

INDIRECT POTABLE REUSE COALITION

San Diego County Taxpayers Association
Surfrider Foundation, San Diego Chapter
Coastal Environmental Rights Foundation
Building Office Managers Association,
San Diego Chapter
San Diego Coastkeeper
San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce
Friends of Infrastructure

Citizens Coordinate for Century Three
Industrial Environmental Association
San Diego and Imperial Counties Labor Council
San Diego Audubon Society
National Association of Industrial and Office
Properties, San Diego Chapter
BIOCOM

January 25, 2010

The Honorable Ben Hueso
Council President, San Diego City Council
City Administration Building
202 "C" Street, 10th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Re: Indirect Potable Reuse Demonstration Project

Dear Council President Hueso:

A stable, dependable supply of water is a necessity for our growing community. We cannot continue to rely primarily on a diminishing source of imported water. The drought and pumping restrictions on the Bay-Delta are current realities and may be exacerbated by climate change as scientists predict it will have dire impacts on California's hydrology, the State Water Project and the Colorado River.

This past September, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California raised rates in excess of twenty (20) percent, which followed double-digit increases in the prior year. The San Diego region cannot continue to sustain these rate increases with no end in sight. It is imperative that we invest in local sources of drought-proof water supply that require less reliance on energy and increasingly expensive imported water.

Recycled water is an important part of water supply portfolio diversification. An adequate supply of water is an essential resource for multi-million dollar research and manufacturing facilities. If San Diego wants to continue to attract and retain these companies, we must aggressively pursue all reliable sources of water to ensure dependable supply at pricing which does not dramatically shift from year to year. For example, Toray and Hydranautics are among other local manufacturers of membrane materials used for water reclamation, collectively employing over 500 San Diegans.

The IPR Coalition, an unprecedented alliance of San Diego environmental, businesses, labor, economic growth and ratepayer advocates have come together to promote IPR for the region.

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Utilizing Indirect Potable Reuse (IPR) in San Diego County significantly reduces the nearly 200 million gallons per day of wastewater effluent that is currently entering the Pacific Ocean. Taking this step enables the City of San Diego to meet Environmental Protection Agency and California Coastal Commission mandates that the City develop an alternative to continuing to seek section 301(h) waivers for the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Facility.

IPR does not have any more known adverse health effects than conventional water treatment methods. In fact, IPR projects undergo even more stringent review and monitoring by the California Department of Health Services and other regulatory agencies. Due to the nature of the processing it will be cleaner and safer than any water that is currently imported to our region. The Independent Advisory Panel (IAP), which was convened by City staff to review the design and preliminary results of the 2006 Water Reuse Study, included water researchers and scientists selected by the National Water Research Institute. There is strong consensus among those IAP members that purified wastewater does not pose a public health risk and that the purification process can produce water that is both clean and safe.

According to a recent public opinion poll commissioned by the San Diego County Water Authority, over three-fifths (63 percent) of respondents were in favor of advanced treated recycled wastewater as an addition to the supply of drinking water. This is a major turnaround from 2005 when only 28 percent favored such use of recycled water. Likewise, a survey conducted by the San Diego Institute for Policy Research in September 2007 demonstrates that after being presented with facts about IPR the public is much more inclined to support it.

We urge you to approve the Public Outreach and Program Management contracts for the IPR demonstration project which would allow important community outreach and education on recycled wastewater for potable use to begin in the near future. Orange County Water District representatives testified before the Natural Resources & Culture Committee last year to share information regarding their public outreach efforts. In their experience, face-to-face presentations for civic groups and opportunities for city staff to answer questions directly were most effective. We believe this type of community-based, district-by-district public outreach is crucial for ensuring a clear understanding of the impacts of IPR.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. Please do not hesitate to me at 619-234-6423 or any representative of the Coalition if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Lani Lutar

Indirect Potable Reuse Coalition

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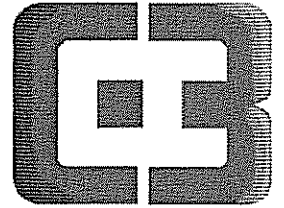


*Friends of
Infrastructure*



Union Yes

San Diego and Imperial
Counties Labor Council



COASTAL
ENVIRONMENTAL
RIGHTS
FOUNDATION



cc:

City of San Diego Councilmembers
Mayor Jerry Sanders
Andrea Tevlin, Independent Budget Analyst
Elizabeth Maland, City Clerk