

GRADUATE THESIS DEFENSE
Environmental Studies Department
Presenting Linda Liu
Public Perceptions of Water Reuse
in Santa Clara County, California

Date: October 24th, 2006 Time: 4:30 —6:00 PM Location: BBC 022

Biography



I stumbled upon the Environmental Studies major at University of the Pacific after struggling with its pharmacy program in the second year. My interest to manage and protect our natural resources gradually began to develop after taking various environmental courses. In 2003 I completed my B.A in Environmental Studies, with a minor in Geology. Living in California for more than a decade, water-related topics in the West are particularly of my research interest. Throughout my college years, I have interned at several agencies including the State Water Resources Control Board, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, and the Friends of Guadalupe River Park and Gardens.

Abstract

As population increases in California, the demand for potable water will also increase. Water reuse plays a significant role in safeguarding California's water supply. However, public acceptance and perceptions of water reuse can hinder water reuse projects from being successfully implemented. This study, which uses quantitative analysis, investigates public perceptions on water reuse and identifies correlations with demographic characteristics. The results indicate the public is most concerned about health-related risks of recycled water, and that this concern is statistically correlated with gender, age, level of education, and residing with children under the age of 18. In addition, the public wants to know more about the health implications and food safety of recycled water when it is used for irrigating food crops.