



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# Recycled Water Study

## FACT SHEET



North City Water Reclamation Plant



South Bay Water Reclamation Plant

*A water resource strategy that includes conservation, recycled water, and groundwater supplies will help meet future water needs.*



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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently granted the City of San Diego a waiver to its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit. The waiver allows the City to continue to operate the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant as an Advanced-Primary Treatment facility rather than requiring an upgrade to secondary treatment, which would require a significant capital investment.



Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant

As a result of a cooperative agreement reached between the City, San Diego Coastkeeper, and the Surfrider Foundation during the 2009 EPA waiver process, a Recycled Water Study was launched to look at opportunities to reduce wastewater flows to the ocean.

### Purpose

The study will examine San Diego's wastewater collection and treatment system to identify opportunities for increasing recycling of wastewater for potable and non-potable uses within the Metropolitan Wastewater Service Area. This includes all areas within the City of San Diego as well as areas served by the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, Del Mar, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, National City and Poway; the Lemon Grove Sanitation District; the Padre Dam Municipal and Otay Water Districts; and the County of San Diego (on behalf of the Winter Gardens Sewer Maintenance District, and the Alpine, Lakeside and Spring Valley Sanitation Districts).

The study will also identify costs of implementing such opportunities, and to what extent recycling and reclamation could feasibly reduce wastewater flows to the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City's Recycled Water Master Plan is being updated as part of the Recycled Water Study. Additional goals include identification and evaluation of recycling alternatives that would result in:

- The upgrade of the existing Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant to secondary treatment at the lowest possible cost
- Maximizing water reclamation and the use of recycled water to the fullest extent possible
- Evaluating opportunities to increase recycled water reuse via satellite facilities or via existing water reclamation plants. Evaluation will include detailed economic analysis that will consider potential capital and operations and maintenance savings on both the water and wastewater systems.

### Recycled Water Study Partners and Stakeholders

- San Diego Coastkeeper
- Surfrider Foundation
- City of San Diego Independent Rates Oversight Committee (IROC)
- San Diego Metro Wastewater Joint Powers Authority
- San Diego County Water Authority

### Estimated Cost of Study

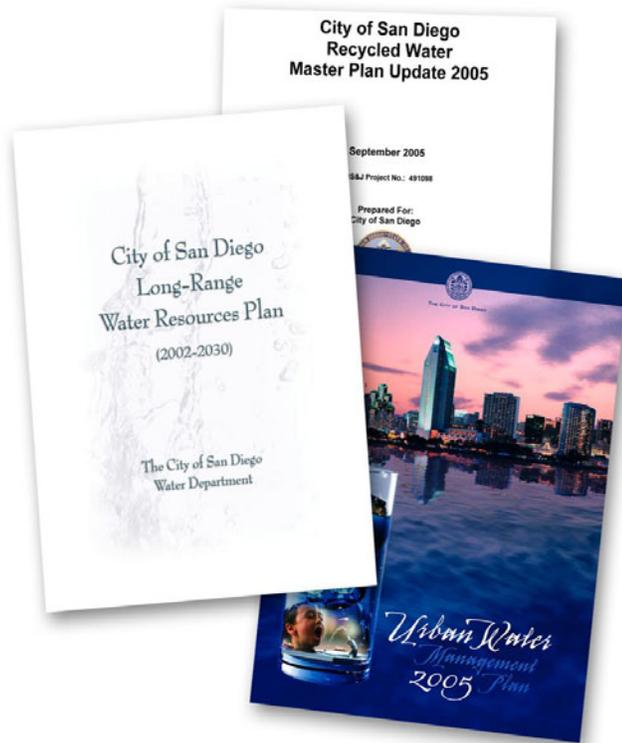
- Approximately \$2 million (including \$100,000 in grant funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation)

### Timeline and Study Phases

- Recycled Water Demand Analysis: 8/09 to 12/09
- Facilities Development & Evaluations: 8/09 to 11/10
- Development of a Recommended Plan: 09/10 to 06/10

## Other Long-Range Planning Efforts and Related Studies

- **Water Purification Demonstration Project** (this ongoing project is evaluating the feasibility of using advanced water treatment on recycled wastewater for augmentation of supplies in a local reservoir)
- **Metropolitan Wastewater Plan** (provides guidance for establishing a capital improvements project program that is tied to SANDAG flow projections and current Mass Emission Rate permit conditions)
- **San Pasqual Basin Conjunctive Study** (evaluates groundwater basin ability to store water and withdraw at a later time)
- **Pilot Production Wells** (evaluates the ground water potential of basins within the City's jurisdiction to determine the water supply production potential for each basin for a new local water supply source)
- **Urban Water Management Plan** (examines the City's historic and current water use projections and compares water supplies with demands over the next 20 years)
- **Long-Range Water Resources Plan 2002-2030** (identifies potential water supply options that are to be used in the context of developing a future water resources plan and strategy by choosing what is most feasible and environmentally sound)



*The City has a number of inter-related plans.*

For more information on these planning efforts and related studies, visit the City's website at [www.sandiego.gov/publicutilities](http://www.sandiego.gov/publicutilities) or call (619) 533-7572.

## Public Information and Community Input

- For more information on recycled water and other related programs, visit the City of San Diego's website at [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water), call (619) 533-7572 or email [water@sandiego.gov](mailto:water@sandiego.gov).
- Representatives from the Public Utilities Department will present to community, professional or business groups on various water supply issues, including indirect potable reuse, recycled water, etc. Email [waterspeakers@sandiego.gov](mailto:waterspeakers@sandiego.gov) or call (619) 533-6638 to schedule a speaker.



*Recycled Water Study kick-off meeting in 2009*