

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER
DECEMBER 6, 2016**

ITEM 9

SUBJECT

UPDATE REGARDING THE FINAL REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING UNIFORM WATER RECYCLING CRITERIA FOR DIRECT POTABLE REUSE

DISCUSSION

The State Water Board released a draft of the Report to the Legislature on the Feasibility of Developing Uniform Water Recycling Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse (Draft Report) on Thursday, September 8, 2016 for public comment. The public comment period closed on October 25, 2016, at noon.

To supplement the public comment period, Division of Drinking Water (DDW) staff held a staff workshop at the Metropolitan Water District office in Los Angeles (Southern California) and a Board workshop at CalEPA Headquarters in Sacramento (Northern California) to present an overview of the draft report and hear oral comments on October 4th and 6th, respectively. In advance of the workshops, staff partnered with WaterReuse in presenting the Draft Report to the WaterReuse membership at three special briefings in Northern and Southern California.

A total of 39 comment letters were received by the end of the public comment period. The comment letters are posted on this link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/comments/drinkwater_potable_reuse/

Staff will present a summary of the public comments received and changes made to the Draft Report in finalizing the Draft Report. Staff plans to submit the final Report to the Legislature by December 31, 2016, as required by California Water Code (CWC) section 13563.

As required by CWC section 13565, the State Water Board convened two independent groups, an expert panel of scientists and engineers, and an advisory group of stakeholders, to advise the State Water Board on issues related to the investigation of the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria for direct potable reuse. The recommendations of the Expert Panel and Advisory Group established the foundation of the State Water Board's investigation and findings; the Expert Panel report and the Advisory Group report are included as appendices to the State Water Board's Draft Report.

Pursuant to CWC sections 13560 - 13569 [Senate Bill 918 (Pavley), 2010 and Senate Bill 322 (Hueso), 2013], the State Water Board prepared the Draft Report after considering the recommendations of the Expert Panel and Advisory Group; available research regarding unregulated pollutants as developed pursuant to the State Water Board's Recycled Water Policy; the regulations and guidelines in place for direct potable reuse from jurisdictions in other states, federal government and other countries; water quality and health risk assessments associated with existing potable water supplies subject to the discharges from municipal wastewater, stormwater and agricultural runoff; and, pursuant to CWC section 13563, the results of an investigation of all of the following:

- (1) The availability and reliability of recycled water treatment technologies necessary to ensure the protection of public health;
- (2) Multiple barriers and sequential treatment processes that may be appropriate at wastewater and water treatment facilities;
- (3) Available information on health effects;
- (4) Mechanisms that should be employed to protect public health if problems are found in recycled water that is being served to the public as a potable water supply, including, but not limited to, the failure of treatment systems at the recycled water treatment facility;
- (5) Monitoring needed to ensure protection of public health, including, but not limited to, the identification of appropriate indicator and surrogate constituents;
- (6) Any other scientific or technical issues that may be necessary, including, but not limited to, the need for additional research.

More information regarding the Draft Report, the Expert Panel, the Advisory Group, and public workshops: can be found here:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/rw_dpr_criteria.shtml

POLICY ISSUE

None. This is an informational item.

FISCAL IMPACT

None. This is an informational item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None. This is an informational item.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None. This is an informational item.

State Water Board action on this item will assist the Water Boards in reaching Goal 6 of the Strategic Plan Update: 2008-2012 to enhance consistency across the Water Boards, on an ongoing basis, to ensure our processes are effective, efficient, and predictable.
