

City of San Diego Water Reuse Study 2005



Interim Report

June 2005

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City of San Diego Water Department Contact Information:

Ms. Marsi Steirer
Mr. Ronald Coss

Deputy Director, Water Policy
Technical Project Manager

619-533-4112
619-533-4160

Prepared In Coordination with:



City of San Diego
Water Department
600 B Street
San Diego, California 92101



PBS&J
9275 Sky Park Court, Suite 200
San Diego, California 92123



McGuire/Pirnie
3471 Via Lido, Suite 207
Newport Beach, California 92663

The Water Reuse Study website address is:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/water/waterreustudy>



Preface

Water is essential to our growing economy and quality of life. The City of San Diego imports approximately 90 percent of its water supply from northern California and the Colorado River. The City's other water sources are from stored local runoff and water recycling.

Over the past 20 years, the City's conservation programs have helped reduce per-capita water use, but population growth has continued to push up overall water use. Even with continued aggressive conservation efforts, the City projects it will need 25 percent more water in 2030 than today.

The City also faces challenges of ensuring its water supplies are reliable and environmentally sustainable. Existing imported supplies from the Colorado River and northern California remain subject to reductions due to droughts. In addition, the need to import water, including water transfers, may also have incidental or unintended effects on other California ecosystems.

To address these challenges of growth, reliability and sustainability, the City's Long-Range Water Resource Plan identified the importance of recycled water in the City's overall water supply portfolio. The purpose of this Water Reuse Study is to conduct a comprehensive examination of the City's water recycling opportunities to support our future and our children's future.

Understanding the value and uses of recycled water is of critical importance in making informed choices and decisions. In developing recycled water uses, the City has several choices. Evaluating these choices requires considering more than just costs. Values, such as those listed below, will be at the heart of the public dialogue answering two critical questions: 1) what water recycling opportunities should be pursued? and 2) depending on the opportunity, how much water to recycle?

Recycled water brings value to San Diego because it...

- *enhances the reliability of our water supply;*
- *promotes a sustainable balance with our environment;*
- *is a new, locally controlled resource;*
- *reduces water diversions from other California ecosystems; and*
- *is an investment in San Diego's future.*



