

# National Water Research Institute

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## **NWRI White Paper on the Status of Advancing Water Recycling in California Now Available**

A new White Paper published by the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) and co-sponsored by WaterReuse California highlights the need for more effort in advancing the use of recycled water in the State of California.

Entitled *Views on the Status of "Water Recycling 2030: Recommendations of California's Recycled Water Task Force,"* the NWRI White Paper provides an overview of the progress made in the last 6 years to address the challenges associated with implementing water recycling projects. It concludes that, while some progress has been made, further and significant effort is necessary to increase the use of recycled water throughout the State.

Progress was determined based on whether recommendations made in 2003 by the California Water Recycled Task Force had been implemented and, if so, what level of success had been achieved in moving water recycling forward in the State.

These Task Force recommendations come from the 2003 report, *Water Recycling 2030: Recommendations of California's Recycled Water Task Force*, which was developed by the California Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and California Department of Public Health to determine the regulatory, economic, and societal issues affecting the implementation of water recycling projects. Twenty-six issues were identified (such as increasing state funding for water recycling projects), and recommendations were made on how to best address them.

According to the NWRI White Paper, the importance of these 26 issues has changed since 2003, with the new top five priorities being:

- Communication with the public.
- State leadership and advocacy.
- Regulatory consistency.
- Funding.
- Public support.

In addition, the following five new issues were identified:

- Constituents of emerging concern (trace levels of pharmaceuticals and personal care products in water supplies).
- Anti-degradation (protecting water quality conditions while supporting the beneficial uses of water resources).

- Salinity management (controlling salts and nutrients in our ground and surface water resources).
- Indirect potable reuse (augmenting drinking water with recycled water).
- Better information on water recycling in the State.

The NWRI White Paper also provides a list of recommended steps to moving forward. For example:

- Create a “report card” to track the status of these issues.
- Maintain the visibility of recycled water to have success with future water bonds.
- Work together with non-governmental organizations and the Department of Public Health regarding chemicals of emerging concern and the safety of recycled water.

Also of note, of the 26 issues identified by the Task Force, only two have been fully addressed since 2003. These issues include changing symbol requirements for recycled water in the California Plumbing Code and publicizing funding availability for outreach regarding water recycling.

As for the remainder of the issues, only nine had been partially implemented. Challenges to fully addressing these issues include lack of leadership (often, at the state level), the need for legislation changes, and lack of funding, among others.

The NWRI White Paper was prepared by Margaret N. Nellor, P.E., an environmental engineer with expertise in managing recycled water research studies. It can be downloaded at [www.nwri-usa.org/epublications.htm](http://www.nwri-usa.org/epublications.htm).

For questions or to further discuss the outcomes of this paper, please contact Jeff Mosher, Executive Director of NWRI, at (714) 378-3278 ([jmosher@nwri-usa.org](mailto:jmosher@nwri-usa.org)) or contact Dave Smith, Managing Director of WaterReuse California, at (916) 669-8401 ([dsmith@watereuse.org](mailto:dsmith@watereuse.org)).

## **Bruce Logan to Receive the NWRI Clarke Prize on July 9, 2009**

Environmental biotechnologist Bruce E. Logan, Ph.D., will be the sixteenth recipient of the NWRI Athalie Richardson Irvine Clarke Prize for excellence in water research. Logan was selected because of his innovative efforts to generate clean, renewable forms of energy during the treatment of wastewater.

Logan is Kappe Professor of Environmental Engineering at The Pennsylvania State University. He is also Director of the Penn State Hydrogen Energy (H2E) Center, which is dedicated to developing and promoting the use of hydrogen for sustainable energy production.

The 2009 Clarke Prize will be presented to Logan on Thursday, July 9, 2009, at the Sixteenth Annual Clarke Prize Lecture and Award Ceremony, to be held at the Fairmont Newport Beach in Newport Beach, California. More information about the Clarke Prize can be found at [www.nwri-usa.org/ClarkePrize.htm](http://www.nwri-usa.org/ClarkePrize.htm).

## **Support the NWRI Ronald B. Linsky Fellowship Endowment Fund**

Support NWRI's campaign to raise an endowment for the Ronald B. Linsky Fellowship for Outstanding Water Research, which provides fellowship funding for graduate students conducting innovative, multi-disciplinary research within the water sciences.

The 2-year, \$20,000-a-year Ronald B. Linsky Fellowship is awarded to an outstanding master's or doctoral graduate student at a U.S. university whose innovative research will advance the state-of-the-art in water science, engineering, or policy, as well as portray the vision that exemplified Ron Linsky's distinguished career.

Donate now at [www.nwri-usa.org/LinskyFellowship.htm](http://www.nwri-usa.org/LinskyFellowship.htm). For questions about the endowment, please contact Jeff Mosher at (714) 378-3278 or [jmosher@nwri-usa.org](mailto:jmosher@nwri-usa.org).

## **Workshop on Innovative Energy Management for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants in the Southwest (June 23, 2009)**

Space is still available for the free 1-day workshop on Innovative Energy Management being sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9. The workshop will be held on June 23, 2009, in Irwindale, California, to share information on saving energy and money at Southern California water and wastewater treatment plants. NWRI is a co-sponsor of this workshop.

For more information, please visit [www.epa.gov/region09/waterinfrastructure/training/energy-workshop/](http://www.epa.gov/region09/waterinfrastructure/training/energy-workshop/).

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