Winter 2009

Harding Park Recycled Water Project

Water System Improvement Program

San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

SFPUC proposes to use recycled water to irrigate Harding Park and Fleming Golf Courses.

Benefits of Water Recycling

San Francisco residents enjoy some of the nation's highest-quality drinking water. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's (SFPUC) Regional Water System delivers pristine Sierra snowmelt from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, and water from protected local reservoirs, directly to our customers' taps. To supplement our primary supplies and ensure reliable, high-quality drinking water in the event of a major earthquake, drought, or decline in the snow pack, the SFPUC is planning to diversify San Francisco's water supplies and increase the use of available local water sources such as recycled water and groundwater.

Why Recycled Water?

Water is too precious a resource to use just once. Recycled water offers a new water source for non-drinking purposes in San Francisco. Developing recycled water for non-potable uses will help ensure that our water supply portfolio is managed to provide a reliable high-quality supply for public drinking water. Currently, drinking water is used to irrigate Harding Park and Fleming Golf Courses. The SFPUC proposes to replace drinking water with recycled water for irrigation.

In addition to preserving drinking water for potable demands, recycled water also provides a drought-resistant water source, increases the Regional Water System's reliability and reduces wastewater discharges to the Pacific Ocean.

Source of Recycled Water

In 2003, the North San Mateo County Sanitation District (NSMCSD), located in Daly City, constructed facilities at its wastewater treatment plant to produce recycled water. The plant has the capacity, and the permits required for the production of approximately 2.8 million gallons per day of recycled water. Several customers served from this facility use recycled water for irrigation, including the San Francisco, Olympic, and Lake Merced Golf Clubs. Currently, the recycled water customers use less than 1.0 million gallons of recycled water per day on average. As a result, NSMCSD has recycled water available to irrigate Harding Park and Fleming Golf Courses, while still meeting the needs for its current recycled water customers.

Harding Park Recycled Water Project

The Harding Park Recycled Water Project will use available recycled water from NSMCSD to irrigate Harding Park and Fleming Golf Courses. The project will include construction of the following facilities:

- 700,000 gallon underground recycled water storage tank at the Harding Park Maintenance Yard
- 4,800 feet of 18-inch diameter pipe along Lake Merced Boulevard
- Irrigation system supply pumps and controls at the Harding Park Maintenance Yard
- Back-up connection to the SFPUC's potable water distribution system

This map shows the Harding Park Recycled Water Project pipeline alignment for the distribution of recycled water, the location of the NSMCSD treatment facility, and recycled water storage and pumping facilities.

Irrigation with Recycled Water

Irrigating with recycled water generally does not require significant changes to landscaping. Recycled water can play a major role in the successful management of turf grasses. Many golf courses in California are currently using recycled water. Because recycled water is produced from municipal wastewater, the large volumes of water needed to maintain adequate turf growth are readily available even during periods of water shortage.

California has been safely using treated recycled water since 1929. There has not been one confirmed case of anyone becoming ill from the proper use of recycled water for landscape irrigation, commercial, municipal or industrial uses. Public health experts, pediatricians and leaders in the medical community agree that recycled water used properly is safe. The California Department of Public Health, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, carefully regulate the treatment and use of recycled water, as well as the prevention of runoff, and cross connections between drinking water and recycled water systems. These agencies create and enforce some of the strictest water quality regulations in the world.

Key Project Steps

Environmental Review: 2008 to 2009

Design: 2008 to 2010

Construction: 2010 to 2011

All dates subject to change.

SFPUC Water Wastewater Power

Hetch Hetchy Water System Improvement Program

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