



**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?

Novato currently serves over 40 customers with high quality recycled water for large landscape irrigation purposes.

## 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 received federal stimulus funding through NBWRA that was matched with local funds from NMWD, Novato Sanitary District and Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District to construct the local water recycling program. The NMWD local share to be covered by low interest state loans repaid with new development connection fees.

In the North Service Area, recycled water is 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 is delivered to large landscapes in Hamilton area including many City parks and medians and Hamilton Elementary School. In the Central Service Area, recycled water is planned for extension to serve approximately 40 large landscape customers including City medians, Lynwood Elementary School and Marin Country Club, and 3 car washes along the pipeline route.



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

### 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 which helps to satisfy the State of California requirements enabling low interest rate loan financing for the construction projects.

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

The North and South Service Area projects were completed in 2012/2013. The Central Service Area project is scheduled to begin in November 2016.