



**NORTH MARIN
WATER DISTRICT**

NOVATO RECYCLED WATER PROGRAM

RECYCLED WATER SUMMARY: A NEW RESOURCE FOR NOVATO

Novato's Water Supply Challenges

North Marin Water District (NMWD) was formed by voters in 1948. Over the years, water supplies have been developed first at Stafford Lake, and in 1961, Russian River water was imported to supply Novato customers. Today, NMWD depends on imported Russian River water for 80% of Novato's supply, but this source has been impacted by changed conditions to protect fish and environmental needs. The effects of climate change may further stress local water supplies. The bottom line—NMWD is urging customers to be more water efficient and is developing new water supply sources to reliably meet Novato's long-term water needs.

Recycled Water - Sustainable New Source of Water

Along with an aggressive and successful water conservation program, for the last several years, NMWD has been developing another new source of supply—recycled water.

Recycled Water: What is it, Why it is Good. Recycled water is highly treated wastewater that meets strict health and safety standards set by federal, state and local health authorities. While it is not permitted to be used as drinking water, it is very similar in quality and appearance.

High Quality. Of the three quality standards of recycled water in California, NMWD supply will be of the highest quality, and comply with requirements set by the County of Marin and the state—second only to drinking water in purity.

Drought-proof. A benefit of recycled water is its total reliability. Properties that receive recycled water will enjoy lush, healthy landscaping, when others may be forced to cut back on water use during drought periods.

Environmentally Smart and Sustainable. Just like recycling cans and bottles, recycling water just makes sense. It uses less energy than developing other new sources of water and has a lower carbon footprint. It is fully under local control and represents a wise reuse of a critical local resource.



DID YOU KNOW?

McInnis Park in San Rafael is one of 15 parks and 13 school grounds in Marin County that are irrigated with recycled water.

"Our schools have been using recycled water to irrigate the school fields for over 20 years. We are happy with the recycled water because it is environmentally friendly, uses less energy, conserves potable water and provides us with year-round water."

Tim Walsh, Director of Building and Grounds, Dixie School District

Planning and Outreach for Novato's Recycled Water Expansion



NMWD is a member of the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA). This group of seven agencies has received millions of dollars in federal funds to help lower the local cost for expanded recycled water facilities. Through NMWD's partnership with NBWRA, the environmental process was completed, and there have been public meetings, newspaper stories, mailings to stakeholders and other outreach about this recycled water plan.

Novato is authorized to receive over \$4 million in federal stimulus funding through NBWRA that is being matched with about \$15 million in local funds from NMWD, Novato Sanitary District and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District to finalize engineering and begin construction of the local water recycling program. The NMWD local share is planned to be covered by loans repaid with new development connection fees.

In the North and Central Service Areas, recycled water is planned to be delivered to large landscapes at school and park sites, Fireman's Fund complex, Valley Memorial Park Cemetery and commercial properties. In the South Service Area, recycled water will be delivered to large landscapes in Hamilton and to Coast Guard housing areas.

Recycled Water Use Requirement and Benefits

The pipeline route for recycled water expansion in Novato has been carefully planned to pass by the greatest number of properties with large landscape areas and potential recycled water customers. Current NMWD Regulations require that recycled water be used on properties where it is made available. This spring, NMWD is scheduled to approve an ordinance further strengthening recycled water use requirements. This will satisfy State of California requirements enabling low interest rate loan financing.



In Novato, StoneTree Golf Course currently uses approximately 60 million gallons of high quality recycled water each year.

Benefits and Cost Savings to Recycled Water Users. Properties using recycled water will benefit by always having a reliable water supply even during water shortages. In addition, recycled water users will not have to pay the +8% seasonal rate now in place on water use from May through November. Furthermore, NMWD expects to fund retrofit costs to connect existing irrigation systems to recycled water. To help make an easy and successful transition, NMWD will provide an extensive program of information, support services and direct assistance to recycled water customers.

Recycled Water Timeline

During summer of 2011, construction will begin on North Service Area pipelines to meet timing requirements of federal funding. This fall construction will start in the South Service Area. There are no firm plans for funding and construction of the Central Service areas at this time.