

State, Local, and International Developments

Water Supply Critically Low for Australian Town

An Australian town that rejected recycled water through a controversial referendum three years ago has begun tapping an emergency allocation of bore water. The State Government is building a pipeline connecting the Wivenhoe Dam to Toowoomba's water supply, but water is not expected to be available until the end of January. Residents rejected a recycled water referendum when local dam levels were about 23%. The levels have now fallen to 9.8%

American Water Seeks Desalination Innovation

American Water Works Company Inc. is working in cooperation with Netherlands entities Vitens, RWB Waterservices, University of Twente, and WE Consult to launch a project on innovation in desalination technology. The "Clean Operator" project aims to reduce the costs, environmental impact, and carbon footprint of desalination.

In the Clean Operator project, the partners will develop new technologies for seawater desalination and the treatment of surface water and wastewater using reverse osmosis membranes.

"Many desalination plants suffer from membrane fouling, and in some cases the membranes need frequent chemical cleaning, which increases operational costs and the emission of waste chemicals and carbon dioxide to the environment," said Dr. Mark LeChevallier, Director of Innovation and Environmental Stewardship. "The goal of the Clean Operator project is to reduce operational costs through a sustainable operation resulting in cleaner membranes."

NASA Sponsors Student Water Recycling Contest

NASA is inviting fifth through eighth grade students to participate in a waste limitation management and recycling design challenge. Participants in the competition will design and test water recycling systems that could be used for future exploration of the moon. The top three teams will receive awards, and the first place team will receive an expenses-paid trip to NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The deadline to enter the contest is February 1 and NASA will announce winning teams in May. The competition is designed to engage and retain students in the science, technology,

engineering and math disciplines critical to NASA's missions.

Recycled Water Helps LEED Certification

American Honda recently received Gold LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council for their Acura Design Center building in Torrance, CA. A key part of Honda's certification was their reduction in potable water use with recycled water from the West Basin Municipal Water District.

Of the 42 points Honda received for Gold LEED certification, seven points were directly attributable to recycled water use. At this facility, 100% of Honda's irrigation and toilet and urinal water is supplied by recycled water. Honda has also reduced its other potable water use by 77% through conservation devices.

"Honda's collaboration with West Basin is true leadership in reducing imported water use," said West Basin Board President Edward C. Little. "In this time of water shortages, it is appropriate to use less imported water by converting to recycled water and installing devices that make facilities more water and energy efficient."



Projects, People Honored During Awards Ceremony

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construct a \$34 million reclamation facility and distribution system. In 1994, PBC began irrigating with tertiary treated recycled water. PBC funded a second phase to upgrade the facility at a cost of \$33 million.

WaterReuse Persons of the Year

Eric Rosenblum, City of San Jose Municipal Water District, South Bay Water Recycling System (San Jose, CA)

Eric Rosenblum has served the WaterReuse Association and the

WaterReuse Foundation for over a decade. He has demonstrated vision and deep understanding of the benefits of water recycling and is recognized for his energetic support and advocacy of water recycling.

Linda Macpherson, CH2M HILL (Portland, OR)

Linda Macpherson is an international advocate and strategist for water reuse information and acceptance. Linda's 30 years of experience has brought her recognition as a leader and expert in conceptualizing and managing the development of environmental educational exhibits,

videos, interactive computer programs, and printed materials.

WaterReuse Awards of Merit

- City of Clovis Water Reuse Facility (Clovis, CA)
- Collier County South Regional Desalination Plant (Naples, FL)
- Leisure Village Association (Camarillo, CA)
- The Olympic Club (San Francisco, CA)
- The Wollongong Recycled Water Scheme (Wollongong, Australia)
- Watsonville Area Water Recycling Project (Watsonville, CA) ∞