



## 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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### **\$216,000 Federal Funds Approved for Area Water Recycling Projects**

The \$410 billion federal spending bill signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 11, 2009, provided \$216,000 to complete feasibility and environmental studies for water recycling projects in the North San Pablo Bay region of Sonoma, Marin and Napa Counties.

The funds will support efforts to complete planning and environmental review of projects being developed by the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA) to further expand recycled water use in the region—which has been growing in recent years. Recycled water is seen as an important part of the solution to providing reliable water supplies for the North Bay region.

We wish to thank Congressman Mike Thompson, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and Senators Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer for their efforts to secure funding for these important projects,” said Bill Long, Chair of the NBWRA.

Recycled water is not used for drinking, but according to Long, “Every gallon of water that is recycled and used saves a gallon of limited potable water supplies for drinking, leaving it in rivers for fish or for other critical needs. The current drought reminds us that expansion of recycled water is critically needed by local residents, agriculture, the environment and the economy.”

The water recycling projects are part of a regional cooperative program that includes Napa Sanitation District, Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District, Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District and Novato Sanitary District. In addition, North Marin

Water District and Napa County are providing financial and technical support for the regional program. Total cost of the first phase of the projects is estimate at \$100 million.

Highly treated recycled water can safely be used for crop irrigation, parks, lawns, golf courses and industrial applications. Among the projects proposed in Phase I of the North Bay Water Recycling Program are:

- Sonoma County – Expanding the existing use of recycled water in the City of Sonoma and Sonoma Valley, primarily to support agriculture. In addition, recycled water would be used to speed up the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project.
- Marin County – Providing recycled water to large landscapes, golf courses, school and parks, including the Fireman's Fund Companies and Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, commercial users west of U.S. 101, and landscapes at the Hamilton Field including the Coast Guard housing area.
- Napa County -- Napa County and Napa Sanitation District are proposing a pipeline to bring recycled water to users willing to pay for it in the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay Creek (MST) area. The pipeline could be upsized to accommodate future, potential, expansion of recycled water use.

The first draft of the combined environmental Impact statement and report is planned to be available about the North Bay Water Recycling Program in April, 2009. More information about the North Bay Water Recycling Program, about the environmental studies, and specific projects 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.

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