

# National Water Research Institute

September 3, 2009 E-Newsletter

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## **Submissions for Inaugural Imagine H2O Prize Now Being Accepted**

The inaugural Imagine H2O Prize competition is now open for submissions. The competition offers prizes of \$70,000 in cash and in-kind services to business plans that promise the greatest breakthroughs in the efficient use and supply of water.

Areas of interest include solutions to improve water efficiency in agriculture, commercial, industrial, or residential applications, such as water demand reduction, improved water use, water recycling, and/or reuse.

RBC is a founding sponsor of the Imagine H2O Prize, and NWRI is one of the Prize's many partners.

Entries will be accepted from around the world beginning September 1 through November 16, 2009. For more details and to participate, please visit [www.imagineh2o.org](http://www.imagineh2o.org).

## **Registration Open for the MSSC Water Supply, Agriculture, and Salinity Management Workshop**

Register now for the "Water Supply, Agriculture and Salinity Management Workshop," to be held by the Multi-State Salinity Coalition (MSSC) on September 29-30, 2009, at the Esmeralda Resort and Spa in Indian Wells, California.

The purpose of this workshop is to provide a networking opportunity for those interested in water supply, agriculture, and salinity management. Topics of discussion include brine management, use of recycled water for agriculture, urban and rural water supply, desalination of agricultural drainage water, salinity management options based on irrigation methods, and the cost of salinity control and who is paying for it.

For more information or to register, please visit <http://multi-statesalinitycoalition.com/index.php>.

## **SCSC Salinity Fact Sheet on Water Softeners Now Available**

The Southern California Salinity Coalition (SCSC) has developed a Salinity Fact Sheet on "Salinity and Water Softeners" to help inform the discussion around Assembly Bill 1366, which is intended to restrict the use of self-regenerating water softeners to help control salinity in our water supplies.

The 2-page SCSC Fact Sheet provides information on what is salinity, the impacts of salinity, how salinity inhibits water recycling, how water softeners increase salinity, and possible options in changing or eliminating the use of residential self-regenerating water softeners.

The Fact Sheet can be downloaded at [www.socalsalinity.org](http://www.socalsalinity.org).

SCSC was founded in 2002 by a group of Southern California water and wastewater agencies to better manage salinity in our water supplies. SCSC's member agencies include the Eastern Municipal Water District, Inland Empire Utilities Agency, Irvine Ranch Water District, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Orange County Sanitation District, Orange County Water District, San Diego County Water Authority, Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Santa Ana Project Watershed Authority, and West Basin Municipal Water District. NWRI administers SCSC on behalf of its members.

## Upcoming Events

### **Conservation Forum on Recycled Water, Plants, and Soil Compatibility (Sept. 30)**

The Los Angeles County of Parks and Recreation is holding a forum on September 30, 2009, in Arcadia, California, to discuss the successful use of reclaimed water with native and drought-tolerant plants in parks.

Topics include recycled water and water quality; effects on soils and plant growth; suitable native and drought tolerant non-native plants for recycled water; irrigation challenges and solutions; and design considerations in reinventing a park.

More information is available by contacting [conservationforum@parks.lacounty.gov](mailto:conservationforum@parks.lacounty.gov).

### **SWMOA Hands-On Membrane Operator Training Workshop (Nov. 4)**

Join the Southwest Membrane Operator Association (SWMOA) on November 4, 2009, for a 1-day "Hands-On Membrane Plant Operator Training Workshop." Six (6) Contact Hours have been approved by the State of California for Water.

Co-sponsored by GE Water & Process Technologies, this workshop will be held at the Ventura Avenue Water Treatment Plant in Ventura, CA. Space is limited to 50 attendees.

For more information or to register, please visit [www.swmoa.org](http://www.swmoa.org) or call SWMOA at 888-463-0830.

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