



Central Basin

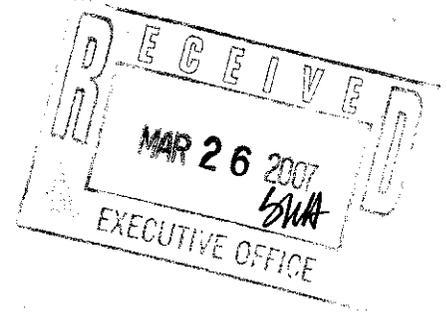
Municipal Water District

March 23, 2007

17140 S. Avalon Blvd.
Suite 300
Carson, CA 90746

Phone: 310.217.2222
Fax: 310.516.1327
www.centralbasin.org

Ms. Tam M. Doduc, Chair
California Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812



Comments on Proposed State Policy on Recycled Water

Dear Ms. Doduc:

Central Basin Municipal Water District (Central Basin) is a public agency in Southeast Los Angeles County serving over 1.6 million residents. Central Basin wholesales imported water to cities, mutual water companies, investor-owned utilities and private companies throughout the service area. In addition to imported water, Central Basin wholesales recycled water to these agencies as a supplementary source of supply. As such, Central Basin is very interested in recycled water policy development.

Central Basin strongly supports the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) interest in developing a statewide recycled water policy. Currently, California is recycling about 500,000 acre-feet per year (AFY). Potentially, the state could recycle 1.5 million AFY by 2030, which would free up enough potable water to meet 30% of our household annual needs. Since about 50-60% of all potable water supplies are being used to irrigate landscaping, the potential for drastically improving the amount of wastewater we recycle is great. But without strong support from state agencies and from the general public, that number will not significantly increase. Central Basin strongly believes a statewide recycled water policy is needed.

Advocating for a recycled water policy is not new. Central Basin suggests that the SWRCB consider the recommendations provided in "Water Recycling 2030 – Recommendations of California's Recycled Water Task Force" from June 2003. This document is very clear in that state government needs to take a leadership role in recycled water use and that a consistent policy among the different branches is greatly needed. It is very difficult for cities or local water districts to consider recycled water programs (or the enforcement of recycled water ordinances) when the state does not have a coherent and consistent

Board of Directors

Division I

Edward C. Vasquez

Division II

Robert Apodaca

Division III

Arturo Chacon

Division IV

Rudy C. Montalvo

Division V

Phillip D. Hawkins

General Manager

Art Aguilar

policy of their own. As an example of leadership in this area, the County of Los Angeles (through their Public Works Department) recently established an "Office of Water Recycling" that will help organize all county operated facilities to use recycled water wherever possible.

A statewide recycled water policy should also reflect the importance of funding for these programs. As recommended by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) in their May 2005 publication "No Time to Waste: A Blueprint for California Water", the state should "Provide support and resources to help remove the regulatory and financial constraints that often impede development of recycling..."

Central Basin would strongly recommend that the SWRCB adopt a broad policy that would provide unambiguous direction to all state offices and departments on the importance of developing recycled water projects and directing funding whenever available.

If you have questions, please feel free to call me at (310) 436-2605 or Steven Apodaca, Deputy General Manager of Technical Operations at (310) 436-2661 or email at stevena@centralbasin.org.

Sincerely,



Art Aguiar
General Manager

Cc: SWRCB Member Dr. Gary Wolff
SWRCB Member Mr. Arthur Baggett, Jr
SWRCB Member Mr. Charlie R. Hoppin
SWRCB Member Ms. Fran Spivey-Weber
CBMWD Board of Directors