

News

Water recycling plan gets financial boost

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The North Bay will be receiving \$25 million for recycled water projects including expanding the existing use of recycled water in the City of Sonoma and Sonoma Valley.

The funding will be used to help pay the cost to plan, design and build several recycled water projects in the North Bay under the North Bay Water Recycling Program - managed by the North Bay Water Reuse Authority. The Sonoma County Water Agency is a founding partner of NBWRA.

"This funding is crucial for expanding the use of recycled water at a time when water supply is important," said water agency Director Paul Kelley. "Using recycled water for agricultural purposes will offset potable water demands and keep our groundwater and surface water supplies plentiful for the future. We appreciate the support for this funding from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer, Congressman Mike Thompson, and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey. Without their leadership this funding would not be coming to the North Bay."

In Sonoma County, recycled water would be provided for agriculture and landscape irrigation and restoration of the Napa Salt Marsh. The recycled water would be produced and delivered by the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District. Specific proposed projects are:

- **Sonoma Valley:** As recommended by the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Basin Advisory Panel to improve groundwater conditions, recycled water would be delivered to the City of Sonoma and unincorporated areas of Sonoma County via new pipelines that would supply recycled water to an increased number of properties. Additional storage and pumping capacity would be added as needed. a project that was recommended by the stakeholder Basin Advisory Panel to help improve groundwater conditions
- **Napa Salt Marsh Restoration:** New pipelines would be used to deliver recycled water for salinity reduction as part of a project by the California Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and California Department of Fish and Game to restore tidal habitats and managed ponds.

The \$25 million authorization would help fund a total of about \$100 million in water recycling projects by the partners in NBWRA.

Previously, \$1.25 million in funding for the engineering and environmental study funding for the program was provided by the federal government.