

During the May 2010 Woods Institute [uncommon dialogue on resource recovery from wastewater](#), participants discussed strategies on how systems for wastewater management and water reuse should be defined in coming decades for the San Francisco Bay Area. Participants recommended that a vision statement be developed and adopted by regional water agencies as a first step for meeting the goal of implementing wastewater reuse systems. On Oct. 28, 2010, the executive board of the [Bay Area Clean Water Agencies \(BACWA\)](#) unanimously passed a [resolution](#) adopting the Woods Institute's "Wastewater as a Resource" as a vision for the Bay Area. BACWA's executive board consists of five major sewage treatment plant entities in the Bay Area. Below are copies of the BACWA board action request and the final resolution.



BACWA EXECUTIVE BOARD ACTION REQUEST

AGENDA NO.: 11

FILE NO.: 12,164

MEETING DATE: September 23, 2010

TITLE: Resolution regarding wastewater as a resource in the San Francisco Bay Area

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of a resolution resolution expressing BACWA's support for a vision of wastewater as a resource in the San Francisco Bay Area.

SUMMARY

BACWA and its member agencies seek out and engage in activities that do not merely lessen the impacts of wastewater discharges on the San Francisco Bay estuary, but that provide a net environmental and economic benefit. Examples of these activities include maximizing water recycling, utilizing biogas to reduce fossil fuel demands, and developing food waste recovery programs. BACWA principals and member agencies are also exploring innovative partnerships with universities and other agencies to develop a vision to guide the Bay Area wastewater community in expanding these and other programs that recognize municipal wastewater as a valuable resource that can reduce demands on already-scares resources.

In adopting this resolution the BACWA Board is expressing its support for these activities and its desire to facilitate them.

FISCAL IMPACT

This action has no immediate fiscal impact that needs to be considered.

ALTERNATIVES

This action does not require consideration of alternatives.

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING BACWA'S SUPPORT FOR
A VISION OF WASTEWATER AS A RESOURCE IN
THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA**

WHEREAS, San Francisco Bay Area publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) discharge several hundred billions of gallons of treated wastewater annually; *and*

WHEREAS, technological advances together with the pressing challenges of climate change, water scarcity, and escalating energy costs have created opportunities for recovery of valuable products from wastewater, including clean water, renewable energy, fertilizer and other useful materials; *and*

WHEREAS, BACWA wishes to see Bay Area agencies emerge as leaders in innovation and implementation of recovering the valuable resources contained in sewage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Executive Board of BACWA hereby expresses its support for a vision for the Bay Area in which systems for resource recovery from wastewater will be developed and deployed to maximize the value of recovered water, energy, and materials, thereby contributing to the development of vibrant, self-sufficient economies and healthy ecosystems around the Bay.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Chair and Executive Director of the Bay Area Clean Water Agencies hereby certify that the foregoing Resolution was duly adopted at a noticed meeting of the Executive Board of Bay Area Clean Water Agencies held on September 23, 2010.

Ben Horenstein, Acting Chair

Amy Chastain, Executive Director