

General Order for Recycled Water Use

State Water Resources Control Board

Board Agenda Item # 7

Tuesday, June 7, 2016



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Outline

- Background, Purpose, & Coverage
- Proposed Changes
- General Order Roles and Responsibilities
- Compliance with CEQA
- Public Comment Period, Comments Received, & Responses to Comments
- Public Comment



Background

- Developed in response to the Governor's proclamations of a Drought State of Emergency on January 17, 2014 and April 25, 2014
- Recognized as an opportunity to conserve availability of local potable water supplies
- Proposed water recycling requirements are intended to replace the existing general waste discharge requirements adopted in 2014

Recall the Purposes of the General WDR (2014-0090-DWQ)

- **Streamline permitting for recycled water use** that typically presents a relatively low threat to water quality so long as consistent with Title 22 requirements and pose no unreasonable risk to public health
- **Relieve new individual recycled water end users** from the requirements to apply for Water Recycling Requirements or individual Waste Discharge Requirements
- **Provide coverage for other recycled water uses** that are not currently addressed by other Conditional Waivers, General Orders, or Master Reclamation Permits

Purposes of the Proposed WRR

- **Replace the existing General WDR**
 - Streamline permitting for recycled water use
 - Relieve new individual recycled water end users
 - Provide coverage for recycled water uses not yet permitted
- **Recognize that recycled water is a resource** by utilizing water reclamation requirements as permitting vehicle
- **Further streamline recycled water permitting in the state** by allowing a single permit implemented in multiple Regional Water Board boundaries

Coverage

- Allow producers and distributors of recycled water to facilitate recycled water use as water recycling administrators
- Limit source to treated municipal wastewater
- Provides coverage for uses undertaken consistent with requirements of Statewide Uniform Water Recycling Criteria (California Code of Regulations title 22, division 4, chapter 3).
 - Uses not addressed in the regulations will be subject to any additional requirements specified in the Notice of Applicability
- Potable reuse projects are not eligible for coverage

Coverage

Allowed Uses (title 22 §§ 60304-60307)

- Irrigation (agricultural, landscape)
- Impoundments
- Cooling / industrial
- Other purposes listed in title 22 § 60307 (commercial carwashes, artificial snow making, dust control, flushing sanitary sewer, mixing concrete, street cleaning, soil compaction, etc.)

Non Allowed Uses

- Activities intended to replenish groundwater resources
- Potable reuse

Uses not addressed in the regulations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

Proposed Changes from General WDR

- **Administrative**
 - Extension of CEQA exemption
 - Rescission of general WDR and adoption of WRR
 - DDW roles (CDPH transfer into SWRCB)
 - Transition of existing general WDR enrollees
- **Substantive**
 - Fees pursuant to CWC 13554.2
 - NOA issuance by State Water Board for multi-region projects
 - Direction to Regional Water Board to transition existing enrollees under a Regional Water Board's general order for RW use within 3 years

General Order Roles and Responsibilities

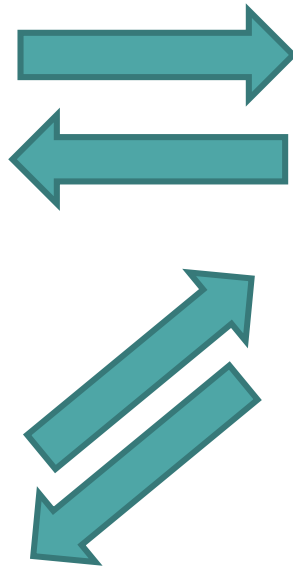
Regional Water Board

- Enroll dischargers
- Review and approve Water Recycling Program
- Conduct inspection and review monitoring reports
- Coordinate with State Water Board to include title 22 engineering report approval requirements



State Water Board

- Prepare and adopt GO
- Provide GO rollout/ implementation support for Regional Water Board
- Review and approve title 22 engineering reports



WATER RECYCLING PROGRAM

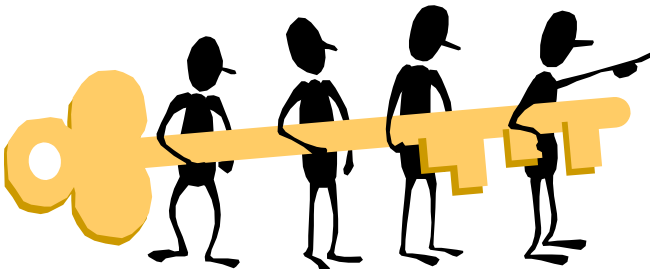
GO Enrollees

Comply with GO requirements and assume responsibilities as Water Recycling Program Administrator



Recycled Water Users

Comply with Water Recycling Program requirements



Compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act

- Governor's 2nd Drought Proclamation on April 25, 2014 states that the environmental review required by CEQA was suspended for several directives, including adoption of water reclamation requirements.
- Governor's Executive Order B-36-15 (Nov 2015) extended the suspension until the drought state of emergency is terminated.

Public Comment Period

- **Public Comment Period**
 - 30 calendar days
 - Jan 21, 2016 – Feb 22, 2016
 - 39 comment letters received
- **Additional Public Comment Period**
 - Limited to Finding 34 only
 - 21 calendar days
 - April 22, 2016 – May 13, 2016
 - 16 comment letters received

Comments Received & Responses to Comments

- Over 140 individual comments were logged
- Staff prepared a Response to Comments document, posted on DDW program page http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/drinking_water/certlic/drinkingwater/requirements.shtml



Public Comment