

CONNECTIONS

Recycled Water Project Update

Redwood City Recycled Water Project

August 2005

SBSA Construction Update

Construction at the South Bayside System Authority Treatment Plant (SBSA) is moving along right on schedule. The concrete pile driving activity will be completed during the week of August 1st. During the week of August 8 through August 19, the steel sheet pile driving operation will return to complete the remainder of the job using a vibratory hammer. This hammer produces a vibratory noise, which is most noticeable at the beginning of the drive when the entire 65 foot sheet is out of the ground. As the sheet continues into the ground, the sound becomes muffled. It is a loud sound at first, but it becomes less intrusive fairly quickly. Sheet pile driving is expected to last a couple of weeks. Don't forget that you can watch the construction of the facility from your own computer at www.redwoodcity.org/publicworks/water/recycling/webcam.html.



Bird Monitoring at the SBSA Work Site

Since the beginning of construction this year, a wildlife ecologist has been studying bird behavior at the South Bayside System Authority water treatment plant to ensure that on-site construction will have minimal impact on the surrounding wildlife. The species being monitored include the Black Skimmer, Caspian Terns, and Forster's Terns. It has been noticed that Forster's Terns have thrived, with over 50 tern chicks on the island. New nests

have been initiated in the past week, and pipeline construction is expected to wait for the young birds to mature enough to fly. A single Black Skimmer and several Caspian Terns continue to frequent the islands in the pond, and bird nesting and behavior monitoring will continue throughout construction of the recycled water facilities at SBSA.

Another reason for the bird monitoring has been to assess the most opportune time to begin construction within the pond. As part of the SBSA construction process, the northern third of the pond will need to be drained. A temporary berm or "Aquadam" has been put in place to maintain water in the remaining two-thirds of the pond. The "Aquadam" is basically a 600 foot long linear tube that is filled with water creating a 5 foot wide by 30 inch high dam across the pond. This barrier will allow for construction work needed to cross the pond from the new storage facilities to Radio Road. After the work is completed, the northerly section will be refilled with water. Work crews have been briefed on procedures to protect the birds in the work area through out this effort.

The date for draining the northerly pond section has not been determined yet but is likely to begin within the next two weeks. Once started, the dewatering will take several days to complete. Construction in this area could begin by mid August and end sometime in May of 2006. Construction will begin after the nesting season is over for resident birds, giving way for their migration and ensuring the construction will not affect surrounding wildlife. Further, as part of the construction, additional island nesting habitat will be created, ensuring the future success of the bird population. We will keep you updated on this activity as it evolves.

Keep Your Water Use and Your Water Bill Low!

Water rates have increased as of the first of July. To save money this summer and in the future, be sure to visit <http://www.redwoodcity.org/water> and click on Water Conservation or call Manny Rosas at (650) 780-7436. It is important to ensure your landscape contractor is using best management practices to keep your water bill as low as it can be and, more importantly, to conserve water.

Protecting Your Drinking Water Pipes

You may see some city work crews on the street in the Redwood Shores area. In order to protect our drinking water pipes, Redwood City will be performing maintenance on the piping system to further protect and extend the longevity of these pipes. Although most pipes in Redwood Shores were constructed with an advanced corrosion protection system, those that were not designed with proper corrosion protection will require maintenance to ensure that our existing piping infrastructure remains dependable and safe. The maintenance of these existing pipes is not associated with Redwood City's Recycled Water Project or SBSA facilities construction.



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