

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – DIVISION OF DRINKING WATER
DECEMBER 15, 2015**

ITEM 5

SUBJECT

UPDATE REGARDING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SURFACE WATER AUGMENTATION REGULATIONS AND REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING REGULATIONS FOR DIRECT POTABLE REUSE

DISCUSSION

DDW will report on progress of the two primary tasks incorporated into the California Code by SB 918 (2010) and SB 312 (2013), to advance the potential use of highly-treated recycled water for potable purposes. The work includes the following key components:

- Surface Water Augmentation (SWA) - The drafting of criteria for augmenting surface water reservoirs with recycled water. Working towards the adoption of the SWA criteria through regulations by December 31, 2016.
- Review and Evaluation of the Draft SWA Criteria by the Expert Panel – The Expert Panel is charged with reviewing the draft SWA Criteria to determine whether the draft SWA Criteria are “protective of public health”.
- Development of the Report to the Legislature on the Feasibility of Developing Criteria for Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) – This includes gathering key scientific and technical information and recommendations from both an Expert Panel and Advisory Group formed pursuant to the Water Code. This Report to the Legislature is due by December 31, 2016. A Public Review draft of the Report is to be posted by September 1, 2016
- Ensuring the Adequacy of Potable Reuse Research – DDW is working closely with the Division of Water Quality to ensure the adequacy and timeliness of ongoing research related to Direct Potable Reuse. The Expert Panel and DDW are using this research to evaluate the feasibility of DPR.

This work is very important to the water supply industry as they work to ensure the adequacy of the water supply in the long-term. The potential increased use of recycled water as a potable source could result in significant benefits to the environment including decreasing ocean discharges as well as the reduction of energy use and greenhouse gases.

POLICY ISSUE

None at this time.

FISCAL IMPACT

Not applicable for this informational item.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None at this time; however, this work is of very high importance especially to Regional Boards in the larger metropolitan areas in Southern California. The Regional Boards will be issuing the permits for any advanced wastewater treatment/recycling facilities in coordination with DDW. DDW is working to keep the Regional Boards informed of the progress of the work and the key issues that impact their work.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

None, information item only.