

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

NWRI Independent Advisory Panels

NWRI established the Independent Advisory Panel Program to provide independent, credible review of projects or policies related to water, wastewater, and water resources for local, county, and state government agencies, such as water and wastewater districts.

NWRI Panels are used by agencies when a proposed or planned project involves challenging issues that would benefit from having a third-party scientific and technical review by leading experts. The outcomes of these Panels help decision makers develop good public policy decisions.

How Do NWRI Panels Work?

NWRI is a nonprofit research institute founded in 1991 to promote the protection, maintenance, and restoration of water supplies through collaborative research work. NWRI Panels were developed as a service for water and wastewater agencies, as well as for other local, state, and federal agencies, to address critical water research and policy needs.

NWRI Panels are made up of industry professionals, academics, government representatives, and consultants who provide scientific and technical



review and are experts in their fields. Panels vary from five to 10 members, depending on the areas of expertise required. Because the Panel members are not associated with the

project, the independence and integrity of the Panel can be assured.

NWRI organizes and manages Panels on behalf of a sponsoring agency. Panel meetings are hands-on and held at the project location, allowing the Panel to tour sites and/or pilot facilities in person. Some Panels only require one meeting; others will meet once or twice a year for the duration of the project.

The end product of each meeting is a written report prepared by the Panel that focuses on findings and recommendations on technical, scientific, and public health aspects of the project

or program. These reports can be used to guide further studies and as background information for elected officials, regulators, and the general public.

Benefits Derived from NWRI Panels

NWRI Panels can:

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

NWRI Panels provide:

- Independent, third-party review and evaluation
- Scientific and technical advice by knowledgeable experts in the field
- Help with challenging scientific questions and environmental regulatory requirements
- Documented reports of status, progress, findings, and recommendations

NWRI Panels are designed to be:

- Collaborative
- Interactive
- Transparent in their deliberations
- Managed and designed on a case-by-case basis
- Cost effective

NWRI Panels offer access to:

- Meeting planning and coordination
- Best scientific and technical expertise available

Recent NWRI Panels

Monterey Regional Pollution Control Agency's Groundwater Replenishment Project (2007-Present)

Review the planning and implementation of a proposed groundwater replenishment project in Monterey, California.

Los Osos Community Services District's Wastewater Management Plan Update (2006)

Evaluate a wastewater management plan for a community in central California lacking a centralized wastewater collection system and treatment facility.

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Water Reuse Master Plan (2006)

Review and provide guidance on the development of proposed recycled water projects for the City of San Francisco.



County of Orange's Nitrogen and Selenium Management Program (2005-2006)

Provide guidance on a process to address selenium and nitrogen contamination in Orange County, California, including whether to pursue the development of site-specific objectives for selenium.

City of San Diego's Water Reuse Study (2004-2006)

Review and evaluate alternatives developed for the City of San Diego, California, in meeting its water reuse goals.

City of Kennewick's Riverbank Filtration Study (2004-2006)

Review and guide a study evaluating the effect of riverbank filtration on the quality of water produced from a collector well on the Columbia River.



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

Review monitoring of the Santa Ana River to ensure the reliability of the river water for groundwater recharge through a spreading basin.

Orange County Water District's Groundwater Replenishment System

(2004-Present)

Review the Groundwater Replenishment System — a \$450 million water recycling project — to ensure the quality and integrity of the water.



Orange County Sanitation District's Full Secondary Treatment (2003-Present)

Evaluate progress to reach full secondary treatment for discharging wastewater effluent into the Pacific Ocean.

Praise for NWRI Panels

“In 2006, the coastal community of Los Osos, California, found itself at a crossroads for the implementation of a controversial and costly wastewater project. The Community Services District commissioned an expert, objective Panel review through NWRI, which provided essential and helpful insight into the technical, environmental, and policy components of the project. I strongly recommend the NWRI Panel process for challenging water and wastewater projects.”

— ROBERT S. MILLER
District Engineer, Los Osos, CA

“NWRI's Independent Advisory Panel's review of the City's Riverbank Filtration Study was instrumental in the outcome of the project. The Panel's open discussion and support of the study's monitoring program and deliverables aided the City in gaining the filtration credit needed to go forward with the improvements at the City's primary groundwater source.”

— BRUCE BEAUCHENE
City of Kennewick, WA

“The NWRI Panel provided an objective review of the technical and scientific aspects of our initial Recycled Water Project Alternatives. The highly qualified Panel members conducted a thoughtful and thorough review of the materials, and offered valuable observations and recommendations. We sincerely appreciated the Panel's time and effort.”

— CHERYL MUNOZ
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, CA

For questions on organizing a Panel,
please contact NWRI's Executive Director Jeff Mosher at (714) 378-3278 or jmosher@NWRI-USA.org.

More information can be found at www.NWRI-USA.org/Panels.