

Incremental Recycled Water Program (IRWP) Update

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Geysers Expansion Project - In August, the Board of Public Utilities (BPU) and the Santa Rosa City Council approved a Geysers Expansion Project to carry out a portion of the IRWP Master Plan, and on September 11th the bankruptcy judge for Calpine Corporation, the steamfield operator, accepted the amendment to the agreement between the City and Calpine. The Geysers Expansion Project increases recycled water deliveries to the Geysers steamfield from an average of 11 million gallons per day (mgd) to as much as 19.8 mgd. The agreement will go into effect immediately, but deliveries of recycled water to the Geysers will grow over time. When complete, the new Geysers Expansion Project is estimated to increase energy output by 68 MW - enough energy to support an additional 68,000 households in the North Bay - with virtually no greenhouse gas emissions.

Increased pumping to The Geysers immediately reduces the amount of effluent the City discharges into the Laguna by 70 percent in an average year and to zero discharge in dry years, and puts the City in a position of recycling 95 percent of its wastewater. This helps the City meet stricter State discharge standards, and reduces the likelihood that the City would need to relocate its main discharge location to the Russian River or build additional storage reservoirs for other disposal options.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) studies for discharge, including possible relocation to the River, and additional storage will be continued, but with adjustments made for lower discharge volumes. This is necessary because the Regional Water Quality Control Board regulatory process, when complete, could still require discharge relocation. New schedules for these EIRs are noted below.

Discharge Compliance Project (DCP)

The Discharge Compliance Project Engineering Report will be available in November and the Draft EIR in December 2007. The Draft EIR public hearing for this project is scheduled for January 2008. Consideration of approval of the project would occur in Summer 2008.

Seasonal Storage Project (SSP)

The Seasonal Storage Project Engineering Report is scheduled to be available in December and the Draft EIR January, 2008. The Draft EIR public hearing for this project is scheduled for February 2008. Consideration of approval of the project would occur in Summer 2008.

On October 4, 2008, the BPU discussed the storage pond sites at West College (WC1&2) and at Alexander Valley Road (AVR1&2) and determined that due to geotechnical issues, these sites are not feasible for the City to pursue, and therefore these alternatives have been eliminated from the EIR.

Santa Rosa Urban Reuse Project (SRURP)

The BPU and Council recently approved the Santa Rosa Urban Recycled Water Ordinance, the Utilities Guide to Water, Wastewater and Recycled Water Policy, and made the existing demand fee applicable to recycled water service. This action establishes the City's authority to implement and regulate additional urban reuse to help preserve potable water supplies and to strictly control runoff and overspray. This sets the stage for the City to consider approving the first phase of a Santa Rosa Urban Reuse Project in the coming months. The CEQA Checklist, which provides project-level evaluation of the first phase, tiering off the IRWP Program EIR, is scheduled to be available in November.

Related study sessions and meetings of the BPU and City council regarding this matter, will be announced shortly.

Water Conservation

The City of Santa Rosa Water Conservation Program would like to thank the community for responding to the request to reduce water use this summer to help preserve water supply for the endangered salmonid species in the Russian River. Due to your efforts to eliminate water waste and improve water use efficiency, water use per connection in Santa Rosa has been reduced by over 11% in June, over 10% in July, and over 13% in August when compared with 2004 water use. For additional information on how to continue improving water use efficiency and eliminating water waste, please call the City's Water Conservation hotline at 707-543-3985 or visit www.SRCity.org/WC <<http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/default.aspx?PageId=2308>>.

Additional information is available at: IRWP

<<http://www.recycledwaterprogram.com/>>

(<http://www.SRCity.org/IRWP>).

If you know others who would like to receive periodic e-mail updates on the Incremental Recycled Water Program, please have them send an e-mail request

to: SRrecycledwater@DataInstincts.com.



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