

Gleick Joins the Blogosphere

City Brights

San Francisco Chronicle

Peter Gleick, president of the Pacific Institute, recently started the "City Brights" blog on the *San Francisco Chronicle* website. His comments address water issues ranging from desalination to agriculture, bottled water, water conflicts, efficiency, and sanitation and hygiene. Each post includes a "water number," a statistic that will likely surprise many readers; in fact this feature could appropriately be called "reality check." For example, Gleick determined that his personal water bill amounts to nearly \$4,400 per acre-foot, compared to \$10 to \$100 per acre-foot that farmers typically pay. In another post, the water number was "not zero" for the number of new dams built in California in the past few decades—in spite of much publicity to the contrary. Gleick has much to teach us about California, western, and world water issues, and this site provides information in easy-to-digest nuggets.

Visit www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/gleick/.

Site Promotes Government Transparency

Regulations.gov

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

This website allows users to search, view, and comment on regulations issued by the U.S. government. It is currently undergoing redesign, based on user comments collected over the summer, to facilitate greater discussion about the issues.

Regulations.gov contains all proposed federal regulations and the final rules as published in the *Federal Register*, as well as supporting materials and public comments. Users can comment on proposed rules to the relevant agencies through the site. It holds 2 million documents from more than 160 federal entities.

Visit www.regulations.gov.

Water Recycling Progress Slow in CA

Water Recycling 2030: Recommendations of California's Recycled Water Task Force

National Water Research Institute

This paper outlines progress made in the last six years to address challenges associated with implementing water recycling projects in California. Progress was evaluated according to whether 2003 recommendations by the California Recycled Water Task Force (CRWTF) have been implemented, and if so, what level of success has been achieved. The task force identified 26 regulatory, economic, and societal issues affecting the implementation of water recycling projects and recommended means for addressing each. Issues included such topics as bonds, cross-connections, plumbing code changes, education, community involvement, leadership, and other regulatory matters.

The white paper concluded that of 14 key issues identified by CRWTF, no recommendations had been fully implemented and recommendations for only five issues had been partially implemented. Furthermore, of all 26 issues, recommendations

from only two issues had been fully implemented and from nine were partially implemented. Finally, of the 15 issues for which no recommendations had been implemented, some work was underway for most.

According to the white paper, the top priorities have changed since 2003; they now include communication with the public, state leadership and advocacy, regulatory consistency, funding, and public support. Five new issues were also identified: constituents of emerging concern (pharmaceuticals and personal-care products), antidegradation (protecting water quality while supporting beneficial use), salinity management, indirect potable reuse, and improved water-recycling information.

Primary obstacles to addressing the issues were identified as lack of leadership (often at the state level), the need for legislative change, and lack of funding.

Access the 52-page paper at www.nwri-usa.org/epublications.htm.

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