



Recycled water is used in water features and the irrigation system of the Evergreen Community College campus in south San José.

# South Bay Water Recycling Program

700 Los Esteros Road, San José, CA 95134



In the South Bay, recycled water is a locally sustainable and established component of the non-potable water supply. With pipeline in the cities of San José, Santa Clara, and Milpitas, South Bay Water Recycling (SBWR) is the largest of four recycled water systems in Santa Clara County. The other systems are associated with the wastewater treatment facilities in Sunnyvale, Gilroy/Morgan Hill, and Palo Alto/Mountain View.

## CUSTOMERS, RETAILERS & SERVICE AREA

- Number of customers: ~ 750  
Includes Levi's Stadium, Great America, McCarthy Ranch Shopping Center, Evergreen College, Guadalupe Gardens, Intel, and San José City Hall
- SBWR is a recycled water wholesaler to San Jose Water Company, San José Municipal Water, City of Santa Clara, and City of Milpitas; customers buy recycled water from the water retailer for their location

## SYSTEM

SBWR comprises a north-south artery across San José and an east-west artery from mid-Milpitas down through the eastern side of Santa Clara. These main arteries feed extension pipelines to reach various customers. The system includes:

- 140 miles of pipeline and growing
- 5 pump stations
- 3 above-ground storage reservoirs that together have a storage capacity of 9.5 million gallons

## PRIMARY USES OF SBWR RECYCLED WATER

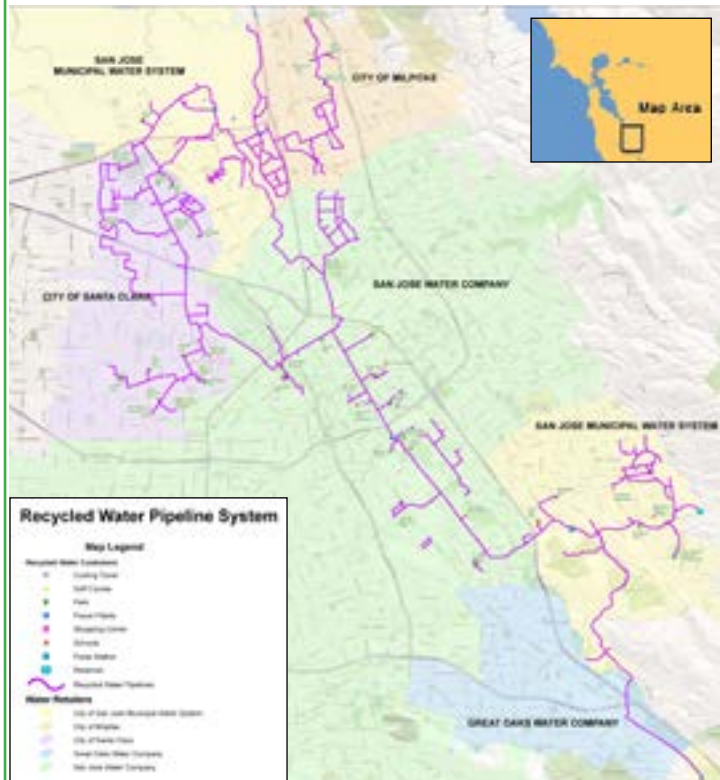
- Irrigation at public parks, theme parks, golf courses, street medians, business landscaping, and college campuses
- Industrial cooling towers and 4 power plants
- Toilet/urinal flushing in dual-plumbed commercial and municipal buildings

mgd = million gallons per day

## RECYCLED WATER SOURCE

- SBWR main pump station is adjacent to the San José-Santa Clara Regional Wastewater Facility (RWF), which manages the SBWR program
- RWF produces an average 110 mgd of high quality, tertiary-treated water; roughly 13% flows to SBWR, remainder discharges into the Bay
- As of March 2014, SBWR blends RWF tertiary water with water from Silicon Valley Advanced Water Purification Center, operated by the Santa Clara Valley Water District

over



**Environmental Services** Delivering world class utility services and programs to improve our health, environment, and economy  
[www.sjenvironment.org](http://www.sjenvironment.org) Main: 408-535-8550

**Media Contact**  
 Jennie Loft, Public Information Manager  
[jennie.loft@sanjoseca.gov](mailto:jennie.loft@sanjoseca.gov)  
 408-535-8554

## DELIVERY VOLUME & GREEN VISION

SBWR deliveries have grown:

- 2012: SBWR delivered an average 10.3 mgd to ~690 customers
- 2014: SBWR delivers average 14 mgd to ~750 customers  
With an average home of 4 people using 400 gallons per day, the rate of 14 mgd offsets enough drinking water to supply ~ 35,000 homes daily
- Production since inception in 1998: 43.9 billion gallons  
Equivalent to the water use of ~ 217,000 homes in one year
- San José's **Green Vision**, a plan for a sustainable San José, includes a goal to recycle or beneficially use 100% of our wastewater and targets 40 mgd of recycled water use by 2022

## REGULATIONS & WATER QUALITY MONITORING

- Regional Water Quality Control Board regulates and monitors the safe use of recycled water under Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations; the Board also reviews building plans to ensure that recycled water and drinking water pipes and systems do not mix
- Title 22 outlines bacteriological water quality standards for the expected degree of public contact with recycled water; if public contact is anticipated, disinfected tertiary treatment is required, such as provided by SBWR
- RWF laboratory, a state-of-the-art water quality lab, tests SBWR recycled water regularly to ensure its safety; SBWR frequently surpasses requirements for recycled water quality

## ROLE OF SILICON VALLEY ADVANCED WATER PURIFICATION CENTER (SVAWPC)

- Santa Clara Valley Water District opened SVAWPC in March 2014 as a demonstration project to advance recycled water as a drought-proof component of our water supply
- 8 mgd capacity
- Receives secondary-treated wastewater from RWF and uses microfiltration, reverse osmosis, and ultra-violet disinfection to fully purify the water
- At SBWR main pump station, SVAWPC purified water blends with RWF tertiary water, thus reducing its salt content
- SBWR provides water that ranks among the highest quality recycled water in California

SBWR main pump station



recycled water signage



Great America irrigates with recycled water

## INVESTMENT & RATE SETTING

- SBWR reflects a ~\$250 million investment to date; US Bureau of Reclamation is reimbursing SBWR for 25% of this investment
- Santa Clara Valley Water District has contributed several million dollars to SBWR
- San Jose Water Company is constructing new extensions to the system at their own cost, and paying a \$2 million capacity fee to ensure system reliability
- SBWR sets the wholesale recycled water rate to water retailers, who in turn set rates for their respective customers

## CONTACTS

### SBWR

**City of San José Environmental Services Dept.**  
Media contact: Jennie Loft (408) 535-8554

### RECYCLED WATER RETAILERS

#### City of Milpitas Water & Sewer

Public Works Department  
1265 North Milpitas Boulevard, Milpitas, CA 95035  
Phone: (408) 586-2600 [www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov](http://www.ci.milpitas.ca.gov)

#### City of Santa Clara Water & Sewer Utility

1500 Warbutron Avenue, Santa Clara, CA 95050  
Phone: (408) 615-2000 [www.santaclaraca.gov](http://www.santaclaraca.gov)

#### San Jose Municipal Water System - Recycled Water

Engineering & Operations  
3035 Tuers Rd., San José, CA 95121  
Phone: (408) 535-3500 [www.sanjoseca.gov](http://www.sanjoseca.gov)

#### San Jose Water Company

110 W. Taylor St., San José, CA 95110  
Phone: (408) 279-7900 [www.sjwater.com](http://www.sjwater.com)