

## Water Storage Investment Program Quarterly Report

The Quarterly Report is intended to document applicants' progress toward complying with regulation section 6013 and receiving final WSIP funding, including any changes in the magnitude of public benefits that could affect cost allocation. Applicants must provide a summary level update of the project status for the requirements and milestones listed below. The template may be modified as necessary to effectively communicate information. If minimal activities occurred during a reporting period, the report can be condensed.

- Note any issues or concerns that have, will, or could affect milestones or requirements.
- Identify key issues, including legal issues such as lawsuits or injunctions related to the project, that need to be resolved.
- Discuss how the actual schedule is progressing in comparison to the schedule provided in the Initial Report or the last reported schedule.
- Update the project schedule as needed.
- Note any milestones or accomplishments that occurred since submittal of the prior Quarterly Report.

### **Project Information**

Project Name:

South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water, Groundwater Storage, and Conjunctive Use Program

Applicant Name:

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San)

Date:

October 22, 2019

Reporting Period:

Q3 2019

### **General Update and Key Issues**

Please provide a general update and describe any key issues that occurred during this reporting period. You may attach additional documents or pages if more space is needed:

General Update: Multiple aspects of the Administrative Program have begun to take shape, and several milestones have been completed over the course of Q3 2019.

- On July 20, 2019 Regional San submitted the final Feasibility Study to CWC, addressing all CWC comments.
- On September 10, 2019 the State Board Division of Water Rights approved Regional San's Wastewater Petition WW0092 for use of up to 50,000 AFY of recycled water for the South County Ag Program.
- The Program team hosted a program area tour for NGO and state legislative staff on September 24, 2019. Regional San provided an overview of the EchoWater project and the proposed South County Ag recycled water pipeline alignment and potential customer properties.
- The Program team hosted an open house at the Sacramento County Farm Bureau (SCFB) on July 18, 2019 to provide a program overview and answer landowner questions. In August, the Program team attended the SCFB's Agricultural Education Foundation Annual Dinner to continue developing relationships with landowners.

- Regional San continues to partner with SCFB for outreach providing advertisements and articles in the bi-monthly printed newsletter as well as the electronic news blasts. Regional San's South County Ag Program website has been updated and linked to these news blasts. Samples of outreach documents are being provided to the CWC as attachments to this report.
- On August 14, 2019, Regional San staff provided a Program update to the Regional San Board of Directors. The Board adopted the "The South County Ag Program Principles Related To Recycled Water Pricing, Program Incentives And Groundwater Accounting" which have been combined with a Program Overview and map to generate a 4-page outreach document that will be sent to Program Area parcels with the Letter of Intent and is also loaded on the South County Ag program website (<https://www.regionalsan.com/socoag>).
- The Program team is continuing to develop and execute a landowner outreach plan for recycled water customers and Eco Plan partnerships. During the reporting period, this included conducting additional agricultural site analyses to refine the projected demand in the Program Area and define the customer base moving forward and developing additional site-specific materials for customer engagement. Letter of Intent packages will be mailed out in Q4 to over 140 parcels requesting confirmation of interest in using recycled water and some site specific information on water use and agricultural practices to help inform future recycled water system design and service agreements. In-person follow-ups will take place to continue developing relationships with landowners and securing commitments for future recycled water use.
- The Program team continued work on the development of the Ecological Plan in support of the public benefit targets including identifying targeted parcels for Eco Plan partnerships and potential land use agreement tools.
- The Program team continues to coordinate benefits contracting with SWRCB and CDFW and anticipates additional meetings in Q4 with DFW as the Ecological Plan is further developed.
- The Program team continued work on the development of the Groundwater Accounting Framework and Conjunctive Use Project and continued engagement with the Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) and the Sacramento Groundwater Authority (SGA) including outreach with executive management and attendance at strategic planning and monthly meetings. The Program team has developed a draft groundwater accounting work plan and is initiating institutional framework development.
- Regional San has assigned staff to the Capital Program Management Office and is drafting the Request for Proposals for the Capital Program Management and Design contracts, anticipated to be solicited in Q4 2019 and executed in Q1 2020.
- The CEQA consultant has begun development of the CEQA documents including, biological surveys and air quality analyses. As shown in the attached schedule, four primary CEQA documents are anticipated to be completed between now and July 2020, ahead of the WSIP deadlines. CEQA work for the recycled water distribution system will be completed first and has achieved the most progress to date. Initial project descriptions for the other three documents have been drafted with additional CEQA work beginning in November 2019.
- The South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (SSHCP) and EIR/EIS were adopted October 29, 2018. On Wednesday, June 12, 2019, the USFWS signed the Incidental Take Permit. The SSHCP will streamline federal and state permitting processes for the South County Ag Program.

### **Items Required Prior to Scheduling a Final Award Hearing**

The following items must be provided prior to scheduling a hearing. As applicable, please describe the status, estimated completion date, and percent complete of:

#### **1. Contracts for non-public cost share:**

Status: N/A - complete. There is no cost share for non-public benefits of the South County Ag Program. At this time, Regional San is the only entity that will fund the non-public cost-share.

Estimated Completion Date: N/A

Percent Complete: N/A

## **2. Contracts for administration of public benefits:**

Status: Continued coordination with SWRCB and CDFW. Additional meetings anticipated in Q4 with DFW regarding Ecological Plan and benefit targets

Estimated Completion Date: TBD

Percent Complete: 0%

## **3. Completed feasibility studies:**

Status: Final feasibility study was submitted to CWC on July 20, 2019.

Estimated Completion Date: July 2019

Percent Complete: 100%

## **4. Final environmental documentation:**

Status: Programmatic and Main Transmission Line Final EIR - 100%

Four primary CEQA documents teirnig from the Programmatic EIR are anticipated to be completed between now and July 2020.

1. Laterals & On-farm Connections Project-Level environmental documentation - 50%
2. Ecological Program environmental documentation - 2%
3. Groundwater Conjunctive Use environmental documentation - 5%
4. Wintertime irrigation environmental documentation - 5%

Estimated Completion Date: July 2020

Percent Complete: 15%

## **5. All required federal, state, and local approvals, certifications, and agreements:**

Status: See attached list of permits and status

Estimated Completion Date: December 2021

Percent Complete: see attached

## **Items Required to Execute a Funding Agreement**

Please provide an update, as applicable, on the following documents, which are needed to execute a funding agreement for the project:

- Applicant's audited financial statements
- Final project costs, schedule, and scope of work
- Evidence of bilateral communications
- Limited waiver of sovereign immunity (see regulations section 6013(f)(8))

Updates to information provided in the Initial Report or prior Quarterly Reports are only needed when a significant change has occurred. The Commission may request submittal of updated information prior to executing a funding agreement.

No significant change has occurred from previous reporting period.

- Audited Financial Statements: Regional San's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for 2018 Fiscal Year is available on our website. These reports are prepared annually and an independent auditor audits Regional

San's financial statements each year. A current audited financial statement will be provided prior to the execution of a funding agreement.

- Final Project Costs, Schedule, and Scope: No significant changes have occurred from the previous WSIP application and reporting periods. Updated schedule attached.
- Evidence of Bilateral Communications: N/A - no anticipated impacts to owners or operators of facilities.
- Limited Waiver of Sovereign Immunity: N/A - no known tribal lands in project area.

## **Status Update**

Provide a status update for the following, as applicable:

- Labor Compliance
- Urban Water Management Plans
- Agricultural Water Management Plans
- Groundwater Management or Groundwater Sustainability Plans
- Potential effect of other conditionally eligible projects on the applicant's public benefits

Updates to information provided in the Initial Report or prior Quarterly Reports are only needed when a significant change has occurred. The Commission may request submittal of updated information prior to executing a funding agreement.

No significant change has occurred from previous reporting period.

- Labor Compliance: Anticipated to be addressed in construction contracts (2020).
- Urban Water Management Plans: N/A - Regional San is not an urban water supplier.
- Agricultural Water Management Plans: N/A - currently groundwater. Although the South County Ag Program will supply recycled water to agricultural users, recycled water is exempt from Agricultural Water Management Plans.
- Groundwater Management or /Groundwater Sustainability Plans: The Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA) is the Groundwater Sustainability Agency in the South County Ag Program area. SCGA completed a South Basin Groundwater Management Plan that was finalized in October 2011. The South American Sub-basin Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) equivalent was submitted to DWR. DWR determined the equivalent not be recommended for approval by DWR on July 18, 2019. SCGA has responded to DWR to address its deficiencies and will be submitting its Groundwater Sustainability Plan by January 31, 2022.
- Other WSIP Applicant's Projects: N/A - there are no expected consequences of the South County Ag program on other WSIP applicant's public benefits

## Regional San – South County Ag Program: List of Permits for WSIP Quarterly Reporting

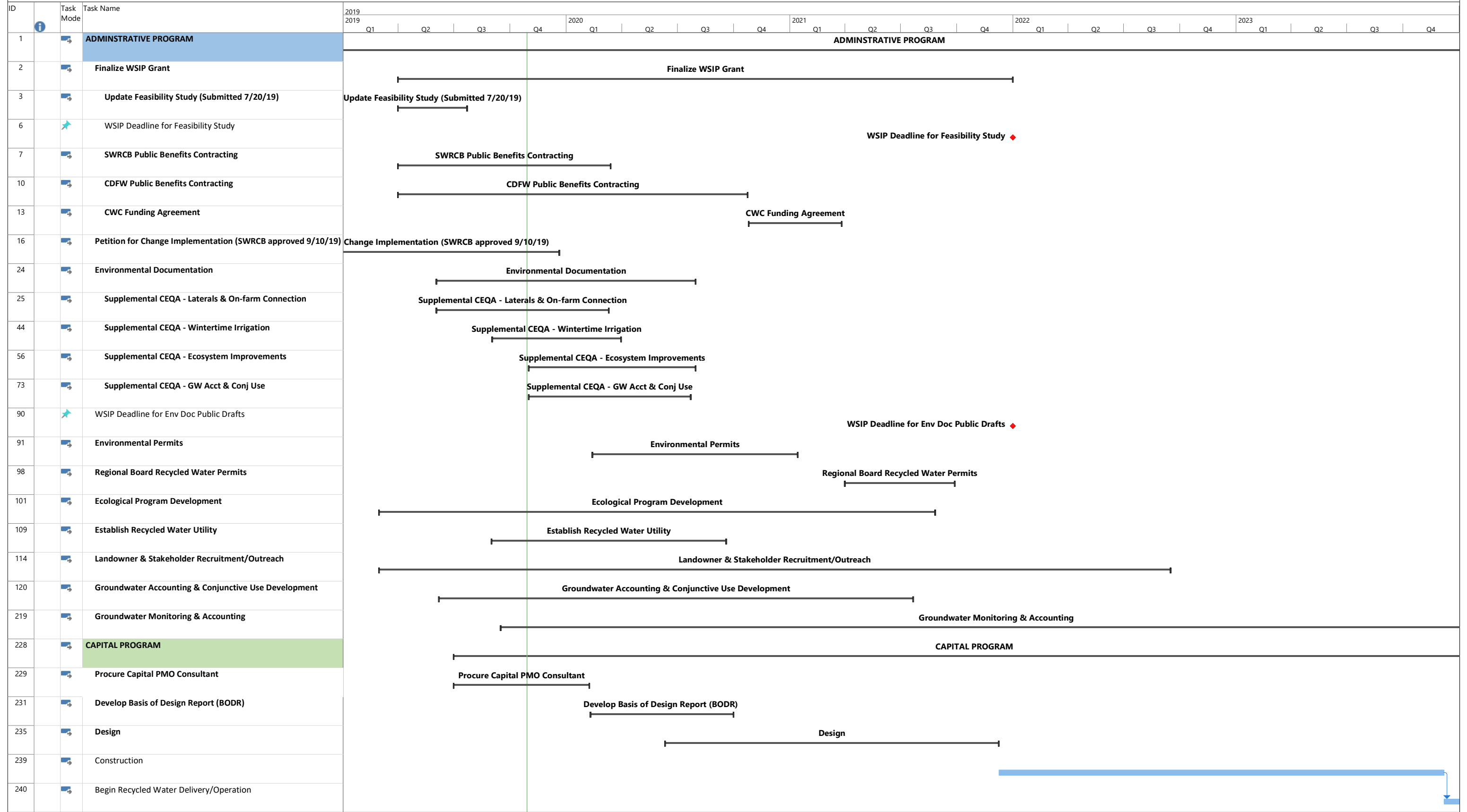
Permitting Agency	Permit	Estimated Completion Date <sup>3</sup>	Percent Complete %
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act, Section 404 Permit for any fill of wetlands or waters of the US	Quarter 4 2021	0%
U.S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) & National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service	Section 7 Consultation/Biological Opinions (for effects on Federally-listed species) <sup>1, 2</sup>	Quarter 4 2020	0% <sup>1</sup>
State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB)	Wastewater Change Petition for a change in the point of discharge, place of use, or purpose of use of treated water	Quarter 3 2019	100%
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)	Water Reclamation Requirements for Recycled Water Use (Statewide Recycled Water Permit, Order WQ 2016-0068-DWQ) (for operation of the recycled water distribution system)	Quarter 4 2020	0%
CVRWQCB	401 Water Quality Certification (required for 404 Permit)	Quarter 2 2021	0%
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)	Incidental Take Permit from California Department of Fish and Game (for effects on State-listed species) <sup>1</sup>	Quarter 4 2020	0% <sup>1</sup>
CDFW	Incidental Take Permit for California Endangered Species Act (CESA)	Quarter 4 2020	0% <sup>1</sup>
CDFW	Streambed Alteration Agreement (for pipeline crossings of creeks)	Quarter 4 2021	0%
California Office of Historic Preservation	Section 106 Consultation <sup>2</sup>	Quarter 4 2020	0%

<sup>1</sup>Note: The South Sacramento Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) has been adopted. Permits anticipated to be finalized by Q3, 2019. The HCP will be leveraged by Regional San to streamline biological-related permitting, including Section 7 consultation and Incidental Take permits.

<sup>2</sup>Note: Required only if a Federal nexus is established for the Program.

<sup>3</sup> Note: Best estimate of timing with currently known information.

South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water, Groundwater Storage, and Conjunctive Use Program  
Regional San



Project: Draft\_SoCoAg Schedule  
Date: Tue 10/29/19

Task		Summary		Inactive Milestone		Duration-only		Start-only		External Milestone		Manual Progress	
Split		Project Summary		Inactive Summary		Manual Summary Rollup		Finish-only		Deadline			
Milestone		Inactive Task		Manual Task		Manual Summary		External Tasks		Progress			



**REGIONALSAN**

July 8, 2019

TAKING THE WASTE OUT OF WATER

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District

Dear Property Owner:

**Main Office**

10060 Goethe Road  
Sacramento, CA 95827-3553  
Tel: 916.876.6000  
Fax: 916.876.6160

**Treatment Plant**

8521 Laguna Station Road  
Elk Grove, CA 95758-9550  
Tel: 916.875.9000  
Fax: 916.875.9068

**Board of Directors**

Representing:

County of Sacramento

County of Yolo

City of Citrus Heights

City of Elk Grove

City of Folsom

City of Rancho Cordova

City of Sacramento

City of West Sacramento

Prabhakar Somavarapu

*District Engineer*

Ruben Robles

*Director of Operations*

Christoph Dobson

*Director of Policy & Planning*

David O'Toole

*Director of Internal Services*

Joseph Maestretti

*Chief Financial Officer*

Nicole Coleman

*Public Affairs Manager*

[www.regionalsan.com](http://www.regionalsan.com)

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San), which provides wastewater conveyance and treatment to over 1.4 million residents in the Sacramento region, is undertaking major treatment plant upgrades, known as the EchoWater Project, at its facility in Elk Grove. When completed in 2023, the EchoWater Project will have the capability to produce approximately 160,000 acre feet per year (AFY) of tertiary-treated recycled water. This high-quality recycled water can be used for unrestricted agricultural and municipal landscape irrigation. You are receiving this notice because you own property that may be eligible to receive tertiary-treated recycled water for irrigation.

In July 2018, Regional San was awarded \$280.5 million in state funding to support the planning and construction of the South County Agricultural and Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program (South County Ag Program) in southern Sacramento County. The funding is granted through the California Water Commission's Proposition 1 Water Storage Investment Program. The South County Ag Program was awarded the grant for the exceptional public benefits the program will bring to the region by delivering up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of tertiary-treated recycled water for agricultural irrigation and wildlife habitat. The enclosed Fact Sheet provides additional information.

Project planning is currently underway. You may notice increased activity in the area this summer. Program staff and contractors will be conducting surveys along public rights of way, identifying areas for the recycled water pipeline alignment, and taking photographs. The enclosed map indicates the locations of the public rights of way where contractors and surveyors will be active.

To provide additional information and answer questions about the program, Regional San will be hosting workshops and contacting potential irrigation customers over the next year. In fall of 2019, Regional San will reach out directly to potential irrigation customers to gauge their interest in receiving recycled water for irrigation.

To learn more, we encourage you to attend the upcoming Farm Bureau University Workshop on **July 18, 2019, at 6:00 p.m.** at the Sacramento County Farm Bureau office located at 8970 Elk Grove Boulevard in Elk Grove. South County Ag Program staff will host an informational session and answer your questions. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP by July 16, 2019 to Alexis Silveira at [alexis@sacfarmbureau.org](mailto:alexis@sacfarmbureau.org) or (916) 685-6985.

We look forward to seeing you there. If you are unable to attend, additional South County Ag Program information can be found online at [Regionalsan.com/SoCoAg](http://Regionalsan.com/SoCoAg) or by contacting Program staff at [southcountyag@sacsewer.com](mailto:southcountyag@sacsewer.com) or (916) 876-3322.



Thank you,

*Terrie Mitchell*  
*Manager of Legislative & Regulatory Affairs*



# South County Ag Program Public Rights of Way

## Legend

-  Public Right of Way
-  Proposed Recycled Water Service Area

Public Rights of Way are where program staff and contractors will be conducting surveys and taking photos.



Proposed Pump Station

Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant

Big Horn Blvd.

Franklin Blvd.

Elk Grove Blvd.

Whitlock Pkwy

Bruceville Rd.



Bilby Road

Hood Franklin Rd.

Kammerer Rd.

Core Rd.

Ed Rau Rd.

Rau Rd.

Eschinger Rd.

Kestrel Lake Rd.

Point Pleasant Rd.

Carroll Rd.

Korn Rd.

Point Pleasant Rd.

Bruceville Rd.

Lambert Rd.

Bruceville Rd.

Camp Rd.

Twin Cities Rd.

0 0.5 1 2 Miles





# Program Fact Sheet



## South Sacramento County Agricultural & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program

Regional San, in collaboration with regional stakeholders, is developing the South Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program (South County Ag Program). This program will offer multiple benefits, including providing a safe and reliable supply of tertiary-treated recycled water for agricultural uses, reducing groundwater pumping, supporting habitat restoration efforts, and providing near-term benefits to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The California Water Commission has awarded up to \$280.5 million in Proposition 1 grant funding through the Water Storage Investment Program to help make the South County Ag Program a reality for the Sacramento region. The funding was awarded based on the public benefits expected as a result of the Program.

### KEY BENEFITS

- Preserves working farmland
- Delivers up to 50,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water for agricultural irrigation and habitat conservation lands
- Reduces groundwater pumping to restore groundwater levels and increase groundwater storage capacity
- Improves Cosumnes River flows to support fall-run Chinook salmon
- Provides water quality and ecosystem benefits to the region



### WHY RECYCLED WATER? SAFE, RELIABLE, DROUGHT-RESILIENT

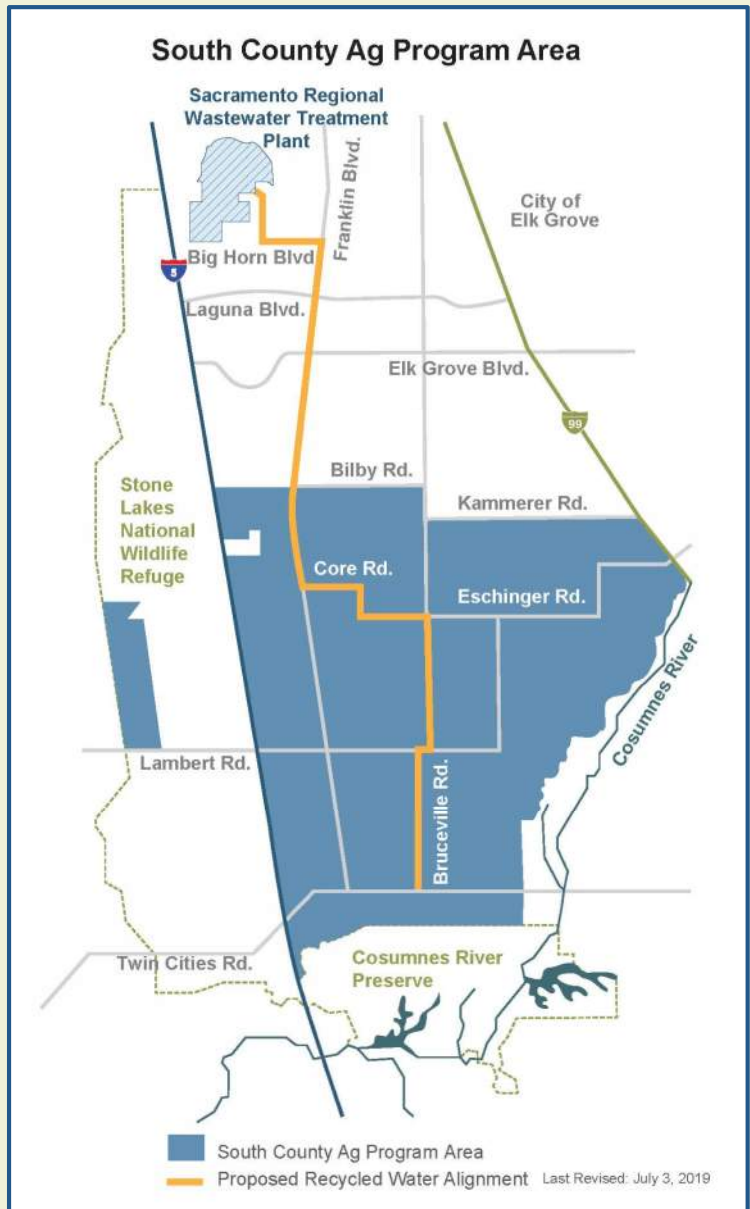
Recycled water is becoming increasingly necessary to preserve our limited water resources. Recycled water is “drought-resilient,” diversifying and increasing the reliability and sustainability of local water resources year-round. The tertiary-treated recycled water is high quality and is safe for agricultural irrigation purposes. The Program includes new recycled water transmission and distribution pipelines to deliver water from Regional San’s treatment facility in Elk Grove to irrigation systems in the Program area in southern Sacramento County.

## HELPS RESTORE GROUNDWATER LEVELS

In-lieu groundwater recharge refers to the use of recycled water by irrigators to offset a significant portion of local groundwater use. This in-lieu recharge is expected to raise groundwater levels up to 35 feet in the center of the Program area, and 20-30 feet in other parts of the groundwater basin — reversing a cone of depression that currently exists due to over-pumping of groundwater. Within 10 years, it is estimated that the Program will increase groundwater storage capacity by 245,000 acre-feet and as much as 450,000 acre-feet in approximately 40 years — about half the size of Folsom Lake.

## BENEFITS TO LOCAL WATER SUPPLY

The Program increases the reliability of our local water supply by introducing an additional source of water and offsetting overall demand on groundwater. Once the groundwater levels recover, and the basin is in sustainable balance, groundwater stored in the basin will be available on a limited basis to potential groundwater accounting partners, such as farmers and local municipalities to use in dry years instead of surface water. The Program adds local resiliency for periods of drought, while still maintaining the Key Benefits of restored groundwater levels.



## NEXT STEPS

Next steps include continuing planning efforts with interested local farmers and landowners and preliminary designs for distribution systems to convey recycled water to agricultural lands in southern Sacramento County.

2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Regional San will reach out directly to landowners and potential agricultural customers.	Recycled water delivery design finalized.	Recycled water service agreements finalized with interested landowners.	Ecosystem improvements initiated with interested landowners and resource managers.	Construction begins	Recycled water deliveries could begin

For more information about the South County Ag Program, please visit [regionalsan.com/SoCoAg](http://regionalsan.com/SoCoAg) or contact Regional San at [southcountyag@sacsewer.com](mailto:southcountyag@sacsewer.com) or (916) 876-3322.

Regional San South County Ag advertisement  
July Sacramento County Farm Bureau newsletter

## SOUTH COUNTY AG PROGRAM INFORMATION SESSION

*Recycled water for agricultural  
irrigation and wildlife*



**When:** July 18, 2019, at 6-8 p.m.

**Where:** Sacramento County Farm Bureau  
8970 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624

**RSVP:** Alexis at (916) 685-6958 or  
[alexis@sacfarmbureau.org](mailto:alexis@sacfarmbureau.org)



# BUSINESS MEMBER DIRECTORY

SUPPORT THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORT AGRICULTURE

## Agricultural Associations

California Association of Winegrape Growers  
Sacramento • (916) 379-8995

California Farmland Trust  
Elk Grove • (916) 687-3178

Dairy Council of California  
Sacramento • (916) 263-3560,  
(877) 324-7901

Lodi District Grape Growers Association  
Lodi • (209) 339-8246

## Agricultural Sales and Services

AgSeeds Unlimited  
Woodland • (530) 666-3361

Alforex Seeds  
Woodland • (530) 666-3331

Amistad Ranches  
Courtland

Beaver Land Leveling  
Isleton • (916) 417-0456

Blankinship & Associates, Inc.  
Agricultural & Environmental Science  
& Engineering  
Davis • (530) 757-0941

Bouldin Farming Company  
Orinda • (925) 516-7458

Galt Pipe Company  
Galt • (209) 745-2936

Harvey Lyman Company  
Walnut Grove • (916) 776-1744

J H Jonson and Sons Inc.  
Courtland • (916) 775-1877

LC Custom Hay Service  
Wilton • (916) 825-5130

Lopez Ag Service  
Sacramento • (916) 682-5450

MOSSADAMS  
Sacramento • (916) 503-8100

Nutrien Ag. Solutions  
Walnut Grove • (916) 776-1781

Roemer Pumpkin Patch  
Sacramento • (916) 381-4331

Safe Food Alliance  
Sacramento • (916) 561-5900

Sand & Gravel Inc  
Elk Grove • (916) 685-9774

SC Ranch LLC  
Rancho Murieta

Steamboat Acres  
Courtland • (916) 775-1166

Wilbur Ellis  
Elk Grove • (209) 481-4956

## Automotive

Bertolucci's Body & Fender  
Sacramento • (916) 454-4433

Future Ford of Sacramento  
Sacramento • (916) 349-3315

Lasher's Dodge  
Elk Grove • (916) 405-2600

Napa Auto - Farm & Auto Supply  
Galt • (209) 745-1533

Radial Tire of Elk Grove  
Elk Grove • (916) 686-6651

Maita Chevrolet  
Elk Grove • (916) 690-6430

## Banks & Financial Services

Agri-Business Financial, Inc  
Rocklin • (916) 624-5393

Farm Credit West  
Yuba City • (530) 671-1420

Farmers & Merchants Bank  
Lodi • (209) 367-2300

Five Star Bank  
Elk Grove • (916) 690-3437

## Energy & Solar

SMUD  
Sacramento • (916) 732-7088,  
1-888-456-SMUD Outage Report Line

## Feed & Supplies

Elk Grove Milling Co.  
Elk Grove • (916) 684-2056

Sheldon Feed & Supply  
Elk Grove • (916) 686-6400

## Food & Catering

L & M Blodgett Catering  
Manteca • (209) 484-0770

Spease Bees Honey Co., Inc.  
Elk Grove (916) 897-4100

Westwind Press (Olive Oil)  
Wilton • (916) 687-6784

## Fuel

Allied Propane Services  
Dixon • (707) 678-2821, (916) 919-3557

E.F. Kludt & Sons, Inc.  
Lodi • (209) 368-0634

Ferrellgas  
Elk Grove • (916) 685-4611, (866) 803-0543

InterState Oil Company  
Sacramento • (916) 640-0444, (916) 457-6572

Valley Pacific Petroleum  
Visalia • (800) 266-3782

## Insurance

Double Arrow Insurance Solutions  
Herald • (916) 508-4094

InterWest Insurance Service, LLC  
Sacramento • (916) 488-3100

Meyer & Cook Insurance Agency, LLC  
Walnut Grove • (916) 776-1751

Kelly Miller Insurance  
Loomis • (916) 652-3100

SSR Insurance Services Inc.  
Gold River • (916) 661-6996

Bender Insurance Solutions  
Roseville • (916) 380-5314

## Labor

Farm Employers Labor Service  
Sacramento • (800) 753-9073

## Landscaping

Big Oak Nursery  
Elk Grove • (916) 686-1180

Utterback Sod Farm  
Sacramento • (916) 363-1550

## Law

Best Best & Krieger, LLP  
Sacramento • (916) 325-4000

Cava & Faulkner  
Elk Grove • (916) 685-1225

Jones & Dyer APC  
Sacramento • (916) 552-5959

Law Offices of Robin C. Bevier  
Gold River • (916) 858-0904

## Other

Sacramento County Fair  
Sacramento • (916) 263-2975

Sacramento Rendering Company  
Sacramento • (800) 339-6493

## Real Estate

Joe Chima Farmland RE Broker  
Yuba City • (530) 632-4412

Petersen & Co Real Estate  
Lodi • (209) 368-8010

The Albiani Group - Gil Albiani  
Elk Grove • (916) 405-0330

United Country Great West RE  
Fair Oaks • (916) 955-3032

## Veterinary Services

Hunter Stallion Station  
Wilton • (916) 687-6870

## Water Services

Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District  
Sacramento • (916) 875-6059

Scotty's Well Drilling  
Wilton • (916) 508-5853



California is a national leader in water reuse, with a strong track record of recycled water milestones for agricultural irrigation uses.

Image by: Irvine Ranch Water District

# Recycled Water: An Alternative Source of Water for Agricultural Irrigation

The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San), in collaboration with regional stakeholders, is expanding the use of safe, reliable, tertiary-treated recycled water for agricultural irrigation to the southern Sacramento County region through its Sacramento County Agriculture & Habitat Lands Recycled Water Program (South County Ag Program). The South County Ag Program benefits from a long history of innovation and successful recycled water projects throughout the state. California is a national leader in water reuse, with a strong track record of recycled water milestones for agriculture. Agencies across the state have pioneered and improved treatment processes to deliver safe, reliable recycled water for agricultural purposes for more than 60 years. In 2015 alone, 31% of all recycled water produced in the state was used for agricultural irrigation, a total of approximately 291, 400 acre-feet<sup>1</sup>.

Agricultural communities have successfully received recycled water for irrigation across a variety of regions and cropping systems. The City of Santa Rosa has been irrigating 6,400 acres of vineyards, pasturelands, and urban landscapes with recycled water since the 1970s. The City of Watsonville and Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency recently celebrated 10 years of recycled water delivery to over 5,000 acres of strawberries and artichokes. The North Valley Regional Recycled Water Pro-

gram, a partnership between the cities of Modesto and Turlock and the Del Puerto Water District, delivers recycled water to San Joaquin Valley farms and wildlife refuges; and vineyards and pasturelands receive recycled water from the Napa Sanitation District.

The South County Ag has the potential to deliver up to 50,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water to irrigate more than 16,000 acres of permanent agricultural and conservation habitat lands near the Cosumnes River and Stone Lakes Wildlife Refuge. The recycled water delivery area will be located between I-5 and Highway 99 to the west and east and between Bilby & Kammerer roads to the north and Twin Cities road to the south. This recycled water will be used in-lieu of pumping groundwater, bringing robust water supply reliability to the region. Recycled water delivery is anticipated to begin in fall of 2023. Regional San has held information sessions with the Sacramento County Farm Bureau, sent informational materials to landowners in the program area and will soon be contacting landowners directly to gauge their interest in participating in the South County Ag Program. Learn more at regionalsan.org/socoag or by contacting Regional San at southcountyag@sacsewer.com or (916) 876-3322.

<sup>1</sup>Water Reuse California. California Water Reuse Action Plan. July 2019.

