



Utilities Connections



Recycled Water Plays an Important Role in Our Water Future

Storing Extra Water in the Winter Makes a Huge Difference

In early 2007, the Board of Public Utilities will consider conducting further studies on how more recycled water can be stored in the winter months. The Incremental Recycled Water Program (IRWP) can benefit in many ways by increased storage capacity.

In March 2004, the City of Santa Rosa adopted the IRWP Master Plan to expand the current Subregional recycled water system incrementally. The Master Plan includes five components that will work in tandem to meet resource demands and be responsive to regulatory changes: Geysers Expansion, Agriculture Irrigation, Urban Reuse, Water Conservation, and Discharge Compliance. All five components are currently in various stages of studies, planning and design.



Urban Reuse

The Urban Reuse component will expand the Subregional Water Reuse System's current usage of recycled water to irrigate urban landscaping such as parks, golf courses, commercial areas and street medians. Water recycling is beneficial because it reduces demand on other water resources such as groundwater, the Russian River, and our drinking water supply.

A detailed study is underway to determine the location, size, and timing of potential reuse projects within Santa

Rosa. Plans call for a phased approach over several years to reuse up to 1,000 million gallons per day (MGD) of recycled water in urban areas.

To support this expansion, the Subregional System will need more capacity to store water produced in winter months, so it can be used for irrigation in the warmer months. In a November 16th study session, engineering consultants reported to the Santa Rosa Board of Public Utilities (BPU) that, from an original list of 34 sites, six potential storage sites appear to be feasible and meet the City's needs. Four are City-owned properties located in the Santa Rosa plain; the other properties — one in Alexander Valley, the other in Rohnert Park — are owned by entities that are interested in working with the City. The continued studies will identify sites to be included in a Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report. For more information, visit: www.SRCity.org/UrbanReuse



Discharge Compliance

Prior to 2010, changes to water regulations are expected to necessitate changes to the quality, quantity, and discharge location and/or timing of highly treated recycled water. Santa Rosa is currently allowed to discharge its recycled water into the Laguna de Santa Rosa between October and May.

continued on back...

New Water Rate Structure for Santa Rosa

Starting with this month's bill, you should notice a change in your utility bill. The City of Santa Rosa's Water Utility has implemented a tiered water rate structure, which is focused on promoting outdoor water use efficiency. The tiered water rate structure applies to all Single Family Residential and Dedicated Irrigation accounts.

The tiered water rate structure for Single Family Residential accounts consists of the following three tiers:

Tier	Cost
<i>Monthly Allocation</i>	<i>(per 1,000 gallons)</i>
Tier 1: Your "cap" plus up to 8,000 gallons	\$ 3.22
Tier 2: All water use above Tier 1, up to 30,000 gallons above your cap	\$ 4.02
Tier 3: All water use above Tiers 1 and 2	\$ 6.03

Your indoor water use is called your "cap." Your cap is an average of water used during the December, January and February billing periods, when virtually all water consumption is indoors. Your cap is always billed at the lowest tier and the lowest tier also includes 8,000 gallons per month for landscaping. All usage above your cap and your landscaping allotment will be billed at higher tiers.

Staffs of the Water Conservation Program and the Utility Billing Division are available Monday through Friday from 8 AM-5 PM to assist customers with

continued on back...

Your Utilities Department at Work for You

Mapping the City's Water and Sewer System



As a Quality Control Associate on the Utilities Planning/Technology team, Greg Chidister is in charge of mapping the City's water, wastewater and

reclamation systems. He uses Geographic Information System (GIS) software and Computer Aided Drafting (CAD) software to produce complex and varied maps that are used throughout the City. Greg also analyzes the City's underground utilities based on data connected directly to the map features. Having the ability to graphically look at entire pipe networks based on age, type of material, or maintenance history is a priceless tool when deciding where and when to replace pipe infrastructure. The City of Santa Rosa Utilities Department currently maintains over 600 miles of water mains, just under 600 miles of wastewater mains and 75 miles of reclaimed water mains.

When Greg started working for the Utilities Department 16 years ago, none

of this "cool" technology existed. The mapping system consisted of hand-drawn maps that had to be pieced together to produce a useable system-wide map. The ability to link any data to the maps was nonexistent, so it has been very exciting to see those hand-drawn maps evolve into the complex maps of today.

To be proficient in the mapping business means learning the ever-changing technology. Greg has taken GIS and CAD classes over the last few years, and the Santa Rosa Junior College now has certification programs in GIS and CAD. Completing either of these certificate programs would be a great way for someone to become proficient in this field.

Greg says the best part about his job, besides the great people he works with, would be the opportunity to work with the latest and ever-changing technology. Also, he gets satisfaction from knowing that the maps he produces help others become more informed and effective in their day-to-day work.

"Recycled Water Plays" continued...

New discharge locations (direct discharge into the Russian River) are being considered because the higher flows in the Russian River (relative to the Laguna flows) make relocating all, or a portion, of the discharge to the River a more feasible method of complying with regulations.

Discharge will continue to be an essential element of the Subregional Water Reuse System because the amount of recycled water produced varies substantially from year to year due to local weather conditions. But weather-related increases in recycled water production are considered unreliable for reuse options such as the urban and agricultural irrigation projects. The people using this recycled water — farmers and other irrigators — need to know the water will be available when they need it and not subject to

changes in the weather.

The next steps in the process are for the City to continue scientific and engineering studies and prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to evaluate alternatives for either relocating the discharge point of recycled water or upgrading to advanced treatment methods that could potentially allow for continued discharge into the Laguna. A draft of the EIR is expected to be completed in the Spring or early Summer of 2007. For more information, visit the City's website at: www.SRCity.org/DischargeCompliance



Conserve, Recycle, Reuse
SANTA ROSA SUBREGIONAL WATER REUSE SYSTEM

"New Water Rate Structure" continued...

any questions or to provide additional information on the tiered water rate structure. In addition, the Water Conservation Program offers many programs and incentives that may assist you in reducing your water use. To help reduce indoor water use, the Water Conservation program provides free low flow showerheads and faucet aerators, and provides rebates for replacing your washing machine with qualifying high efficiency washing machines. To improve your water use efficiency outdoors, the Water Conservation Program provides free shut off hose nozzles, Water Wise Gardening CD's that provide information on low water use plants, and provides weekly lawn watering information through our Turf Time line, (707) 543-3466 or on our website at www.SRCity.org/WC.

The Water Conservation Program also provides free Home Audit Kits, which assist customers in identifying and eliminating water waste and improving water use efficiency, and free Residential "Check-Ups," where expert staff will come to your home, review your current water uses, and make recommendations for improving your water use efficiency.

For questions or additional information, please call the Water Conservation Program at 707-543-3985 or the Utility Billing Division at 707-543-3150. Additional information on the tiered water rate structure and water conservation incentives is also available on the City's website at www.SRCity.org/WC.

Web Resources

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

Discharge Compliance:

www.SRCity.org/DischargeCompliance

Urban Reuse:

www.SRCity.org/UrbanReuse

Recycled Water:

www.SRCity.org/RecycledWater

Water Conservation: www.SRCity.org/WC

Incremental Recycled Water Program (IRWP):

www.SRCity.org/IRWP