

GROUNDWATER RECHARGE (GWR), SURFACE WATER AUGMENTATION (SWA) AND DIRECT POTABLE REUSE (DPR)

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Groundwater Recharge Criteria

GWR regulations were passed on June 18, 2014. GWR is spreading tertiary treated wastewater or injecting RO treated wastewater. Several utilities are discussing potential projects at this time.

Surface Water Augmentation Criteria Status

The deadline to adopt Uniform Water Recycling Criteria for SWA is December 31, 2016. SWA is highly treated wastewater, RO/AOP, being discharged to a reservoir that is used for drinking water.

As required by the Water Code, an Expert Panel is reviewing the Draft SWA Criteria to confirm that the Draft criteria are protective of public health. DDW has finalized the draft criteria and is moving toward a public comment period. The Expert Panel during their last meeting on September 24, 2015 agreed that our current draft is protective of public health.

DDW is working on the regulation package, CEQA review, and external Peer Review (required by Health and Safety Code section 57004). These activities and the rulemaking process are expected to take most of 2016.

Regional Board

The Regional Boards issue the final permit for GWR and SWA projects since the product water is a discharge to either a water body or groundwater basin. The extraction drinking water wells or the surface water treatment plant is permitted by the DDW.

The final application which includes a technical evaluation in a Title 22 engineering report is provide to and reviewed by both DDW and the RB staff. Then DDW provides a recommendation letter to the Regional Board with recommended provisions and monitoring to be included in the Board permit.

Direct Potable Reuse

1. Division of Drinking Water is to prepare and submit a report to the Legislature on the feasibility of developing uniform water recycling criteria (regulations) for DPR by December 31, 2016.
2. DDW is to issue a public review draft of this report by September 1, 2016. DDW to allow at least 45 days for review and comment by the public.
3. DDW is to issue a draft report by June 30, 2016 summarizing the recommendations and findings of the Expert Panel.

Regional Board

As we move from GWR to DPR, some important aspects need to be considered. The source water quality, a consistent water quality, and operational optimization of all portions of the entire treatment facility from wastewater to drinking water are two critical components to successful projects. The Regional Board staff working with DDW and the utilities on these factors are critical elements. DDW Deputy Director has spoken to various EOs concerning optimization of wastewater facilities through the use of Operation and Maintenance Plans.