



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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Obama approves Omnibus Public Lands Management Act

President Obama signed into law on March 30 the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act, a significant step that keeps alive the possibility that federal funding may become available to help fund recycled water projects as part of the North Bay Water Recycling Program, including the recycled water project in the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay (MST) and Carneros areas.

The federal government has previously contributed \$1.25 million in matching funds for the Program's engineering and environmental studies. This Program authorization is a first step that could ultimately lead to a 25 percent federal cost share in design and construction costs.

Recycled water has been used for irrigation in Napa County for many years. Now Napa County and local property owners, in collaboration with Napa Sanitation District, are proposing a pipeline to bring recycled water to the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay Creek (MST) area. Future recycled water service to the Carneros area is also planned and Sonoma and Marin counties have proposed projects in their service areas. According to Napa Sanitation District Board Chair and City of Napa Mayor Jill Techel, "Every gallon of water that is recycled and used saves a gallon of limited potable water supplies for drinking, leaving it in the ground and in rivers for wildlife and for other critical needs. We feel this program is a win-win for local residents, the environment and the economy."

Techel continued, "I want to thank Congressman Mike Thompson, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, Senator Diane Feinstein and Senator Barbara Boxer for their leadership in providing both the study funding and Program authorization."

Environmental studies for projects included in the North Bay Water Recycling Program, including the MST pipeline, are expected to be released to the public by May 2009. Public

meetings will allow residents to review the studies and participate in the decision-making process. For detailed information about specific recycling projects that have been proposed, visit the NBWRA Web site at www.nbwra.org.

North Bay Water Recycling Program participants include Napa Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District and Novato Sanitary District. Napa County and North Marin Water District also participate by providing financial and technical support for the regional program.

The NBWRA program is an example of cooperative, regional resource management that is gaining popularity around the country, and is now being recognized by Congress as an effective and efficient use of public funds.

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

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Did You Know....?

San Francisco's Golden Gate Park has been irrigated with recycled water since 1932. The California Department of Public Health sets strict standards for use of recycled water.

BACKGROUND ON THE Omnibus Public Lands Management Act

The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act is a collection of more than 160 bills, and has been called one of the most sweeping conservation laws passed by Congress in recent years. It authorizes a broad spectrum of water and conservation projects, and provides for expansion of the nation's parks, monuments, conservation areas, and wild and scenic river systems, as well as other conservation measures.