



Using water the smart way

It's no secret that California's limited water supply is becoming more and more precious as our need for water continues to grow. Fortunately, many communities in California are now using recycled water to help reduce the demand on our valuable drinking water supply.

At the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Elk Grove, where 165 million gallons of wastewater per day is treated before being discharged to the Sacramento River, a new water recycling plant now treats, filters and disinfects — in a word, *recycles* — up to five million gallons of water per day to make it safe and suitable for non-potable uses such as landscape irrigation.

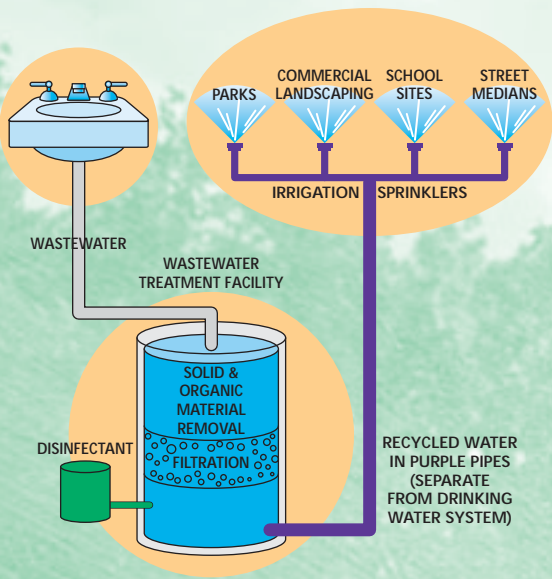
This Water Recycling Program is a partnership between the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (SRCSD) and the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA). SRCSD operates the recycled water facility and provides the recycled water to SCWA, which then distributes the water to a variety of commercial and public agency customers.



Water Recycling Program
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SACRAMENTO REGIONAL COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT
AND SACRAMENTO COUNTY WATER AGENCY

RECYCLED WATER BENEFITS YOUR COMMUNITY!



How it works

Wastewater leaves your home through sewer pipes and ends up at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, where it undergoes several steps of treatment. First, primary treatment removes solids and organic materials. Then, during secondary treatment, wastewater enters oxygen reactor tanks, where naturally occurring microorganisms consume dissolved organics and are removed. For the finishing touch, chlorine is added to destroy any remaining harmful organisms. Sulfur dioxide, which neutralizes the chlorine, is then added before the wastewater is discharged to the Sacramento River.

During the water recycling process, some of the treated wastewater is sent through a separate, highly specialized filtration system to produce water that is suitable for irrigation purposes.

"The water recycling program is ideal because more than ever, I see students today as being community involved and environmentally concerned. We teach them about the importance of water conservation, but we must also put this into practice."
 Kathleen Howell,
 Teacher and Elk Grove Resident

FAST FACTS

- Recycled water is the fastest growing water supply in California.
- The San Francisco 49ers' practice field in Santa Clara, E&J Gallo Winery's vineyards and the Pebble Beach and Spyglass golf courses all utilize recycled water for irrigation.
- The City of Roseville's Sun City development, Rancho Murieta and Serrano in El Dorado Hills are just a few of the local communities that use recycled water.
- Throughout California, many school districts have recognized the value of recycled water, using it to irrigate landscapes. This includes districts in San Jose, Irvine Ranch, El Segundo, Whittier City and Hawthorne.

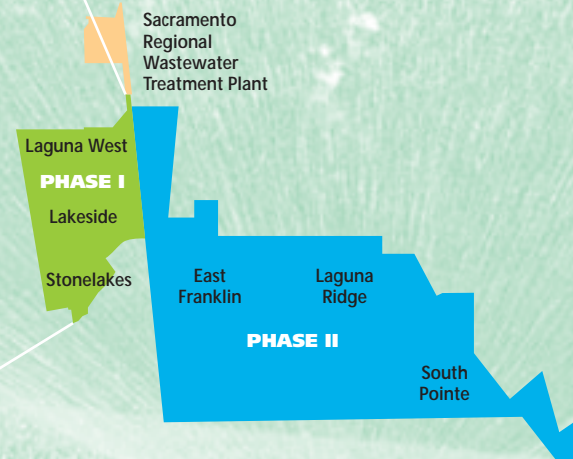


Where it goes

Recycled water is distributed in the Elk Grove/Laguna area through a special system of purple pipes, which are completely separate from the area's drinking water system. Recycled water is currently used to irrigate schools, parks, street medians, commercial landscaping and sports fields in the Laguna West, Lakeside and Stonelakes developments. Plans are also in the works to use recycled water in the East Franklin, Laguna Ridge and South Pointe developments.

Recycled water is a valuable alternative water supply source for the rapidly growing Elk Grove/Laguna area, which relies heavily on a limited groundwater supply. With population on the rise, it is estimated that annual water demands will increase from 14,000 acre-feet today to 81,000 acre-feet by 2030.

Groundwater and surface water (e.g., river water) will continue to be the primary sources of water for the Elk Grove/Laguna community, but using recycled water for non-drinking purposes will help us conserve and extend our precious drinking water supply.



"Our rivers make Sacramento a special place to live. Recycling water now means more than just providing enough water for our future. It's also an important step towards our children having healthy, living rivers to enjoy."
 Betsy Reifsnider, Friends of the River

Why it's safe

Recycled water is clean, clear and safe! In fact, no health-related incidents have ever been linked to the use of recycled water.

In California, the production, conveyance and use of recycled water is carefully regulated by the California Department of Health Services and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. California's regulations are some of the most stringent in the world.

Locally, Sacramento County's Environmental Management Division and Department of Health and Human Services ensure high quality treatment of our recycled water.

For more information

To learn more about water recycling, please call (916) 876-6018 or visit our Web site at www.purplepipes.com.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are more than 300 water recycling systems currently operating in California.
- California's first water recycling project began in 1929 when the City of Pomona began providing treated wastewater from its municipal sewage treatment plant for landscape irrigation.
- The first plant built solely for recycling and reuse was constructed in 1932 in San Francisco.
- The Irvine Ranch Water District in Orange County has been recycling water for nearly 30 years and currently supplies recycled water to high-rise office buildings for use in toilets and urinals.

