

Corps set to design pipeline, stations

SAN RAMON - The Army Corps of Engineers will design pumping stations and a 75-mile pipeline for the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program, a \$150 million, 20-year project to recycle water for irrigation use throughout Dublin, San Ramon, Danville, Blackhawk and surrounding areas.

This recycling project is expected to conserve enough drinking water to meet the needs of approximately 12,000 East Bay families every year, said Bob Whitley, a spokesman for the Dublin San Ramon Services District-East Bay Municipal Utility District Recycled Water Authority, called DERWA.

The design agreement was signed Thursday in a ceremony at San Ramon's Central Park community center.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher, D-Alamo, helped obtain congressional approval and federal money for the project. Construction is expected to begin in 2003, with the first recycled water deliveries expected by the spring of 2005.

The Recycled Water Program will eventually provide approximately 8,200 acre-feet of recycled water a year, exclusively for landscape irrigation, Whitley said.

The pipeline would stretch north from the Dublin-San Ramon district's Pleasanton treatment plant into Dublin. The pipeline will form a loop through the Dougherty Valley, San Ramon and Danville, with a connecting line through the Blackhawk area. Seven pumping stations and five storage reservoirs will be key elements of the project.

The Wastewater Authority is the separate legal entity responsible for developing the Recycled Water Project; its board is made up of two EBMUD board members and two DSRSD board members.

The partnership is the Corps of Engineers' first venture into providing technical help with a community recycled water project.