

Water Recycling: A Smart Investment In Our Communities

Irrigating landscaped areas such as parks and golf courses with our drinking water supply isn't the best use of that limited resource. Neither is dumping water into San Francisco Bay after using it just once. The smarter approach is to recycle our water, treating it to meet stringent standards and then re-using it for irrigation and other non-potable applications. Not only is this a prudent and progressive environmental practice, but it also helps protect all of us



from the negative impacts that growth and drought have on our water supply.

The San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program will let us save our drinking water for drinking, and use this "new" water supply for irrigation. The program will help us hedge against the potential loss of investment in landscaping and other assets that rely on water next time we face a drought. It is a joint undertaking of the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD).

After years of planning and preparation to make the vision of recycled water a reality for the San Ramon Valley, the Dublin Sports Grounds and newly-developed areas in eastern Dublin are now receiving recycled water for irrigation. Service will gradually be expanded northward to customers of EBMUD and DSRSD. The project is designed to grow as the communities grow.

"This is a great example of partnership and planning," explains **David E. Hudson, Mayor of San Ramon**, adding, "it demonstrates real conservation savvy."

The project area covers approximately 63 square miles. It includes the southeastern portion of the EBMUD water service area and all of the DSRSD service area. Ultimately, the program will provide an

"Using recycled water to irrigate golf courses and large parks makes sense, plain and simple. Recycled water helps our environment, and it benefits our economy and quality of life—especially in times of drought," says Congresswoman Ellen Tauscher, 10th District, U.S. House of Representatives

continued on next page

AN UPDATE FROM THE DERWA* BOARD

Greetings. Water recycling is an integral part of the East Bay region's water supply management policies, and the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program is a core component of both the Dublin San Ramon Services District's and East Bay Municipal Utility District's water management plans.

By sharing the transmission pipelines, treatment facilities, and some pump stations and reservoirs between

the partner agencies, this project allows us to achieve beneficial economies of scale and to make the best use of public resources.

Over the next few years, the project will unfold gradually, extending from south to north. We will continue to carefully coordinate with local jurisdictions as we go, to minimize disruption and maximize benefits. Community input will be welcomed along the way, particularly in those

areas that will be impacted by the project's construction activities. We thank you for your support of this project, and look forward to ensuring reliable irrigation water supplies through water recycling.

* DERWA is a recycled water authority whose Board is comprised of members of the Boards of Directors of the two partner agencies, the Dublin San Ramon Services District and East Bay Municipal Utility District.

The Project

The EBMUD portion of the area to be served by the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program (SRVRWP) is shown in ivory on the map at right; the DSRSD portion of the service area is shown in green. The blue line shows the proposed alignment of the main transmission pipeline (the “backbone”) that will be built and operated by DERWA, the joint authority created by DSRSD and EBMUD. The “backbone” also shows the locations proposed for pumping stations (PS) and storage tanks.

Building off of this “backbone” system, DSRSD and EBMUD each will construct separate distribution systems within their respective service areas to convey recycled water to their own customers.

Who Will Get Recycled Water?

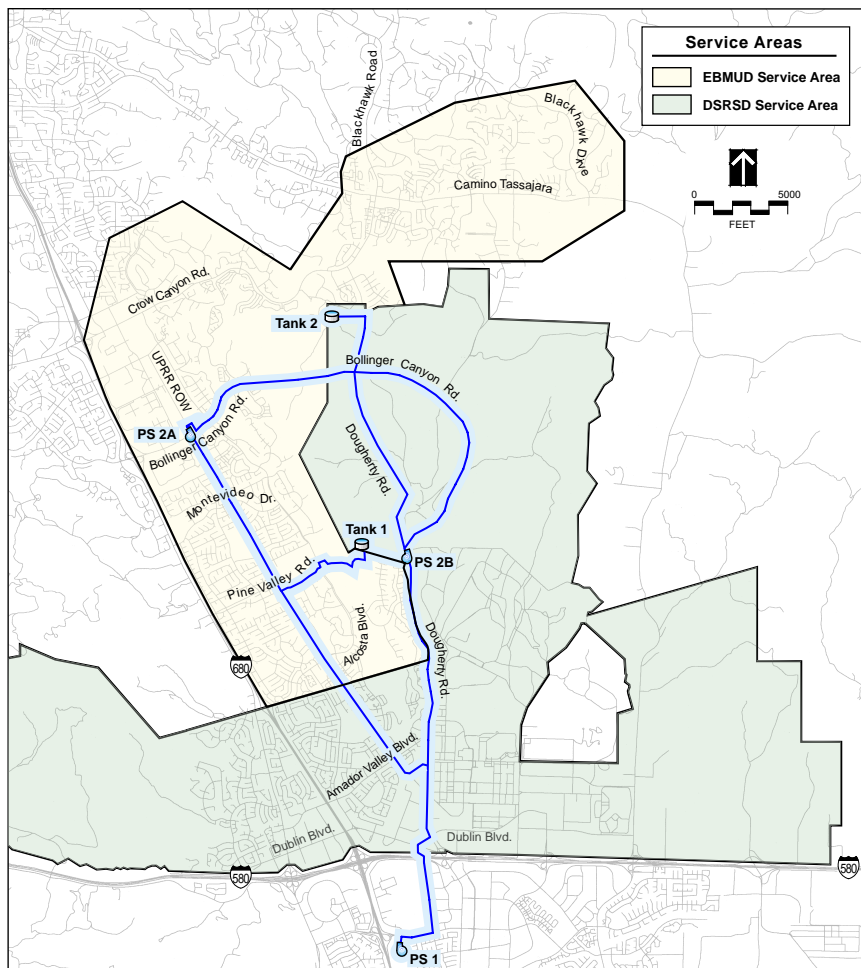
- ▶ Large irrigation customers—both existing and new—who can be reached cost-effectively from pipelines built off the DERWA “backbone”: parks, golf courses, business parks, greenbelts and roadways. Common area landscaping of residential developments with professionally-managed homeowners associations also are potential customers.
- ▶ Some new commercial buildings may receive recycled water for toilet flushing.
- ▶ Recycled water is not intended to serve individual single-family homes.

When Will Customers Get Recycled Water?

- ▶ Some customers in eastern Dublin already are receiving recycled water (see sidebar story).
- ▶ Project construction generally will proceed from south to north and will be phased over a period of 10 to 15 years, based on demand and capital funding needs and availability.

How Will the SRVRWP Affect You?

- ▶ You’ll have more potable water available, especially during times of drought.
- ▶ You’ll continue to enjoy living or working in a “green” community.
- ▶ You may be impacted on a short-term, temporary basis by construction activities, depending on where you live or work. Residents and businesses will receive advance notice before any construction activity starts in their area so they may plan accordingly. Additionally, mitigation plans will be implemented to address construction impacts, such as traffic and noise. ●



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information about this project, please contact: Laura Johnson, DERWA Authority Manager, at (510) 287-2063 (ljohnso@ebmud.com). Visit www.ebmud.com/derwa/index.html for periodic updates on the project.

Recycled Water: A Smart Investment

Continued from previous page

annual average of 5.7 million gallons per day of recycled water with service available to both new development and certain existing irrigation customers. This amount of recycled water saves enough potable water to serve approximately 12,000 households.

“Using recycled water for irrigation is a great way of optimizing our water resources and minimizing the impacts upon our community during times of drought,” points out **Mike Doyle, Mayor of Danville**.

Supporters of the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program agree that the project is an excellent investment for our communities and our future — one that we will greatly appreciate — especially when the rains don’t come and we’re having a heat wave! ●

Recycled Water: A Long and Successful History

Recycled water really does have a history, but most people don't realize just how far back that history goes.

As early as 1889, Golden Gate Park began being irrigated with reclaimed sewage to make the park's soil more productive, and the first water reclamation plant was built there in 1932. Starting in 1929, the city of Pomona began using treated municipal wastewater for landscape irrigation, and the practice has been gradually expanding ever since.

The city of Livermore launched its recycled water program in 1966. It now serves the municipal golf course, the local airport, and various businesses. Palo Alto has been recycling water since the 1970s for use at parks and area golf courses. The Marin Municipal Water District has been using recycled water for public, private and various commercial uses since the 1980s. Even the San Francisco 49ers' training field in Santa Clara and the world-famous Pebble Beach Golf Course are kept green and lush with recycled water.

It's also worth noting that there has never been a single public health problem reported in California related to the use of recycled water. In fact, California's regulations governing the treatment and use of recycled water are among the most stringent in the world.

As the public becomes increasingly comfortable with the safety and benefits of water recycling, new innovations for its use are being introduced. For instance, recycled water is now being used for snow making at some ski resorts, and for toilet flushing in some commercial buildings. As new technology expands opportunities for water reuse, the demand for recycled water will continue to surge, and many more years of recycled water history will be made. ●



DUBLIN: A Successful First Step

Dublin San Ramon Services District's recycled water program, known as Puttin' on the Green, was launched to ensure that Dublin remains an emerald isle, regardless of the weather forecast. Recycled water service started at the Dublin Sports Grounds in the summer of 1999, making Dublin one of the first East Bay cities to use recycled water to irrigate a major sports park.



"Irrigating our sports grounds and playing fields

with recycled water has made the fields look great," notes Patty Lee, former president of the Dublin United Soccer League. "This is an example of our community truly living up to its commitment to conservation, which is something we can all be really proud of."

Public support for the program has been strong since its inception, in part due to a proactive public education campaign that included festivities on the opening days of both the city's soccer and Little League seasons.

Puttin' on the Green was expanded as roads and infrastructure were built for new development in eastern Dublin. This has proven to be an excellent example of how good design and foresight can incorporate emerging technologies into cutting-edge city planning. In eastern Dublin, the recycled water program is now serving the common areas of new residential communities, commercial centers, and Emerald Glen Park, the newest jewel in the City of Dublin's growing park system.

Dublin Mayor Guy Houston, one of the project's strongest promoters, recognized early on the benefits that recycled water would bring to his city and the region as a whole. Says Houston, "It is significant that this project enjoys not only widespread regional support, but also has received the State of California's endorsement. The broad support for this project stems from the sound sense it makes from the policy, economic, environmental, and regional perspectives."

Pictured: Scenes from the Dublin United Soccer League's opening day on September 11, 1999, and festivities held to mark the historic beginning of recycled water use in Dublin.

The Many Benefits of Recycled Water

“Considering the serious demands on our water supply from people and fish and wildlife, recycling water just makes sense. Especially in times of drought, recycled water can deliver a reliable water supply while not harming the Delta or the many rivers that carry our water. A combination of conservation and water recycling will be needed to preserve our quality of life.”

— Craig K. Breon, Executive Director,
Santa Clara Valley Audubon Society

Using recycled water for landscape irrigation and other non-potable applications will bring many benefits to the customers, the community, and the environment without adversely impacting our drinking water supply. How?



▶ Recycled water is a reliable water source that isn't subject to seasonal variations or water supply contract limitations. It helps protect against water shortages and cutbacks during the dry months and frees up our limited potable water supplies for drinking and other uses.

▶ Recycled water also helps ensure that during a drought, landscaping won't be sacrificed. This is especially important to preserve our wonderful parks, greenbelts, roadways, beautifully-landscaped corporate complexes, as well as our area's six excellent golf courses.


▶ Water recycling reduces the amount of wastewater discharged into San Francisco Bay. Less wastewater in the Bay helps it stay healthier and has numerous eco-

logical benefits. Furthermore, the less we discharge, the less we pay for pumping our wastewater over the hills for disposal.

▶ Water recycling is sound policy and a great investment in maintaining our quality of life and future. ●

Support for Recycled Water is Widespread

Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program
California State Water Resources Control Board
California Department of Water Resources
California Department of Health Services
California Conference of Directors of
Environmental Health
City of Dublin
City of San Ramon
Contra Costa Council
Danville Area Chamber of Commerce
Dublin Chamber of Commerce
Dublin Unified School District
East Bay Regional Park District
San Ramon Chamber of Commerce
San Ramon Valley Unified School District
Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., Inc.
Town of Danville
U.S. Representative Barbara Lee
U.S. Representative Ellen Tauscher
U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer
WateReuse Association
United States Environmental Protection Agency
United States Bureau of Reclamation

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TIME VALUE



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