

# NWRI National Water Research Institute

NWRI's Independent Advisory Panels help public agencies review challenging management and policy issues, leading to informed decisions.

## NWRI Independent Advisory Panels

The NWRI Independent Advisory Panel program provides credible, objective review of projects or policies related to water, wastewater, and water resources.

Consisting of a broad array of scientific and technical experts, our Panels review the project scope and activities, identify knowledge gaps, and provide recommendations regarding current project status and future efforts.

The ultimate goal of these Panels is to help decision makers make appropriate project decisions and develop good public policy.



## How Do NWRI Panels Work?

### Management

NWRI specializes in facilitating Panels on behalf of local, county, and state government agencies, such as water and wastewater districts.



We are a 501c3 nonprofit water research institute with over 15 years of experience organizing and managing these Panels on issues as varied as indirect

potable reuse, permit amendments, water quality monitoring, master planning, and many others.

Our efforts include identifying Panel members; planning, staffing, and managing Panel meetings; and delivering meeting end-products.

### Panel Members

NWRI Panel members are academics, industry professionals, government representatives, and independent consultants who are experts in their fields.

Depending on the project, areas



of expertise may include risk assessment, public health, engineering, chemistry, microbiology, hydrogeology, regulatory criteria, outreach, and other relevant fields.

Because Panel members are not associated with the project, the independence and integrity of the Panel is assured.

### Panel Process

Some Panels require only one meeting; others will meet once or twice a year for the duration of the project. Spanning 1 to 2 days, Panel meetings are hands-on and are held at the project location, allowing the Panel to tour the project site and interact with project staff and other personnel.

The end-product of each meeting is a written Panel report that provides findings and recom-

mendations on various technical, scientific, and public health aspects of the project. These reports can be used to guide further studies and as background documents for elected officials, regulators, and the general public.

## Recent NWRI Panels

### California Department of Public Health's Review of Water Recycling Criteria for Agricultural Irrigation (2011-2012)

Consider whether recycled water produced in conformance with California's Water Recycling Criteria is sufficiently protective of public health for agricultural food crop irrigation.

### Tucson Water's (with ARCADIS Malcolm Pirnie) Effluent Master Plan Review (2011-Present)

Review efforts to fully utilize all effluent within the Tucson Water service area, which may involve recharge, recovery, or blending activities with various degrees of indirect potable reuse.

### City of Los Angeles' Groundwater Replenishment Project (2010-Present)

Review a proposed groundwater replenishment project to use advanced treated recycled water for groundwater recharge, as part of an effort to maximize water recycling in Los Angeles.

### Inland Empire Utilities Agency's Recycled Water Contribution Review (2010)

Review current groundwater recharge projects and any impacts that may result from extending the averaging period for the recycled water contribution and from using underflows into the basin as diluent water.

### City of San Diego's Indirect Potable Reuse/ Reservoir Augmentation Project Review (2009-Present)

Review a demonstration project to evaluate the use of advanced treatment technology to produce purified water that can be sent to a reservoir, blended with raw water, and distributed as potable water (after treatment).

### Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's Salt Balance Analysis of the San Fernando Groundwater Basin (2009)

Review a report that evaluated the water quality impact of a proposed project to use recycled water for landscape irrigation, focusing on salinity in the San Fernando Valley groundwater basin.

### Benefits Derived from NWRI Panels

#### NWRI Panels can:

- Validate the project's objectives, approach, and progress
- Assure the public and provide credibility
- Promote sound investment and public policy decisions

#### NWRI Panels provide:

- Third-party review and evaluation
- Scientific and technical advice by leading experts
- Help with challenging scientific questions and regulatory requirements
- Documented reports of status, progress, findings, and recommendations

#### NWRI Panels are designed to be:

- Collaborative
- Flexible
- Transparent
- Managed and designed on a case-by-case basis
- Cost effective

#### NWRI Panels offer access to:

- Planning resources and experience
- Partnerships
- Scientific and technical expertise from around the world



### Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System Program Review (2004-Present)

Review the Groundwater Replenishment System – a \$450 million indirect potable reuse project – to ensure the quality and integrity of the water.

### Orange County Water District's Santa Ana River Water Quality Monitoring Study (2004-Present)

Review water quality monitoring efforts for the Santa Ana River to ensure the reliability of the river water for groundwater recharge through spreading basins.

### Praise for NWRI Panels

“The NWRI Panel has been instrumental in project workshops held over the past 2 years, assisting the City and California Department of Public Health to establish a pathway to defining regulatory requirements for indirect potable reuse through surface water augmentation. The City would like to thank the Panel for their time and technical assistance to this demonstration project.”

– MARSJ STEIRER  
City of San Diego Public Utilities Department

“OCWD relies on two NWRI panels, one to provide ongoing guidance for the monitoring of Santa Ana River water to assure the continued safety of this major source of recharge water for the groundwater basin. The other panel was assembled to offer advice and recommendations during the planning stages for the Groundwater Replenishment System. Panel recommendations have helped guide OCWD monitoring programs and even regulatory requirements. The reliance on NWRI panels has helped to foster public support and enhance credibility for projects like GWRS and agencies like OCWD.”

– MICHAEL WEHNER  
Orange County Water District

For questions about NWRI Panels,  
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More information can be found at [www.NWRI-USA.org/Panels](http://www.NWRI-USA.org/Panels).