principles are noteworthy as they represent a joint perspective from 10 diverse water agencies around the state,” notes Jenny Gain, principal engineer at Brown and Caldwell. “They acknowledge that water reuse plays an important role in the future of California water, whether it's a good fit for them locally or not.”

CUWA Executive Director Cindy Paulson agrees. “A diverse water supply portfolio is critical to California's future,” Paulson says, “and CUWA agencies are leading the way in planning and implementing safe and reliable water reuse projects for various intended uses and scales.”

The White Paper can be accessed on CUWA's website at:

http://www.cuwa.org/pubs/CUWA_WaterReuseUpdate.pdf

CUWA's policy principles on water reuse can be viewed at:

http://www.cuwa.org/pubs/WR_PolicyPrinciples_07312013.pdf

About CUWA

Established in 1990, the California Urban Water Agencies (CUWA) is a non-profit corporation of 10 major urban water agencies that are responsible for about two-thirds of California's drinking water supply. As the collective voice for the largest urban water purveyors in California, CUWA provides technical perspective to promote common understanding and consensus solutions among the urban water community. CUWA major urban water agencies include Alameda County Water District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, City of San Diego Public Utilities Department, Contra Costa Water District, East Bay Municipal Utility District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, San Diego County Water Authority, Santa Clara Valley Water District, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, and Zone 7 Water Agency in Livermore. For more information, visit: <http://www.cuwa.org/>

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