Recycled Water Policy Development

• Policy needed to promote and appropriately regulate recycled water
• Stakeholder group presented proposed policy to State Water Board on September 2, 2008
• Board directed staff to make only necessary changes and bring to Board for proposed adoption; staff proceeding
• SB 1391 (Padilla, 2008) requires adoption of a recycled water policy by January 31, 2009 provided no CEQA work is required. However, CEQA required
Stakeholders’ Proposed Recycled Water Policy

- Establishes goals for recycled water and water conservation
- Articulates benefits of recycled water
- Articulates agency roles
- Requires development of salt/nutrient management plans, including basin-wide groundwater monitoring
Stakeholders’ Proposed Recycled Water Policy

- Landscape irrigation projects: streamlined permitting
- Groundwater recharge reuse projects: site-specific permitting
- Anti-degradation approach using 10% / 20% available salt loading
- Blue ribbon panel on emerging contaminants
- Priority funding for recycled water projects and storm water projects
General Permit: Landscape Irrigation Use of Recycled Water

- AB 1481 (De La Torre, 2007) requires statewide general permit for landscape irrigation use of recycled water by July 31, 2009
- State Water Board held CEQA scoping meeting on June 18, 2008
- Staff is reviewing comments and drafting general permit and CEQA document
- Public review of draft documents targeted for Fall, 2008
Recycled Water Loans and Grants

- Research - Proposition 13 grants funding water reuse research through WateReuse Foundation, U.C. Davis, and Department of Public Health
- Funding Recycled Water Facilities – Loans and grants from state bond funds and State Revolving Fund
- Economic Task Force - State Water Board organizing economic task force to develop procedures for evaluating economic benefits of recycled water projects
Strategic Plan Update

• Adopted by State Water Board on September 2, 2008
• Requires actions to promote recycled water
  – use existing regulatory mechanisms to require development and implementation of water recycling plans
Bay/Delta Strategic Workplan

• Adopted by State Water Board on July 16, 2008
• Requires agencies to develop and implement water recycling plans
Recycled Water: Local Perspective

- Disposal of wastewater can be costly
- Wastewater discharges to surface water
  - requires expensive monitoring programs
  - can trigger stiff mandatory minimum penalties for effluent violations
- Recycled water as marketable commodity, may be cheaper than imported water
- Recycled water typically more reliable, with surface water unavailable some years
- Recycled water may be the only alternative available to provide water for further development
Recycled Water: State Perspective

• Using recycled water in southern California reduces demand on water imported from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta
• Energy costs and benefits vary project by project
• Increased energy costs possible if extensive additional treatment required
• Increased energy benefits in southern California instead of pumping water from northern California