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\$500,000 grant will expand Sonoma Valley wastewater reuse

By BOB NORBERG
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The Sonoma County Water Agency has received a \$500,000 grant to expand its recycled water program at the Sonoma Valley sewage plant.

The funds will be used to install a mile-long pipeline for recycled water in a ditch that workers have opened during work to replace a sewage trunk near the plant, according to water agency spokesman Brad Sherwood.

The agency now sells four million gallons of treated wastewater a year to 13 ranchers in Sonoma Valley for irrigation and discharges eight million gallons into Schell Slough and Hudeman Slough.

The goal is to increase the capacity of the agency's recycled water reservoirs and pipelines to discontinue the need to discharge into the soughs, which flow into San Pablo Bay.

The grant was provided by the North Bay Water Reuse Authority, which received \$2 million from a \$5.4 billion bond for clean water passed by voters in 2006.

The water agency manages the Sonoma Valley Sanitation District plant in the Sonoma Valley.

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