



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

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Regional Water Recycling Program Updates and Obtains Input from Local, State and Federal Officials

An overflow crowd of about 60 stakeholders attended the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA) Plenary Session held on June 30, 2010 at the Inn Marin in Novato. Attendees included many local, state and federal officials, with representatives from the offices of Senators Boxer and Feinstein, Representative Woosley, State Senators Leno and Wiggins, and State Assembly Member Evans participating. The meeting was held to update stakeholders on program achievements and to obtain input as future plans are being prepared.

There was a feeling of accomplishment in the room as stakeholders were briefed about how roughly \$7 million in federal stimulus funding will kick start about \$28 million in total recycled water program construction in the coming year in Napa, Sonoma and Marin Counties. There were discussions on future plans for the groundbreaking collaborative program that is working to ensure and expand sustainable water supplies in the region.

“Much progress has occurred since our last workshop, and we are thrilled to update stakeholders on the many project successes and milestones,” stated Bill Long, Novato Sanitary District Director and Chair of the NBWRA. “Notable achievements included certification of the final environmental documents by all the participating members from Marin, Sonoma, and Napa Counties, and the authorization of \$25 million in federal funding,” “We are grateful for the active participation of stakeholders. The input we received from attendees is critical as we plan for the future and work to obtain state sponsored grants and loans,” added Long.

Napa County Supervisor Keith Caldwell commented that, “Recycled water is the only new water source available in south Napa County. Groundwater supplies have declined significantly and this project benefits the region by utilizing recycled water to support water demands. With this project we are taking what is currently looked at as a waste product and making it a valuable commodity. It’s the right thing to do.” Supervisor Caldwell, along with County Supervisors from Marin and Sonoma Counties, had been to Washington DC in support of the program.

This is not the first time NBWRA has met with stakeholders to gather input. In January 2007, NBWRA held a stakeholder workshop in which many local, state and federal officials assisted in the process of developing the North Bay Water Recycling Program.

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.

The water recycling projects are part of a regional cooperative program that promotes sustainability and environmental enhancement by expanding use of recycled water. The program includes the Sonoma County Water Agency, 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.

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.

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