



# Connections

## Recycled Water Program Update — City to Begin Pilot Project for Expanded Use of Recycled Water

The Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities and City Council recently approved a pilot project that will expand the use of recycled water for irrigation purposes in urban areas such as parks, golf courses, commercial landscaping and street medians. Water reuse is beneficial because it reduces demand on other water resources, such as

highly-treated recycled water. The ultimate goal of the Santa Rosa Urban Reuse Project (SRURP) is to use up to one billion gallons per year of recycled water for urban landscape irrigation and other approved uses, thus saving the same amount of drinkable water for human consumption.

Construction on the pilot project is currently scheduled to begin in late 2009/early 2010, with the pipeline running along Stony Point Road between West College Avenue and Glenbrook Road.

The Utilities Department staff are currently working with potential recycled water customers located along the pipeline route to connect their irrigation system to the

recycled water supply when construction is completed.

The Subregional Water Reuse System has been using recycled water for irrigation purposes for more than

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## It's Time to Reduce Your Irrigation Use

The City of Santa Rosa Water Conservation program would like to thank everyone for doing their part to continue to use water wisely this summer. Since the City Council's adoption of a Stage 1 Water Shortage in February of this year, Utilities customers have continued to save water when compared to the same period last year. Compared to the same months in 2008, total water use in June was 24.9 percent less and total water use in July was 17.4 percent less. As we enter into the fall season, the Water Conservation Program would like to remind our customers that it is still extremely important to use every drop as efficiently as possible by continuing to implement water conservation measures. One way to do this is by reducing your irrigation use.

Throughout the year, the water needs of plants change. During an average year in Santa Rosa, plants need the most water in July. By October, plants need approximately 40 percent of the water that they required during the month of July. Even when the weather is hot, shorter days mean fewer hours of sunlight, which is one of the biggest factors affecting the water needs of plants. With fewer hours of sunlight,

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*Recycled water is used to irrigate some Santa Rosa parks, playgrounds, golf courses and other public areas.*

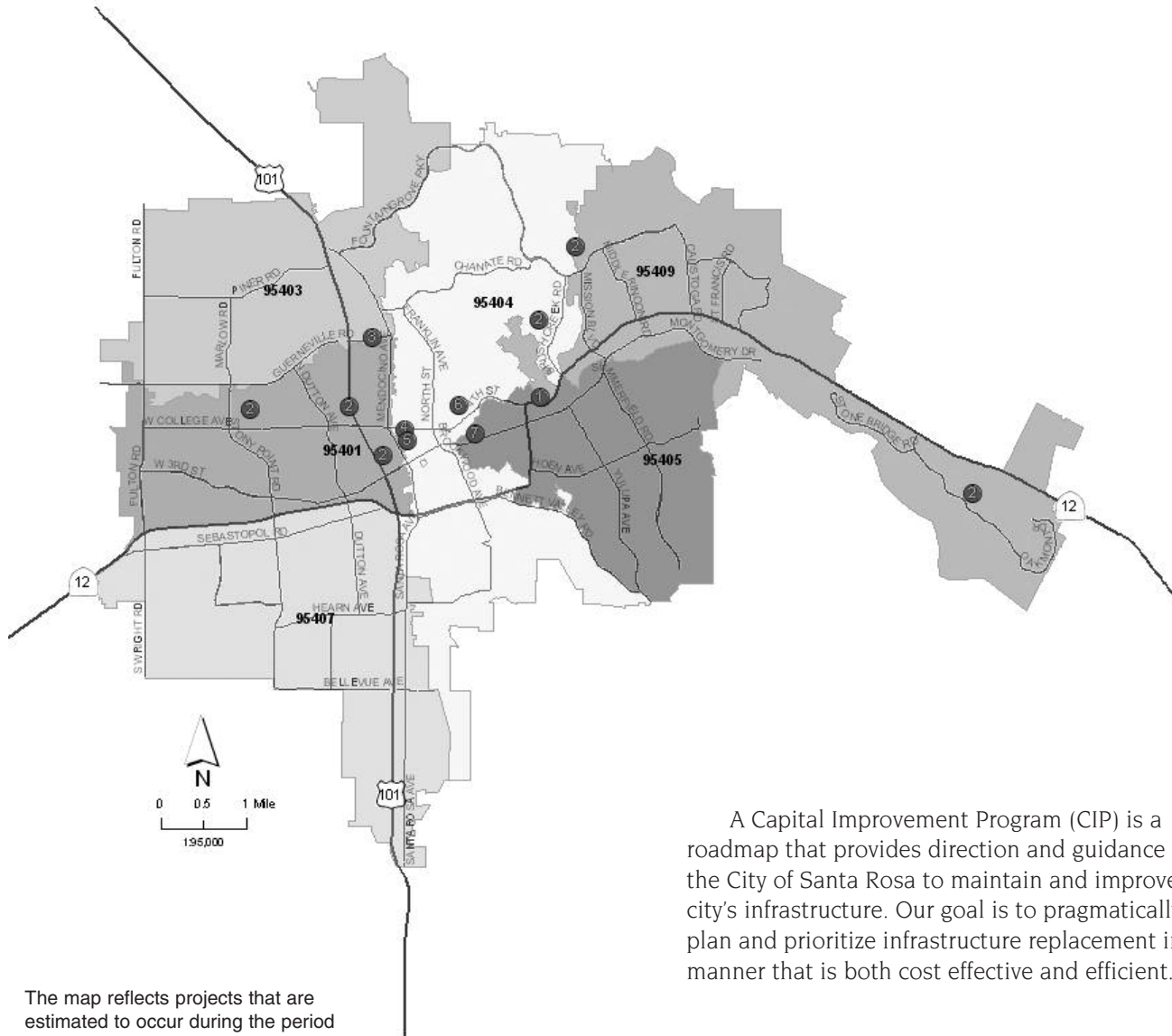
groundwater and the Russian River and its tributaries.

When construction of the pipeline is completed, the pilot project will use about 30 million gallons per year of

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# Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Projects in Construction — October through December 2009



A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a roadmap that provides direction and guidance for the City of Santa Rosa to maintain and improve the city's infrastructure. Our goal is to pragmatically plan and prioritize infrastructure replacement in a manner that is both cost effective and efficient.

The map reflects projects that are estimated to occur during the period October through December 2009 and, due to varying factors, are subject to change without notice.

The data represented has been generated from Utilities CIP Planning and Technology sources.

#	Project Description
1	Proctor Heights Walking Path
2	Sewer Pipe Lining – Various Locations
3	Steele Lane Sewer and Water Improvements
4	Cherry Street Sewer and Water Main Replacement
5	7th Street Sewer and Water Main Replacement
6	Spring Street Sewer and Water Improvements
7	Montgomery Drive and Talbot Avenue Sewer, Water and Storm Drain Improvements

# Preparing for the Rainy Season

**W**ith the coming rains, anything we spill, drop, or throw on the ground can wind up in our local creeks. Storm water can carry pollutants such as oil and grease from cars, litter and pet waste, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns or gardens, and sediment from construction activities. These pollutants enter our streams and have a toxic effect on fish and wildlife.

With the rainy season approaching, now is the time to prepare your home for the wet weather ahead. Here are a few simple actions you can take to prevent pollutants from entering our streams during the rainy season:

- Pick up litter and yard clippings
- Store chemicals properly

- Avoid using fertilizers if rain is forecast; use non-toxic products when possible
- Clean up pet waste and dispose in a trash container
- Sweep – don't hose or wash dirt and debris from driveways
- Clean up automotive leaks/spills with kitty litter or other absorbent material



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## Get to Know Your “Green” Team!



*City of Santa Rosa Environmental Projects Team*

**T**he Utilities Project Development team, also known as Environmental Projects, is available to provide you with information about, and is committed to, reducing the Utility Department's environmental impact from municipal operations and facilitating a community-wide greenhouse gas emissions program.

Environmental Projects focuses on renewable energy sources, environmental management systems, alternative fuels, climate protection and community outreach. The team has been alternating space with Water Conservation at the Downtown Santa Rosa Market this season, and hosted tables at the Solar Fair (in collaboration with Solar

Sonoma County), the Harmony Fair, Climate Protection Everyone Profits V Conference, and the Sonoma County Fair in collaboration with Water Conservation, Environmental Compliance and Storm Water staff.

The Project Development team actively strives to educate the public on ways to reduce our carbon footprint and currently provides resources available from Water Conservation (rebates and tips to conserve), Environmental Compliance (safe medicine and proper grease disposal), and Storm Water (keeping our creeks clean) and the Santa Rosa City Bus (schedules and how to ride). Additional resources on green building, solar projects and financing, Aquatic Biomass to Fuel project, alternative transportation, waste management, tips on the 3 R's (Reduce, Reuse and then Recycle), staying local, and an all-encompassing Toolkit for Greener Living can also be obtained from the team. A Greener Business Toolkit will be available this fall.

Interested in learning more? Visit [www.srcity.org/environmentalprojects](http://www.srcity.org/environmentalprojects) for information on projects and upcoming events. You can also email the team with questions at [environmentalprojects@srcity.org](mailto:environmentalprojects@srcity.org).

*“It's Time to Reduce...” continued from page 1...*

plants require less water. So remember to reduce your irrigation use as the days get shorter.

Some simple ways to reduce your irrigation use and prevent over-watering your plants include reducing the amount of time you run your sprinklers, using repeat start times and short run times for each station, checking and adjusting your irrigation controller on a weekly basis, and calling Turf Time at (707) 543-3466 or visiting [www.srcity.org/turftime](http://www.srcity.org/turftime) for suggested weekly lawn and drip watering requirements. In addition, for those that have irrigation controllers, the beginning and end of daylight-saving time are good reminders to start a new habit of replacing the back-up battery in your controller.

Fall is also a great time to consider making changes to your landscape, such as planting new plants and tuning up your irrigation system. The Water Conservation Department's Green Exchange Rebate Program offers rebates for improving the efficiency of your irrigation hardware and for replacing turf with low water-use alternatives. You can receive a rebate of up to \$350 for improving the efficiency of your irrigation hardware and up to \$250 for replacing up to 500 square feet of turf with low water-use alternatives. To participate, call the Water Conservation Hotline at 707-543-3985 to schedule an irrigation audit pre-inspection.

The Water Conservation Program provides additional services and information that can help you improve your outdoor water-use efficiency. Free shut-off hose nozzles can be picked up from our office at 69 Stony Circle in Santa Rosa. You can also schedule a free home “Check-Up,” where expert staff will come to your home, review your current water uses, and make recommendations for improving your water-use efficiency indoors and outdoors.

For additional information on current rebates and incentives, or to request assistance in reducing your irrigation use, please contact the Water Conservation Hotline at (707) 543-3985 or [www.srcity.org/wc](http://www.srcity.org/wc).

## Your Utilities Department at Work for You

# Helping Preserve Our Water Supply



**D**uring the past three years, reducing water use and eliminating water waste has become increasingly important. Most Santa Rosans have probably seen advertisements,

read articles, or received information from the Utilities Dept. regarding water conservation. But, you might not know that the Utilities Dept. provides expert staff, like Randy Barron, to assist you in determining ways to improve your water-use efficiency. As a Water Conservation Technician, Randy says one of the best parts of his job is “when customers realize we are here to help and educate them about water use rather than to penalize them.”

In 2006, as Randy was completing his Environmental Science degree at Sonoma State University, he worked as an intern with the City of Santa Rosa’s Water Conservation Program. His internship experience, combined with the technology skills he gained from 21

years as a U.S. Navy Nuclear Missile Technician, led Randy to join the Utilities Dept. as a Water Conservation Technician in 2007. Since then he has earned Landscape Irrigation Auditor certification through the National Irrigation Association and graduated from the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper training.

Randy’s job primarily focuses on assisting homeowners with their water conservation efforts. He provides indoor and outdoor water-use efficiency recommendations, confirms that customers qualify for our rebate programs and visits customer sites to insure the correct water-conserving equipment was installed per the rebate requirement. For Randy, providing assistance to the public is what he enjoys most. “Getting to meet and help the public and provide information on how they can reduce their water use is among the reasons I really enjoy this job.”

For information about the Water Conservation Program, please contact (707) 543-3985 or visit [www.srcity.org/wc](http://www.srcity.org/wc).

“Program Update” continued from page 1...

40 years. Today, about one-third of Santa Rosa’s tertiary-treated recycled water irrigates approximately 6,400 acres of agricultural crops and urban landscaping. The remainder is delivered to the Geysers steamfields where it is used to produce clean energy.

The existing urban reuse program currently includes the irrigation of many schools, parks and businesses in Rohnert Park including Sonoma State University. In Santa Rosa, recycled water is used at Finley Park, a Place to Play sports complex, and Oakmont Golf Course. Expanding urban reuse is a high priority for the City because it provides a drought-proof water supply for irrigation and other approved uses while saving potable water for purposes such as drinking and bathing and creating an environmentally friendly method of disposing recycled water.

The pilot project is fully funded through a combination of grant funding from the State of California and the Sonoma County Water Agency. For more information and updates on SRURP and other responsible recycled water projects being undertaken by your Utilities Department, visit [www.SRCity.org/RecycledWater](http://www.SRCity.org/RecycledWater).

## Did You Know?

**Y**our garden hose can affect the taste and odor of your tap water.

If you have a taste or odor problem with your water, we recommend that you disconnect your garden hose when it is not in use. Garden hoses are handy in that they extend our ability to move water from the faucet to our plants. A spray nozzle on the end of the hose effectively stops the water flow but leaves the water in the hose under normal pressure. When the hose is heated from sitting in the hot sun, the water inside expands and pushes the bad taste/odor from the hose into your home’s water supply. There are two easy ways to help you identify whether a taste or odor problem exists in the public water supply or in your plumbing system. First, check to see if the problem occurs in just a few, but not all, of the water faucets inside your home. If the problem occurs in just one or two water faucets, the cause is somewhere in your



plumbing system. If the problem is in the water supply, it will occur at every water faucet on the property. Second, if the problem goes away after running the water for a few minutes, the cause is somewhere in your plumbing system. If the problem is in the water supply, it will not disappear after a few minutes of running the water. If the problem appears to be in your plumbing system, you should either flush the plumbing system or contact a plumber to investigate.

If you need to report a water quality problem, please call (707) 543-3965.



**Conserve, Recycle, Reuse**  
SANTA ROSA SUBREGIONAL WATER REUSE SYSTEM

## Web Resources

Visit these web sites to learn more about issues mentioned in this Update.

### **Water Shortage Information:**

[www.SRCity.org/watershortage](http://www.SRCity.org/watershortage)

### **Water Conservation:**

[www.SRCity.org/WC](http://www.SRCity.org/WC)

### **Turf Time:**

[www.SRCity.org/turftime](http://www.SRCity.org/turftime)

### **Water Calculator:**

[www.SRCity.org/watercalculator](http://www.SRCity.org/watercalculator)

### **MySpace:**

[www.myspace.com/SRwater](http://www.myspace.com/SRwater)

### **Twitter:**

[twitter.com/SantaRosaWater](http://twitter.com/SantaRosaWater)