

# Draft General Permit for Landscape Irrigation Use of Recycled Water



CALIFORNIA

## Water Boards

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS

May 19, 2009

# Assembly Bill 1481

(De La Torre, 2007)

- California Water Code section 13552.5
- Requires the following of the State Board:
  - By July 31, 2009 adopt a general permit for landscape irrigation uses of recycled water
    - Establish criteria to determine eligibility for coverage
    - Permit enrollment optional
  - Establish a reasonable schedule of fees to administer the new law
  - Several other requirements

# General Permit Development

- June 18, 2008 Workshop / scoping meeting
- August, 2008: State Board/Regional Board/CDPH drafting team developed draft General Permit
- First draft of General Permit & CEQA documents released March 27, 2009 (“3/27 draft”)
  - Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration
  - Comments were due by April 27, 2009
- Second draft of General Permit (“5/7 draft”) subject of today’s workshop
  - Written Comments were due by May 13, 2009
  - Verbal comments accepted today

# Terminology

- *Recycled Water, Reclaimed Water*

*Water which, as a result of treatment of waste, is suitable for a direct beneficial use or a controlled use which would not have occurred otherwise and is therefore considered a valuable resource [Water Code section 13050(n)]*

- For General Permit “recycled water” refers to treated municipal wastewater

- *Producer, Reclaimer, Distributor, Wholesaler, Supplier, Retailer, User, Customer*

- Overlapping terms; see Water Code section 13575

- *Administrator (as used in 5/7 draft)*

- Either a *Producer* or a *Distributor*

# 'Simple' Example



**PRODUCER**

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**DISTRIBUTOR**  
*Wholesaler*  
*Supplier*  
*Retailer*

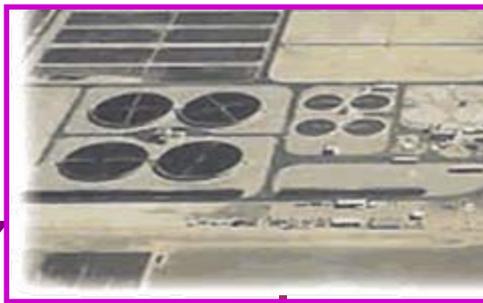
**Municipal Owned Recycled  
Water Conveyance**

**USER**

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**RECYCLED WATER**



# 'Complex' Example

**PRODUCER**

**DISTRIBUTOR**

*Wholesaler  
Supplier  
Retailer*

**Water  
Agency  
No. 1**

**Water  
Agency  
No. 2**

**USER**



# Overview of 5/7 draft General Permit

- Voluntary; administered by State Water Board
- Incorporates elements similar to requirements in master reclamation permits
- Streamlines the regulatory process
  - Approvals within 45 days of receipt of a complete application package.
  - Streamlined coordination with the CDPH and regional boards
- Protective of the environment with respect to both water quality and public health
- Conforms to Recycled Water Policy

# Overview of 5/7 draft General Permit

- “Disinfected tertiary” recycled water or better
- Prohibits the direct or indirect discharge to federal waters, unless otherwise authorized by an NPDES permit
- **Four Required Best Management Practices**
  - Leak detection within 72 hours or 1,000 gallons
  - Proper design and operation of sprinkler heads
  - Refraining from application during precipitation events
  - Management of impoundments

# Eligibility Criteria (5/7 draft)

- Projects not eligible for Permit are not precluded from using recycled water
- When not eligible for Permit, Administrators may pursue other regulatory mechanisms:
  - Individual water reclamation requirements
  - Individual waste discharge requirements
  - Regional Board General Permits (where available)

# '1-2-3' Approval Process

- **Step 1:** submit complete application package
- **Step 2:** commence thirty day public review period
- **Step 3:** Issue *Notice of Applicability*



# Key Changes from 3/27 draft General Permit

- “Administrative Distributor” → “Administrator”
- Condensed Findings
- Removed several requirements related to CDPH review process
- O&M Plan now requires an “Irrigation Management Plan” for the service area
  - “Sub-irrigation management plans” for varying conditions across large service areas
  - Key operational elements conveyed to Recycled Water Use Supervisors

# Key Changes from 3/27 draft General Permit

- Modified Title 22 Engineering Report submittal requirements
  - May submit entire Title 22 Engineering Report
  - OR**
  - May submit key elements
    - Methods of treatment, cross connection prevention measures, CDPH approval letters,
  - Added language to address amendments to Title 22 Engineering Report
- Several clarifications
- Numerous editorial revisions

# Key Changes from 3/27 draft General Permit

- **Monitoring**
  - Reduced monitoring parameters
  - Reduced monitoring frequency
    - **Daily** → **Monthly** for most parameters
  - Added language to verify recycled water remains of ‘disinfected tertiary’ quality
- **Reporting**
  - Removed several reporting elements

# Other Comments Received Regarding 3/27 draft General Permit

- Eligibility

- Comment: General Permit should include non-irrigation uses
- Response: By its title, AB 1481 infers that recycled water use pursuant to the General Permit shall be limited to use for “landscape irrigation.”
- Comment: Should be clearer as to how General Permit relates to existing individual, master reclamation permits, and general orders.
- Response: See Finding Nos. 8 and 28; NOI form (attachment B). Staff may develop Q&A to further explain the process.

# Other Comments Received Regarding 3/27 draft General Permit

- Existing Permits

- Comment: General Permit burdens existing Recycled Water Program
- Response: General Permit is voluntary; requirements only applicable to those approved for coverage

- Best Management Practices

- Comment: 'Optional' BMPs in Attachment C are too prescriptive, duplicative, or unnecessary.
- Response: Except for the four required BMPs, Attachment C is a 'menu' of other potential BMPs to be employed at the Administrator's discretion.

# Fee Schedule

- Staff evaluating 'reasonable schedule of fees' for coverage under the General Permit?
  - Flat fee or a tiered fee schedule
- Fee schedule likely based on number of Administrators
  - No estimate of projected number of Administrators
- State Water Board Division of Administrative Services - Fee Branch establishes and collects fees
  - Annual Water Quality Fee Stakeholder Meeting
    - **Friday, June 5, 2009 1:00 p.m.**

# Next Steps

- Per direction received today:
  - Revise 5/7 draft General Permit
  - Revise Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration
- Adoption prior to July 31, 2009
  - Will depend on direction received today
  - Currently targeting June 2 Board Meeting for consideration of General Permit
- Develop and implement enrollment database

Any Questions?



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