



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

Contact: Chuck Weir, Program Manager, 707-547-1923

North Bay Water Recycling Program Releases EIR/EIS

The North Bay Water Recycling Program announced today the release of draft its Environmental Impact Report (EIR) / Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIR/EIS is an assessment of the possible impacts, both positive and negative, that the proposed projects may have on the natural environment. Its purpose is to identify, predict, evaluate and guide mitigation of the biological, social, and other relevant effects of the proposal prior to major decisions being taken and commitments made.

The recycled water projects are sponsored by a group of local agencies that are working together as the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA). The member agencies of the NBWRA include: 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 also providing financial and technical support for the project.

In Marin County, a significant portion of the water supply is from the Russian River, where water diversions have been reduced the past two summers for fishery protection. North Marin Water District is aggressively working to maintain a sufficient water supply. The District has emphasized helping customers conserve water, improved the efficiency of the treatment plant at Stafford Lake, developed a recycled water system with Novato Sanitary District to supply Stone Tree Golf Course, and continues to seek protection and expansion of our Russian River water supplies.

The Marin County portion of this plan proposes to provide recycled water to large landscapes, golf courses, school and park turf areas, including the Fireman's Fund Companies and Valley Memorial Park Cemetery, commercial users west of U.S. 101, and potentially to schools and other irrigated playing fields. Recycled water from Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District is

also proposed for landscape irrigation at the Hamilton Field, including the Coast Guard housing area.

The Environmental studies are analyzing the Phase 1 projects to a Project Level that will provide adequate detail to approve and construct them. Phase 1 has been found to be feasible to build. There will also be Program Level analysis of three alternative plans as a cost effective way to provide an initial environmental analysis if NBWRA members decide in the future to expand beyond Phase 1. However, if the three alternatives called 1, 2 & 3, which are incrementally larger than Phase 1 were considered in the future, additional engineering, project level environmental analysis, development of funding, and formal public review would be required. The complete Draft EIR/EIS can be found at <http://nbwra.org/docs/>.

“The North Bay Water Recycling Program is important to our local economy and environment, and we are grateful for the support it has received to-date. The ongoing drought and long-term impacts of global warming just emphasize the need for additional sources of reliable and sustainable recycled water,” stated Bill Long, Chairman of the NBWRA.

Recycled water is already in wide use throughout the North Bay region, as well as elsewhere in the state and across the nation. Because more than half of all water in the North San Pablo Bay region is used for outdoor irrigation, recycled water can help to ensure the availability of water even during droughts.

There will be public hearings in each of the three participating counties to review the studies in June, 2009:

June 9, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Margaret Todd Senior Center, 1560 Hill Road, Novato;

June 10, 2009 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Sonoma Community Center, 276 East Napa Street, Sonoma, and;

June 11, 2009 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Napa Elks Lodge, 2840 Soscol Avenue, Napa

For detailed information on the North Bay Water Recycling Program, recycled water, on how to join the public process, visit the NBWRA website at www.nbwra.org, e-mailing info@nbwra.org or calling 707-547-1923.

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Did You Know....?

Because recycled water uses less energy compared to most other new sources of water, replacing those sources with recycled water decreases carbon output and greenhouse gases.



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In Napa, the North Bay Water Recycling Program EIR/EIS evaluates a joint project by Napa County and Napa Sanitation District to develop a program to bring recycled water to users in the Milliken-Sarco-Tulocay Creek (MST) area, to assist in the environmental restoration that is underway at the Napa Salt Marsh, and for agricultural users in the Carneros region.

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In Sonoma County, the North Bay Water Recycling Program is expanding the existing use of recycled water in Sonoma Valley to offset potable water used for landscape irrigation, groundwater used for agricultural irrigation, as well as groundwater pumping in areas prone to saline water intrusion.

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