



Weekly Management Report

January 5, 2018

- 1. Letter** BWP State Water Resources Control Board
 Comment Letter
Burbank Water and Power Department

- 2. Notes** City Notes, January 5, 2018
City Manager



Sent VIA Email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov

December 21, 2017

The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
State Water Resources Control Board
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Chair Marcus,

On behalf of Burbank Water and Power (BWP), a water and energy supplier to a population to approximately 107,000 people, appreciates the opportunity to comment on the State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) staff's draft "Waste and Unreasonable Water Uses" regulations. BWP submits this letter in addition to California Municipal Utilities Association (CMUA) and Water Reuse California's (WRCA) letters, specifically addressing the concern of expanding the regulations to apply to recycled water.

BWP imports 100% of its water supply at significant expense. BWP remains vigilant in using all our resources and finding opportunities to find additional uses for our valuable resource. We made early investment of millions of ratepayer's dollars in the infrastructure for the purple pipe system. With the goal to become less dependent on imported water and efficiently utilize our resource. During the drought, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted emergency regulations that were intended to prevent the waste due to a shortage of potable water supplies, the draft "Waste and Unreasonable Water Uses" regulations should be consistent with the original intent.

In addition, paragraph "(G) *The irrigation of turf on public street medians or publicly owned or maintained landscapes areas between the street and sidewalk, except where the turf serves a community or neighborhood function*" should be amended to allow for a grandfather clause to existing medians irrigated with recycled water or those that could be converted to recycled water. If the draft language is not modified unintended consequences will result from the removal of turfs that enhance the community and help with reducing the urban heat island effect. The amount of recycled water within these designated areas will not result in water savings.

Our community has adapted to the new normal adjusting to climate change with the continued enforcement of local ordinances to limit wasteful practices. The City's Sustainable Water Ordinance incorporates all of the wasteful practices as addressed in the SWRCB's draft "Waste and Unreasonable Water Uses" regulations. In a continued effort to plan for future droughts the City has plans in place to continue the expansion of its recycled water distribution system to offset potable water use in a phased in approach. Currently, most of our customers with large landscapes, parks and City property have shifted to recycled water. As a benefit, a portion of the recycled water percolates to the groundwater table and adds to our ground water supply. The recycled water that is not used for irrigation would otherwise go down to the ocean and; therefore, the loss of direct beneficial reuse.



The Honorable Felicia Marcus, Chair
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BWP remains visionary in finding ways to utilize its resources as we have been awarded a matching grant through the State Water Board to study Direct Potable Reuse which is in the regulatory development phase and is not a benefit to our community, yet.

We urge the Board to recognize and honor local decisions to make early investments in recycled water that should be supported and incentivized for further development. For these reasons, we ask that you modify the draft regulations so that the application **does not apply to recycled water**. Recycled water is currently the most efficient way to conserve water (100% conservation) long term as well as respond to the drought. The exclusion of recycled water in the draft regulations will recognize our existing and ongoing investments in the infrastructure we put in place to provide recycled water for its economic lifespan of 30-40 years. The consequence we will face of not using the abundant supply of recycled water is that more water will be discharged to the ocean rather than put to beneficial use.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to working closely in the future. Please feel free to contact me at (818) 238-3550 or jsomoano@burbankca.gov if you have any questions or would like to discuss.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jorge Somoano".

Jorge Somoano
General Manager

Cc: The Honorable Anthony Portantino, California State Senate
The Honorable Laura Friedman, California State Assembly
Ron Davis, City Manager – City of Burbank
David Jones, Emanuels Jones and Associates

Important Updates for the Burbank City Council

January 5, 2018

Burbank Fire Department's Command Staff



Burbank Fire Department's Command Staff has changed due to recent retirements. Both Fire Chief Tom Lenahan and Battalion Chief Ron Barone retired after 30 years of dedicated service. Eric Garcia has been named the new Fire Chief. Danny Alvarez took over as the Assistant Chief. John Owings became the Training and Safety Battalion Chief. The two newest Battalion Chiefs to join the Command Staff are Mark Hatch and Tray White.

Two Grants for the Burbank Public Library

The Burbank Public Library recently received two grants from the California State Library. Work on these projects is scheduled to begin early in 2018. *Maximizing Learning Spaces* is a small grant that will help start to modernize the first floor adult studying and computer area of the Central Library. The grant gives some professional and seed-funding for a few new pieces of furniture. The Library can begin to experiment with what types of modern, modular furniture might improve the reading, learning, and studying experience for the patrons. This grant supports the Strategic Plan goal of Modern Facilities and Optimize Use of Space. *Libraries Illuminated* is a technology grant, which will be used to create a mobile computer lab for both public and staff technology training. The Library will purchase ten laptops that could be used for classes in any of the meeting rooms. Each laptop will have Microsoft Office plus Adobe Photoshop and Premiere Elements software. Additionally, the Library will be getting five more of the Lego Mindstorms robotics kits that were used so successfully in the summer robotics workshops. This grant supports the Strategic Plan goal of Support Digital Literacy and Technology Learning for All Ages.



Burbank Arts Utility Box Beautification Program



The Burbank Cultural Arts Commission, sponsors, and artists celebrated the completion of painting five utility boxes located throughout the City of Burbank on Wednesday, December 6. These amazing works of art, which were inspired by the theme "A World of Possibilities," are located at DeBell Golf Course, Mountain View Park, Ralph Foy Park, Robert E. Gross Park, and Starlight Bowl. Sponsors for this phase of the program were Burbank Water and Power, DIY Home Center, The Fine Arts Federation, The Zoraster Family and Warner Bros. Entertainment. The purpose of the program is to help beautify the community by bringing visual art outside the constraints of museums and galleries, thereby enhancing the lives of residents, as well as those who work in the City. There are now a total of thirteen utility boxes that have changed the landscape within the surrounding Burbank community.

Three New Fire Engines

The Burbank Fire Department anticipates placing three new engines into service at Station 11, 13, and 15 in February. The engines were built by Kovatch Mobile Equipment. Some of their highlights include the latest Environmental Protection Agency's emission standards for diesel engines and increased storage capacity for equipment needed during all risk emergency responses. Also, the engines meet the National Fire Protection Association standard for fire apparatus construction. These engines have a full light-emitting diode (LED) lighting package and reflective striping for greater visibility, which increases firefighter safety while responding to calls and on scene. The engines have a multiplexed electrical system with electronic modules that provides easier mechanical diagnosis resulting in time saved by Department mechanics.



Valley Skatepark Re-Brand



The Parks and Recreation Department has been working on re-branding the Valley Skate Park. A new logo was designed along with new merchandise. This past summer, the Parks and Recreation Department Marketing team's graphic design intern from USC, Simran Bhari, created the concept of the updated logo for the Skate Park. Building off of her design, the Parks and Recreation Department Marketing team and Skate Park staff designed new merchandise to sell at Valley Skate Park. Feedback was gathered from the public to help decide on merchandise designs. New Valley Skate Park hats are sold for \$15 and new sweatshirts for \$25.

The City's Continuing Efforts Keep Waterways Clean and Useful for Future Generations

As a co-permittee of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Discharges within the Coastal Watersheds of Los Angeles County, the City of Burbank must submit its Annual Report by December 15 each year to the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board. This citywide permit regulates all storm and non-storm water discharges and requires annual self-reporting of the City's efforts to reduce pollutants from entering the local storm drain system. As the lead department, Public Works gathered updates from various City departments to meet the annual report submittal goal. Special thanks to Community Development, Parks and Recreation, Community Services, Burbank Water and Power, Information Technology, the City Attorney's Office, the City Manager's Office, and various divisions within Public Works for helping complete and submit the Annual Report on time!



First-Time Events Hosted by Parks and Recreation

This was the first year that the Nature Center held the *Scavenger Hunt and Breakfast* hosted by the Parks and Recreation Department. Families joined in for a fun-filled morning, which included breakfast and a riddle solving scavenger hunt. Participants were given clues to solve as a team, while hiking and finding the answers throughout the trail. With the clues, participants were led to the viewpoint where they could see almost all of Burbank. Once they found all the clues, they had to come back down the trail to solve one final riddle. It was a sell-out crowd at this inaugural event with 75 people in attendance who came to enjoy their morning at the Stough Canyon Nature Center. The Parks and Recreation Department hosted its first ever *Teen Dodgeball Night* at the Verdugo Recreation Center. The free event was for all students in middle school and high school. Teen Dodgeball Night included staff-run dodgeball games, pizza, chips, and drinks. Thirty-seven participants were in attendance and provided very positive feedback on the event.