

NATIONAL WATER RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) for City of Santa Barbara's Subsurface Desalination Intake and Potable Reuse Feasibility Studies

About the Technical Advisory Panel

In 2015, NWRI formed a Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) on behalf of the City of Santa Barbara to provide expert peer review of the technical, scientific, and regulatory aspects of both the Subsurface Desalination Intake Feasibility Study and Potable Reuse Feasibility Study. The TAP will review the work products (i.e., draft work plan, technical memos, reports, etc.) for both studies and collect and consider public comments on these proposed projects. The TAP will also consider findings from similar efforts to develop the most informed recommendations.

Technical Advisory Panel Charge

As part of the review, the TAP is expected to provide the following:

- **Objective Review:** The TAP will provide independent, third-party review and evaluation of the Feasibility Studies.
 - **Expert Advice:** The TAP will provide scientific and technical advice by knowledgeable experts in the field.
 - **Direct Support:** The TAP will help address challenging questions and requirements that pertain to the Feasibility Studies.
 - **Timely Guidance:** The role of the TAP is to provide observations and recommendations about the Feasibility Studies and its progress in a timely manner.
 - **Public Input:** The TAP will collect and consider public comments on the studies.
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Panel Members

Panel members are experts in the fields of drinking water management, desalination technology, hydrogeology, water policy issues, and other areas relevant to the study. The panel members are:

- Amy Childress, Ph.D., University of Southern California (Los Angeles, CA) (Chair)
 - Martin B. Feeney, P.G., CHG, Consulting Hydrogeologist (Santa Barbara, CA)
 - Heidi R. Luckenbach, P.E., City of Santa Cruz Water Department (Santa Cruz, CA)
 - Michael P. Wehner, Orange County Water District (Fountain Valley, CA)
 - Eric Zigas, Environmental Science Associates (San Francisco, CA)
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About the Project

In September 2014, the Santa Barbara City Council directed the staff to report back on a plan to evaluate the feasibility of subsurface desalination intake and potable reuse, including indirect and direct potable reuse options. The direction given by the City Council was to report back on a plan for this evaluation following the award of a desalination plant contract in April 2015.

Furthermore, in January 2015, the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) adopted an amendment to the City's Waste Discharge Requirements for the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant that included a condition that the City should report back to the RWQCB by August 2015 with a Work Plan for these studies that will have the work completed by August 2017.

The work products for the Feasibility Studies will be developed to accomplish the following:

- Satisfy the requirements of the City's amended Waste Discharge Requirements for the El Estero Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Support a future update to the City's Long Term Water Supply Plan to include alternatives considered in this study.

For More Information

NWRI Technical Advisory Panel web page: <http://www.nwri-usa.org/santa-barbara-panel.htm>

City of Santa Barbara's desalination web page:
<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/depts/pw/resources/system/sources/desalination.asp>

City of Santa Barbara's recycled water web page:
<http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/gov/depts/pw/resources/system/sources/recwater.asp>

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