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

FOUNTAIN VALLEY, Calif. – A new White Paper published by the National Water Research Institute (NWRI) and co-sponsored by WateReuse California highlights the need for more effort in advancing the use of recycled water in the State of California. Recycled water – the product of treated municipal wastewater – is a critical resource in expanding the State’s water supplies.

The 52-page NWRI White Paper, entitled *Views on the Status of “Water Recycling 2030: Recommendations of California’s Recycled Water Task Force,”* 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.

(More)

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 our 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.

Released in May 2009, 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).

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*The National Water Research Institute (NWRI) was founded in 1991 by a group of California water agencies in partnership with the Joan Irvine Smith and Athalie R. Clarke Foundation to promote the protection, maintenance, and restoration of water supplies and to protect the freshwater and marine environments through the development of cooperative research work. NWRI's member agencies include Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Irvine Ranch Water District, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Water District, and West Basin Municipal Water District. More information may be found at [www.nwri-usa.org](http://www.nwri-usa.org).*

*WateReuse California is dedicated to promoting the responsible stewardship of California's water resources by maximizing the safe, practical, and beneficial use of recycled water and by supporting the efforts of the of WateReuse Association. More information may be found at [www.watereuse.org/sections/california](http://www.watereuse.org/sections/california), or by contacting Dave Smith, Managing Director, at (916) 669-8401 or [dsmith@watereuse.org](mailto:dsmith@watereuse.org).*

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