



North Bay Water Reuse Authority

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District | Napa County | Napa Sanitation District | North Marin Water District
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Representatives Thompson and Woolsey Recognized for Support of Regional Recycled Water Program

Program will help create 1,275 jobs

Sonoma, CA -- October 25, 2010 – Congressman Mike Thompson and Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey were presented with Resolutions of Appreciation for years of support on behalf of the North Bay Water Reuse Program.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) grant totaling \$7.328 million to the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA). The funds are the first increment of a \$25 million federal authorization by Congress in March 2009. NBWRA projects, funded in part by ARRA, will create 1,275 direct and indirect jobs by September 2012, 320 jobs specifically from the ARRA funds.

The recognition event was held at the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District's recycled water storage ponds to celebrate years of hard work expanding the use of recycled water in Napa, Sonoma and Marin Counties.

"I have to thank the visionaries in both my district and Congressman Thompson's who realized that by working together we can leverage dollars and maximizes water resources for all of us," stated Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey.

"The North Bay Water Reuse project will help farmers, fishing families, waterfowl, and the Bay. It will also help create nearly 1,300 jobs," said Congressman Mike Thompson. "I'm proud to have written the legislation that authorized this important program."

"Congressman Thompson and Congresswoman Woolsey were instrumental in supporting the recycled water program from its start and in obtaining federal funding. It was an honor to have the opportunity to thank them in person. By working together, the Representatives have served both of their districts well", said Bill Long, Chair of the NBWRA.

"Recycled water is a major component of the Water Agency's water supply strategy. Recycled water means less water is diverted from the Russian River and our environment. The NBWRA project will also create 75 jobs in Sonoma County alone," said Shirlee Zane, Water Agency Director and Sonoma County Supervisor.

"This phase, funded by stimulus funds, is the first step toward substituting groundwater with recycled water for irrigation which will help to ensure adequate groundwater supplies for domestic uses," said Keith Caldwell, Napa County Supervisor.

Recycled water provides an environmentally sound, cost-effective and drought-proof water supply for irrigation of crops, parks, lawns, industrial applications, and environmental uses. Recycled water is needed more than ever to supplement over drafted groundwater supplies, and stressed river water supplies. The cooperative recycled water program provides many regional benefits:

- North Bay Water Reuse Program provides the only new source of water in an area that is not served by a state or federal water project. The water is generated locally and is used locally. Moreover, valuable water is not wasted by discharging it into the Bay.
- Provides drought insurance for agricultural users in an area with a groundwater overdraft problem. It takes pressure off local streams that are now diverted for vineyard irrigation therefore benefiting habitat and fisheries, and provides a sustainable irrigation supply for vineyard irrigation and frost protection.
- Provides regional environmental benefits to instream water quantity and water quality in the Bay.

More information on the North Bay Water Recycling Program can be found by visiting www.nbwra.org, e-mailing info@nbwra.org, or calling 707-547-1923

Photo Attached: (Left to Right) Sonoma County Supervisor Shirlee Zane, Napa County Supervisor Keith Caldwell, Rep. Lynn Woolsey, Ginger Bryant, Re. Mike Thompson, Sonoma County Supervisor Efren Carrillo

Background about the Program:

The North Bay Water Reuse Authority is a cooperative program in the North San Pablo Bay region that promotes sustainability and environmental enhancement by expanding use of recycled water. The member agencies of NBWRA are the Sonoma County Water Agency, Napa Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District and Novato Sanitary District. North Marin Water District and Napa County are in the process of becoming the Authority's newest members.