

## **Cupertino, Sunnyvale: Apple campus and areas down Wolfe Road to get purple pipe for recycled water**

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Light construction has begun on a project that will bring recycled water to a portion of Sunnyvale, as well as the new Apple spaceship campus in Cupertino.

The Wolfe Road Recycled Water Facilities Project will see the installation of a 24-inch "purple pipe," designated for recycled water, on Wolfe Road from near Kifer Road all the way down to Homestead Road near Apple Campus 2. The company will use the water for landscaping, its cooling system and restroom facilities.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District is leading the project. In its entirety, the project will cost \$17.5 million, with funding coming from five different sources. The water district is contributing \$6.6 million, Apple is contributing \$4.8 million, the city of Sunnyvale is contributing \$2.1 million, California Water Service Company is contributing \$1.5 million and \$2.5 million comes through a grant from the California Department of Water Resources.

In addition to funding, Apple is doing a separate project that will bring the recycled water from the new pipe to the new campus. The cost for that project is unknown.

Senior project manager Debra Butler said construction officially began April 18 with the contractor performing "potholing," a method to determine and verify where existing utilities are in order to avoid interference during construction.

That process at press time was expected to take two weeks. More detailed construction will begin in mid to late May. During that time, traffic on Wolfe Road and at intersections will be affected.

"We've worked closely with the city of Sunnyvale's traffic department in preparing our design and coming up with traffic control to help move traffic around the construction," Butler said. "The detours that we've worked with the city on generally will be setting up cones to shift traffic lanes to one side or maybe on either side of the traffic. We've worked to always be able to keep one lane open in each direction."

Butler added that adjustments have been made to construction times to cater to morning and evening commutes.

"We know that in the northbound lane we need to keep all of the three lanes open until 10 a.m., and on the southbound the road has to be restored by 3:30 p.m.," she said. "At the end of the day when they've finished work, there will either be plates or temporary pavement over the road. Cones and signs will be picked up, and the street will be back to normal until the next day."

Bicycle lanes and some street parking will also be impacted, but Butler said detour routes are planned for bicyclists. They can also choose to share the road with vehicles.

The recycled water will be produced at Sunnyvale's Donald M. Somers Water Pollution Control Plant. The project will include expansion possibilities for surrounding areas as well.

"On Wolfe Road there's many parks and schools and there's a golf course, so there's a lot of potential future customers," said Kristen Yasukawa, a public information representative with the water district.

Yasukawa emphasized the importance of keeping the community involved with the project, whether it's related to traffic, construction or the benefits of recycled water.

"We are very in tune with the community," she said. "We want to make sure that everybody understands the project, the benefits, and what this really means for their community and how much of an exciting opportunity this is. We all know that the construction is going to be an inconvenience, but it's a temporary one for very long-term benefits."

Marty Grimes, program administrator for the water district, said Santa Clara County utilizes less than 10 percent of all wastewater, with the rest going into the San Francisco Bay. He cited Israel, which uses 85 percent of its wastewater for agriculture, as an example of a good system.

Construction should conclude in spring 2017, according to Butler.

"We've given the contractor a limited amount of time to get it completed," she said. "We anticipate that the main construction activity will take about 10 months. The final paving and miscellaneous cleaning might take another two months."

The project began its planning phase in 2012. Design work began in 2014 and concluded in November 2015. Construction bids were placed in January and a contractor was chosen in February.

To sign up for project updates and for more information, visit [valleywater.org/wolferoad](http://valleywater.org/wolferoad), or download the water district's information app at [valleywater.org/avwapp](http://valleywater.org/avwapp).

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