

# Ins and Outs of Joining Western Recycled Water Coalition (WRWC)

## Membership Benefits

### **Regional Approach to Federal Funding**

- Consistent with the direction given by Senator Feinstein and endorsed by the House Appropriations Committee
- Shared costs for a dedicated Washington D.C. based lobbyist, advocating for our program
- Increased project profile with the Bureau of Reclamation
- United in our goals rather than competing for scarce federal funds
- Lead agency support – providing meeting coordination, administration, media outreach and information sharing

### **United Support by Elected Federal Officials**

- Collective support of Bay Area Congressional Delegation
- Regionally significant programs – more competitive in securing Federal funding
- Organized trips to Washington, D.C. to meet with elected officials

### **Media Outreach & Stakeholder Engagement**

- Promotion of the Coalition, its members and projects in public forums
- Actively seek opportunities to engage media representatives and secure coverage
- Coalition website [www.westernrwc.org](http://www.westernrwc.org) and regularly updated coalition brochure

## Membership Activities on an Annual Basis

Activities are planned and funded on an annual calendar year basis, which dovetails with the legislative appropriation cycle. While membership is committed on an annual basis, obtaining federal authorization can typically take two years or more. We seek annual appropriations for authorized, ready-to-go projects, but obtaining full Federal funding for a project (25%) may take several years.

June - August Outreach to new agencies who may wish to join the WRWC.

September 30 New members sign the membership addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement.

October 30 Finalize the list of WRWC projects seeking federal Title XVI authorization or appropriation in the following calendar year. To receive a federal appropriation for construction, authorizing legislation for the project must be completed and significant construction planned for completion in the year of the requested appropriation.

December 1 All Participating Agencies have obtained necessary internal approvals for cost sharing for the upcoming calendar year.

## Membership Costs

Participating agency costs are determined annually and are expected to be in the range of \$8,500-\$10,000 per project, depending upon the total project cost and number of projects for 2013.

## **Membership Obligations**

- Sign the Memorandum of Agreement, and share advocacy and administrative costs.
- Conduct the study and report required by Title XVI and work with the Bureau of Reclamation to obtain a determination of feasibility for the project.
- Complete NEPA and show financial capability to fund the project's non-Federal share (75%).
- Attend monthly WRWC meetings and actively participate in Coalition decision making.
- Attend meetings with the Bureau of Reclamation in Sacramento when needed. Joint WRWC-USBR meetings are typically held once per month.
- Obtain letters of support from local elected officials for WRWC authorizing legislation.

*WRWC is a proven, successful coalition, with 7 authorized projects and 1 program phase receiving ~\$35 million in Federal funding from 2009-10. In 2011-12, 14 new projects have been awarded \$2.4 million for feasibility studies and environmental planning.*