

# CONNECTIONS

## *Recycled Water Project Update*

Redwood City Recycled Water Project

June 2005

### **Construction Update**

Pile delivery and pile driving activities are scheduled to resume by mid June at the SBSA Construction Site. As a reminder, hours for pile driving are from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. While the concrete piles are being delivered, the north end of Shore Dogs Park will be closed as a safety precaution. The rest of the park will remain accessible. For your family's safety, please ensure that you and your pets remain on the south side of the temporary fence that has been installed.

### **Council Approves New Rates for Recycled Water Customers**

The Redwood City Council passed a resolution on May 23rd for the pricing of recycled water available from the Recycled Water Project. This resolution includes significant discounts for users who convert to recycled water for landscape irrigation and industrial uses.

A twenty-five percent (25%) discount from the prevailing drinking water rates will be given for existing irrigation meters/accounts that connect to recycled water. This decrease will be seen on the utility bill for the first billing period following the connection to the Recycled Water Project. The City will perform and pay for customer site retrofits related to landscape irrigation.

For existing industrial meters/accounts that connect to recycled water, a forty percent (40%) discount on monthly bills will be applied under the same provisions above, with the exception that the customers will pay for and implement all facility retrofits for industrial uses. These customers usually prefer to set up their own systems since they have the greatest knowledge of their existing operations. In return, the City will assist them with design and regulatory permitting, and ensure that the use of recycled water will be both reliable and cost-effective.

Both savings discounts will be active for five (5) years from the date of connection for each meter/account and should encourage commercial and industrial users to participate. Since connecting potential customers is much easier and less expensive

during the time of pipeline construction, the discount will act as an incentive to gain commitment and make the connection process more convenient and efficient. Customers may also be inconvenienced during the construction and connection process, and the City wants to provide a means of long-term appreciation for the short-term inconvenience. Once connected, recycled water customers will need to manage their sites to ensure that recycled water use provisions are being met. Examples include personnel training, system monitoring, and annual system audits in coordination with the City.

### **Community Members Contribute Ideas during Water Rate Workshops**

On April 21, 2005, a Community Roundtable on water rates was held to illicit community input on how best to implement the Council's intent to raise water rates and to consider several approaches that would be the most equitable and appropriate for each group of users. Three different approaches were presented and discussed. The comments and suggestions provided were subsequently considered and fine tuned by the Council's Utilities Committee as they created a final recommendation for the consideration of the full Council. A careful balance between encouraging more water conservation, the effect on lifeline customers, and the idea of "the more you use, the more you pay" were achieved in response to the Community Roundtable Workshop, and these themes are expressed in the proposed rate structure. The final proposal results in a 3.8% increase to be applied to the residential monthly basic service charge, with increases at each tier of the rate structure for both residential and commercial use. The recommended water rate increase will be considered by the City Council on June 6th. If the Council approves the recommendation, new rates will go into effect July 1, 2005.

These proposed increases are consistent with the City's long-range Water Financing Plan, which lays out a steady and predictable rate-setting strategy to deal with increasing costs to sustain the City's aggressive water

conservation program and to fund the recycled water program. The Plan also addresses the expected tripling of wholesale water rates over the next decade from Redwood City's sole drinking water source, the San Francisco Hetch Hetchy regional water system.

### **Water Conservation – Free Toilet Replacement Program**

On Monday, May 23, 2005, the Redwood City Council approved a \$2.2 million agreement with the San Jose Water Conservation Corp. of Temecula, California to implement the Direct-Install Toilet Replacement Program. This program is a 3-year, full-service "direct-installation" program which offers Redwood City residents free high efficiency toilets, free installations with one-year warranty, and the free removal of the old toilet by a professional licensed plumbing contractor. Any existing Redwood City residential or commercial water customer is eligible who has an existing toilet that uses 3.5 gallons per flush (GPF) or more.

This effort is part of Redwood City's aggressive water conservation program, and is expected to save 100 million gallons of water annually once the project is fully implemented.

If you would like an application or additional information, please visit [www.redwoodcity.org/conservation](http://www.redwoodcity.org/conservation) or call the City's Water Conservation Hotline at (650) 780-7436 and an application form will be sent. An easy and convenient way to make your contribution to the water saving effort!



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