



## **North Bay Water Reuse Authority**

Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District | Novato Sanitary District | Sonoma County Water Agency  
| Napa Sanitation District | Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **NMWD and Napa County Request NBWRA Membership**

North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA) is a regional group consisting of five public agencies in Napa, Marin and Sonoma Counties, with a goal of expanding the use of recycled water in the region. The North Marin Water District and Napa County, two local public agencies that had been providing technical and financial support to NBWRA, have requested to become full voting members of NBWRA.

“With over \$9 million in federal grants received to-date, the environmental studies complete and design engineering underway, NBWRA is rapidly moving towards its first construction of recycled water facilities. The request by North Marin Water District and Napa County to become full members is another important step in the right direction as recycled water becomes an increasingly critical source of regional water supplies,” commented Bill Long, Coordination Committee Chair of NBWRA.

NMWD and Napa County’s membership is contingent on revising the NBWRA Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to reflect the change, including participation in ongoing NBWRA costs of which 25% is split equally between member agencies and the remainder allocated based upon actual project construction cost. Revisions to the MOU are expected to be finalized in September 2010. Once NMWD and Napa County become full members, they will have a seat and vote on the NBWRA Board of Directors, and an official say in the development of program policy and budget.

“It is gratifying to have North Marin Water District and Napa County request to become full members. This is good news for the region as we continue to work to improve water supply reliability and sustainability”, stated Chuck Weir, NBWRA Program Manager.

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## **Background Information on the North Bay Water Reuse Authority**

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.

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. Projects in Phase 1 of the North Bay Water Recycling Program include:

- Sonoma County – Extending the existing use of recycled water into the City of Sonoma and Sonoma Valley to support urban and agriculture usage. In addition, recycled water will be used to restore portions of the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration area that provides extensive habitat for endangered species, migratory waterfowl, shorebirds, fish and other aquatic species.
- Marin County – Providing recycled water to large landscapes, schools and parks, the Fireman's Fund Companies, Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, commercial users west of U.S. 101, and landscaping at Hamilton Field, including the Coast Guard housing area.
- Napa County – Napa County and Napa Sanitation District are working with local property owners to bring recycled water to users in the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay Creek (MST) area who have been hard hit by falling groundwater levels. The pipeline might be upsized to accommodate potential future expansion of recycled water use.

Total cost of the first phase of the projects is estimated at \$100 million. Under the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, the Federal government will provide 25 percent of the estimated \$100 million cost design and build several recycled water projects in the North Bay. The NBWRA has been awarded \$7.3 million by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The funds are the first increment of a \$25 million federal authorization by Congress in March 2009.

More information on the North Bay Water Recycling Program can be found by visiting [www.nbwra.org](http://www.nbwra.org), e-mailing [info@nbwra.org](mailto:info@nbwra.org), or calling 707-547-1923.