



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Water Department

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**PARTICIPANTS AT AMERICAN ASSEMBLY WORKSHOP
ENDORSE VARIETY OF WATER REUSE OPTIONS**

San Diego, CA — Participants at the City of San Diego Water Department’s second American Assembly workshop endorsed a variety of ways to increase the use of recycled water in the City, including a process called reservoir augmentation.

In their statement adopted at the end of the three-day workshop held July 11, 12 and 14, the participants gave strong support for a water reuse strategy called indirect potable reuse that would use “advanced treated” or “purified” recycled water to supplement imported and runoff water supplies currently held in open reservoirs. Water in these reservoirs ultimately becomes the City’s drinking water after undergoing treatment at a drinking water filtration plant. Drinking water is referred to as potable water.

The 35 workshop participants represented various community and planning groups, as well as professional, industrial and environmental organizations from throughout the city. The workshop attendees were selected by the Mayor, City Council, and organizations with an interest in how water supplies affect the environment, business, and community at large.

Prior to the workshop, attendees reviewed the Water Reuse Study’s “Interim Report,” which contains research information compiled over the past months about several water reuse options. Six water reuse “strategies” and their estimated costs were included in the report, each one a

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combination of various recycled water uses from the City's North City Water Reclamation Plant and South Bay Water Reclamation Plant.

Two strategies proposed using recycled water only for irrigation and industrial purposes, utilizing a separate pipeline delivery system, which is color-coded purple for industry standardization and public notification. Both retail and wholesale distribution of the City's recycled water would occur. The other strategies proposed were various combinations of irrigation and industrial uses, creating wetlands, and using recycled water in varying amounts to supplement specific drinking water supply reservoirs in the City's system.

The July workshop echoed similar themes with the first workshop, held in October 2004. Nearly all of the July workshop participants also attended the October event, where the options for recycled water use and a set of evaluation criteria were presented by the Water Reuse Study team. The Assembly statement prepared at the conclusion of the October meeting also strongly supported using recycled water to supplement the drinking water supplies using the reservoir augmentation process.

At the end of the second day, the Water Reuse Study support team compiled the input of the workshop participants and created a draft "American Assembly II Statement" that captured majority and minority viewpoints received throughout the workshop. On the final day, the participants discussed, voted and approved the Statement in a plenary session.

The American Assembly II Statement can be found on the Water Reuse Study's website at www.sandiego.gov/water/waterreustudy/PublicInvolvement. The Study's Interim Report will also be posted on the website in the near future.

A summary of several key points from the American Assembly II Statement are:

1. The Assembly unanimously agrees that current technology and scientific studies support the safe implementation of non-potable and indirect potable use projects. The Assembly considers

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advanced treated (purified) water to be superior in quality to other sources (e.g. Colorado River, State Project Water).

2. The Assembly feels that there are no environmental justice issues that would act as a significant impediment to implementation of indirect potable use strategies.
3. The City can choose between non-potable and indirect potable uses. The Assembly strongly supports indirect potable use projects. Non-potable uses are supported to varying degrees.
4. The Assembly believes that the costs of the strategies are affordable and equitable, and considers the strategies to be a necessary investment in our future.

The next steps for the Water Reuse Study 2005 will be presentations to the Public Utilities Advisory Commission (PUAC) and the Natural Resources and Culture Committee (NR&C) of the City Council. The Study team will be ready to present the final report on the Water Reuse Study 2005 to the City Council this fall.

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