



**Office of the Independent Budget Analyst**

---

**Proposed Mayor and Council Response  
to County Grand Jury Report:  
“Reduce Dependence on Imported  
Water”**

**Presentation for the  
Natural Resources & Culture Committee  
September 25, 2013**



# Overview

- The Grand Jury filed this report with the Mayor, City Council, and San Diego County Water Authority on May 15, 2013.
- The report details:
  - The need to diversify the local water supply and reduce imported water to maintain lifestyle and economy
  - Focus City responses on Advanced Water Purification (AWP or potable reuse)



# Overview

- The Report includes 5 Findings (2 directed at Mayor / Council) and 9 Recommendations (6 directed at Mayor / Council)
- Mayor and City Council required to provide response to Presiding Judge by October 18, 2013



# Overview

- For each item, Council may:
  - Join the Mayor's response
  - Modify the Mayor's response
  - Respond independently from the Mayor
- Our office was provided a copy of the Mayor's draft response, provided input and worked collaboratively with City staff, and have reached agreement on all items.
- We are recommending that the Interim Mayor and Council provide a joint response.



# Overview

Prescribed responses include:

- For each Finding:
  - Agree
  - Disagree wholly or partially
- For each Recommendation:
  - Has not been implemented
  - Has not yet been implemented, but will be in future
  - Requires further analysis
  - Will not be implemented because it is unwarranted or unreasonable



# Summary of Proposed Response

- 2 Findings
  - 2 Agrees
- 6 Recommendations
  - 1 Has been implemented
  - 4 Need further analysis
  - 1 Will not be implemented because it is not warranted



# Highlights of Findings

1. Reclaimed water is a viable resource and its use should be expanded as part of a long-term water strategy. - *Agree*
  - *Reclaimed water, whether non-potable reuse or potable reuse, will continue to be an integral part and a viable resource for the City and its long-term water supply strategy. The 2012 Long Range Water Resource Plan considered new water supply options of which reclaimed water, both non-potable and potable reuse were included.*



# Highlights of Findings

2. It is important to keep the public informed about both the feasibility of water reclamation and its importance in San Diego's water supply strategy.-

## *Agree*

- *A proactive outreach plan that outlines specific strategies and tactics is the guiding force behind on-going outreach efforts*
- *The primary goal of public outreach is to increase awareness and understanding, encourage involvement, and present information in a manner that is understandable and accessible by the public*
- *Favorability for adding purified water to the drinking water supply increased from 26% in 2004 to 73% in 2012*



# Highlights of Recommendations

13-61 By October 31, 2013 complete the study, review and evaluation of the results of the Advanced Water Purification Pilot Study at the North City Water Reclamation Plant. *-Has been implemented*

- *The City Council unanimously adopted the Water Purification Demonstration Report on April 23, 2013*



# Highlights of Recommendations

- 13-62 Make a positive decision and pursue a full scale AWP facility by the North County Wastewater Reclamation Plant by 11/30/13
- 13-63 Initiate construction of this AWP facility by 1/31/14
- 13-64 Make a positive decision to either utilize the water from the AWP for direct potable reuse or indirect potable reuse by 1/31/14
- 13-65 Make a positive decision and pursue a full scale AWP facility by the South Bay Wastewater Reclamation Plant by 1/31/14



# Highlights of Recommendations

- Recommendations 13-62 through 13-65 require further analysis
- Cannot be implemented within the timeframes stated
- Further analysis is required to support a decision to proceed with full-scale water purification facilities, to what extent, and with what timing
- Relative to direct potable reuse, the California Department of Public Health has not determined the feasibility of establishing regulations, and is not required by law to do so until December 31, 2016



# Highlights of Recommendations

13-66 Expand ratepayer education and outreach on water policy leading to a positive public attitude toward future large-scale water storage and supply projects. - *Will not be implemented because it is not warranted*

- *The City of San Diego Public Utilities Department has committed to increasing spending in FY 2014 for public outreach efforts on the continued expansion of potable water conservation*
- *Council Policy 400-04 states that the City must maintain emergency reserve storage levels equal to six tenths of the annual demands (7.2 months) within the City of San Diego and its contractees*
- *Additionally, the San Diego County Water Authority's Emergency Storage Program provides the region with up to six months of emergency storage*



# Highlights of Recommendations

13-66 Expand ratepayer education and outreach on water policy leading to a positive public attitude toward future large-scale water storage and supply projects. - *Will not be implemented because it is not warranted*

- *The Public Utilities Department believes that the City has sufficient water stored, either in its own reservoirs or in regional reservoirs, to weather a variety of potential emergency situations*
- *The Public Utilities Department is also exploring the feasibility of injecting purified water or imported, treated water into groundwater basins throughout San Diego – as detailed in the Long-Range Water Resources Plan*