



# Ad Hoc Committee on Advanced Water Treatment Operator Training and Certification

## STATUS UPDATE

Traci Minamide, LA Sanitation

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# Ad Hoc Committee Members

- Traci Minamide, LA Sanitation (chair)
- Amy Dorman, City of San Diego
- Jim Fiedler, Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Julie Labonte, San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Bruce Macler, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Mike Wehner, Orange County Water District



# Advanced Water Treatment Operator Training and Certification

- Basic Principle:
  - Wastewater is a resource not a waste
- Overarching Goal
  - Ensure protection of public health and safety
  - Gain public acceptance and build confidence in a reliable water quality source
- Challenge
  - Existing ww and water certification programs do not sufficiently address advanced water treatment
  - A comprehensive certification program is needed to validate operator skills, knowledge, and ability to run these types of facilities

# White Paper Analysis Project Scope Recap

- Collaborative effort: CUWA, WateReuse CA, DDW, DPR Advisory Panel, and other stakeholders including AWWA CA-NV, CWEA, and CASA
- Ph I
  - Literature Review
  - Survey
  - Draft matrix of approaches
- Ph II
  - Oct 19 and 20, 2015 Stakeholder Workshop – reviewed alternatives, discussed pros and cons, reach consensus on recommended approach
  - Identified issues needing further discussion

# Starting Point Framework

- Certification Program should cover both IPR and DPR (w exception of surface spreading w tertiary treated water)
- Certification Program needs to work for both water and ww operators
- Certification Program needs to encompass the variation in operating scenarios at utilities
  - ww treatment plants or water reclamation plants w advanced treatment included staffed by ww operators
  - stand alone adv water trmt fac staffed by water or ww operators

# White Paper Conclusions

Agreed Upon approach: one certification for both water and ww operators as a stand alone add-on to existing ww and water certification

- Technology aspects of the potable reuse treatment train should be covered (both IPR and DPR).
- More emphasis should be placed on operator's role: ability to trouble shoot and react quickly to problems, understanding of critical control points – the human factor will save the day
- Timely development of a cert program is needed for DPR to move forward
- Program must be manageable and enforceable by the SWRCB

# Follow up Issues

- Certification Program Sponsor
  - SWRCB administered certification program
  - Interim trade organization certification endorsed by SWRCB
- State Funding/Resource Needs for development of training and certification programs and financing ongoing administration
- Training
  - On-the-job site-specific utility programs
  - Programs developed thru trade associations
  - Programs developed through community colleges
- Grandfathering
- Career Mobility – crossover between ww and w
- Determination of grade level of operators needing certification
- Implementation time frame

# Ongoing Activities

- White Paper
  - Final released final Jan 2016
- AWWA/CWEA Membership Survey
  - Released Jan 11, 2016 to gather baseline data for an operator certification program
- Water Reuse Research Foundation (WRRF)
  - Issued a solicitation for proposals (WRRF-15-05) on developing a DPR training/certification program.
  - Proposals due Jan 21, 2016



# Questions?

