



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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North Bay Water Recycling Program EIR/EIS Certified – The Project Moves Forward

The North Bay Water Recycling Authority is pleased to announce that their Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) / Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the North Bay Water Recycling Program has been reviewed and certified by all of the member agencies and has completed the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review process.

“The program is now eligible for congress to appropriate the \$25 million in federal funding that was authorized in March 2009 and we can move forward with the final engineering and design. Many people worked extremely hard to get to this point in the process and we are excited for the many benefits that will flow from this project,” stated Chuck Weir, Program Manager for the North Bay Water Reuse Authority.

Although the State CEQA process is complete, the Federal process has a longer timetable. The Bureau of Reclamation will consider its approval of the program in Spring 2010.

The recycled water projects under the North Bay Water Recycling Program are sponsored by a group of local agencies that are working together as the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA): 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. This comprehensive regional program provides a sound approach toward meeting local, state and federal water resource management objectives and helps put recycled water to its broadest, most beneficial use.

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 and agricultural irrigation, as well as reducing groundwater pumping in areas prone to saline water intrusion.

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

In Marin County, recycled water will be provided to large landscapes, golf courses, school and park turf areas, commercial users west of U.S. 101, the Fireman's Fund Companies, Valley Memorial Park Cemetery and landscape irrigation at Hamilton Field, including the Coast Guard housing area.

“Despite the recent wet weather, the North Bay and indeed the entire state remains in the grip of one of the worst droughts in history. The ongoing drought and long-term impacts of climate change just emphasize the need for additional sources of reliable and sustainable water. Recycled water will help ensure long term, reliable water supply for our communities and economies,” stated Bill Long, Chair of the NBWRA Coordination Committee.

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.

The Final EIR/EIS is available to the public at the following link, <http://nbwra.org/docs/>. For detailed information on the North Bay Water Recycling Program, recycled water, and how to join the public process, visit the NBWRA website at www.nbwra.org, e-mail info@nbwra.org, or call 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.