

Water Policy Implementation Task Force

Water Recycling Sources Working Group DRAFT Recommendations

Graywater DRAFT Recommendations include:

1. Implement a “no permit” policy for “simple systems,” which is understood to mean systems used for landscape irrigation that discharge less than 250 gallons a day and primarily consist of systems taking discharge water from washing machines and wash basins and does not include a potable water connection, the use of a pump, or affect other plumbing, electrical, mechanical or building components.
2. Streamline the permitting process for “complex systems,” which is understood to mean systems discharge more than 250 gallons or take discharge water from other elements in a residence such as bathtubs and showers that would require more extensive in-house plumbing modifications. The Development Services Department should work with commercial graywater system designers, installers, and other professionals to identify areas within the existing permitting process which could be modified to expedite the review and inspection process for such graywater system installations.
3. Public Utilities Department, in consultation with DSD, should develop and include information on simple graywater systems in their public outreach materials and social media outreach, and emphasize the use of Best Management Practices to prevent runoff.
4. Oversight of "complex systems" should continue to be in the purview of the Development Services Department in order to ensure that plumbing and building code requirements are met.

Stormwater DRAFT Recommendations include:

1. Stormwater Dept. and Public Utilities to investigate opportunities for strategic infiltration of stormwater in areas where stormwater could replenish existing groundwater basins. This provides multiple benefits.
 - a. Infiltration may be the most cost-effective manner to address more stringent bacteria TMDLs.
 - b. Stormwater infiltration could increase the yield of existing groundwater basins and reduce salinity.
 - c. Stormwater infiltration would benefit the environment by reducing run-off.
2. Public Utilities to increase the focus on characterizing groundwater basins such as the San Pasqual Basin, San Diego Formation and San Diego River System that could be potential local water supplies

3. Stormwater Dept. and Public Utilities Dept. jointly work together to investigate potential grant funding for a feasibility and pilot study. One possibility is to develop a multi-beneficial joint project that can be included in the Integrated Regional Water Management Plan for possible Dept. of Water Resources funding.

DRAFT Recommendations for non-potable include:

1. Encourage “cost-effective” expansion of non-potable reuse by in-fill within the backbone of the existing system only. Cost effective meaning the City can recover the cost of service.
2. Existing recycled water rates were set at a discounted rate in 2001 and no provision was made for increasing them. No adjustment to the discounted rate has been made since 2001. Revisit rate structure for new users of non-potable recycled water and adjust to recover cost of service or at least index them to keep up with increases in other water rates.

DRAFT Recommendations for potable reuse include:

1. The City move forward with recommended next steps in the 2012 Recycled Water Study.
2. The City discuss with the County Water Authority its participation in Phase 2 and Phase 3 of Water Purification Project as part of a potential future regional water supply. The advanced treated water from the Water Purification Project will be stored in San Vicente Reservoir, which can serve the region.
3. City support legislation to streamline the regulatory process for indirect and direct potable reuse.