

March 2016

## **AB 2022 (GORDON) ADVANCED PURIFIED DEMONSTRATION WATER**

**POSITION:** The Chamber's Board of Directors voted to SUPPORT AB 2022 on March 24, 2016.

**STATUS:** AB 2022 was introduced by Assemblymember Rich Gordon on February 16, 2016. The bill was referred to the Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials on February 29, 2016.

### **AT-A-GLANCE**

Advanced water purification technology has allowed water facilities to purify wastewater and reuse it as a reliable water source that meets or exceeds all drinking water standards. Potable reuse of this recycled water is an important tool for water facilities to meet their water demands and improve their water supply during times of drought.

AB 2022 would allow water facilities to bottle a maximum of 2,500 gallons of recycled purified drinking water that would not be sold, but would be used for educational purposes to promote water recycling in California.

Allowing water agencies to educate the public in this way about this technology outside of their facilities will further promote public acceptance and understanding of potable reuse.

### **SUMMARY**

Advanced purified water is a proven method for water agencies to increase water supply and reliability during times of drought. Advanced purified recycled water has been demonstrated to meet or exceed all drinking water standards and has been used in the water supply of several communities.

Allowing water facilities to provide the public samples of the water is an effective way of educating the public about the quality and safety of this purification technology. However, agencies today are not authorized to bottle potable reuse water even for educational purposes.

AB 2022 would authorize water facilities to bottle this advanced purified water and provide samples for educational purposes to promote water recycling. In addition, this bill would cap a facilities bottling production at 2,500 gallons of the water annually and would establish bottling and labeling requirements for advanced purified demonstration water.

### **ANALYSIS**

Advanced purified water has been successfully supplementing the water supply of many communities around the nation and internationally. Currently, the public can only directly sample this purified water at a fully operational water purification facility such as the facility in Orange County, as water agencies are not allowed to bottle and transport this water. However, purified water is currently available for sample at the City of San Diego's North City Water Reclamation Plant.

Authorizing water facilities to promote this potable reuse outside of these facilities would further expand the educational opportunity to the public who may be unable to visit these advanced purification facilities. This water will not be sold, but will instead be used to demonstrate the results of the technology used to purify wastewater to high quality drinking water.

More effective public education tools could help in producing further public support of the City of San Diego's Pure Water Program, especially as many local jurisdictions are seeking public acceptance of diverse water supply options.

**SUPPORT**

City of San Diego

WaterReuse California (Co-Sponsor)

Orange County Water District (Co-Sponsor)

Orange County Sanitation District (Co-Sponsor)

**OPPOSITION**

None known