

Preparing for the October 29 Stakeholder Committee Meeting

What we will be discussing: The consultants will discuss the following issues for the five shortlisted alternatives and unsewered communities:

- Recycled water opportunities and challenges;
- Potential impacts of climate change in the immediate, mid-term and long-term timeframes;
- Estimated lifecycle costs of regionalization to include community clusters; and
- Updated scoring criteria and recommendations.

Your feedback and input is needed: We will be asking for your questions and feedback based on this new information.

Recycled water opportunities and challenges

Local Alternative 1a, Local Alternative 1c, and Combination Alternative 3b will increase recycled water produced at the **Forestville Water District (FWD) and Graton Community Services District (GCSD) wastewater treatment plants**. Currently, FWD and GCSD work together to manage their effluent/recycled water facilities. Between May 15 and September 30, both FWD and GCSD beneficially reuse recycled water at nearby irrigation customers and FWD also has recycled water fill station. Between October 1 and May 14, GCSD is permitted to discharge recycled water in Atascadero Creek and FWD is permitted to discharge recycled water into Jones Creek. Both districts have expressed interest in eliminating surface water discharge, which will significantly increase the amount of recycled water distributed for beneficial uses by the districts.

Opportunities and Challenges: The majority of irrigated parcels surrounding the FWD/GCSD are planted as vineyards. Because vineyards use very little water, approximately 1,000 acres to 3,000 additional acres will be needed to beneficially reuse additional recycled water and between 265- and 620-acre feet of new storage will be required.

Local alternative 1a will increase recycled water produced at the **Russian River County Sanitation District (RRCSD) treatment plant**. Currently, between May 15 and September 30, RRCSD beneficially reuses recycled water via irrigation at Northwood Golf Course and a 17-acre wooded area surrounding the WWTP. Between October 1 and May 15, the RRCSD is permitted to release recycled water into the Russian River.

Opportunities and Challenges: There are limited opportunities for beneficial reuse of additional recycled water for irrigation near the RRCSD but a nearby 400-acre wooded parcel may have the potential for additional disposal.

Export Alternatives 2a and 2b will increase recycled water produced at the **Windsor treatment plant (Windsor) and the Santa Rosa (Laguna) treatment plant, respectively. Combination**

Alternative 3b will also increase recycled water produced at Windsor. The majority of recycled water produced at the Laguna treatment plant is sent to the Geysers geothermal plants where it recharges steam fields. Some of the recycled water produced at the Laguna is used for agricultural and urban irrigation, and between October 1 and May 14, Santa Rosa is permitted to discharge recycled water into the Russian River. Windsor beneficially reuses recycled water for vineyards and other agricultural users and, when capacity is available, through the Geysers pipeline. Between October 1 and May 14, Windsor is permitted to discharge recycled water into the Russian River.

Opportunities and challenges: The study assessed how Windsor and Santa Rosa export alternatives can incorporate connections to existing GCSD/FWD recycled water system and found that both systems extend toward the FWD/GCSD services areas. Therefore, although new pipelines and pump stations would be needed to connect the Windsor and/or Santa Rosa systems to the FWD/GCSD system, these extensions are about half the size of the facilities required to deliver wastewater to the Windsor and/or Santa Rosa treatment plants.

Climate Change Resiliency

The consultant assessed the wastewater treatment plants and the 12 unsewered community clusters for vulnerabilities to increased flooding that is expected to occur with climate change. To quantify the potential impacts of climate change over time, the analysis considered three time periods:

- Early Century – Years 2016 to 2045
- Mid Century – Years 2046 to 2075
- Late Century – Years 2070 to 2099

The analysis found that:

- Most of the RRCSD WWTP site would maintain resiliency for the 100-year event, however, a 500-year event would be problematic for the site under the Late Century climate change scenario.
- GCSD WWTP could be vulnerable to flooding under the climate change scenarios.
- Several of the unsewered community clusters will be increasingly affected by flooding as the climate changes – particularly those closer to the Russian River.

Updating Cost Estimates to Include Community Clusters

The consultants defined the costs to incorporate the 12 community clusters into the alternatives, including developing costs for constructing a new collection system within each cluster. The analysis also updated costs related to expanding and upgrading systems to handle the additional treatment, storage and recycled water distribution related to regionalization and the addition of unsewered community clusters. The analysis also presents estimated annual operating costs on a per Equivalent Single-family Dwelling (ESD) for the alternatives.

Updating Criteria Scoring and Ranking

The analysis also includes an updated criteria scoring that incorporates the community cluster elements of the project, to identify the preferred long-term strategies.

The general findings of the study are that the best long-term solution for RRCSD is likely to remain local (i.e. do not export to a FWD/GCSD site, Windsor, or Santa Rosa). For FWD/GCSD, it will also be most cost-effective to remain local (i.e. do not export to Windsor or Santa Rosa).

Next Steps

The consultants will submit a DRAFT Feasibility Study Report (Report) to the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board in late November. The Report will be available to the Stakeholder Committee at the same time and comments from committee members are due in early January. A revised Report addressing stakeholder comments will be submitted to the Regional Board in early February.