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Partnership saves water via recycling

Wastewater treatment plant serves 170 locations

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Inside Bay Area

PLEASANTON — Eleven years ago, the Dublin San Ramon Services and East Bay Municipal Utility districts formed a partnership with a plan to develop a recycled water program.

The fruits of their labor crystallized Friday as they unveiled a new wastewater treatment plant that will provide recycled water for irrigation in Dublin and the San Ramon Valley communities.

"The project is all about partnerships, working collaboratively to manage the resources, both the natural resources and the economic resources and providing solutions that meet the needs of the San Ramon Valley," said James Bewley, authority manager of the recycled water authority known as DERWA.

According to DERWA, there are numerous benefits to using recycled water, including: providing a drought-resistant watersupply, conserving potable water and reducing the amount of treated wastewater discharged into the San Francisco Bay.

Every drop of drinking water thats used to drink and not to irrigate landscape enhances the quality of life in the Valley region, improves our greenbelt, the ability to maintain open spaces and just really improves the environment, said Richard Halket, DERWA board chairman.

The San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program will deliver water to numerous commercial customers, from schools to golf courses to apartment complexes and housing developments.

The recycled water system, which includes about 16 miles of transmission pipeline, has been built into much of the new development in east Dublin and the Dougherty Valley.

DSRSD General Manager Bert Michalczyk said the district also worked with existing customers to switch their service by providing a financial benefit.

We try to work with the community to give them incentives but also encourage them to do whats right, he said.

The new treatment plant, which became operational last week, is a key part of the system that serves about 170 locations and the facility is expected to be expanded in the coming years as demand increases.

Wastewater is treated using a multi-faceted process, said Levi Fuller, a DSRSD operations supervisor. After funneling through a system where micro-organisms break down the waste, the water is treated with bleach and other contaminant-removal products.

Later, the water is filtered through sand and then passes through ultraviolet light channels that kill any remaining viruses or bacteria.

The recycled water system was built with the help of state and federal funding, including a \$5 million grant and \$25 million loan from the State Water Resources Control Board.

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