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## Dublin, San Ramon to boost use of recycled water

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POSTED: 11/20/14, 9:48 AM PS

Water recycling is expanding in a big way in the Tri-Valley to irrigate landscaping in parks, schools and a jail in Dublin, and Bishop Ranch Business Park and the new City Hall in San Ramon.

The state has awarded \$4 million in grants allowing two water districts to install 8.7 miles of large pipelines to deliver reclaimed sewage effluent to new territory. The water districts will pick up the other \$7.8 million cost for the new pipes.

The project will save as much fresh water as used by 1,935 typical Dublin families -- 282 million gallons a year or 867 acre-feet of water annually. Each extra gallon of recycled water used saves a gallon of fresh water -- a permanent reduction in dry or wet years.

"By expanding our recycled water system, we will be providing immediate drought relief," said Rhodora Biagtan, engineering services manager at the Dublin San Ramon Services District.

The Dublin San Ramon water system and the East Bay Municipal Utility District jointly received the grant to subsidize costs of the new pipes. Among the biggest recycled water recipients will be Bishop Ranch, where some 30,000 employees work in a network of offices surrounded by 175 acres of landscaped area -- some of it large expanses of lawn.

The project will allow the business park to use reclaimed water on the rest of the landscaping areas not already using it, said Alex Mehran Jr., president of Sunset Development, which manages the business park.

"We're excited about this project that makes us more sustainable," Mehran said.

In a related move, the business park is converting a large outdoor area to drought-resistant landscaping. Mehran said it's too early to say if the reclaimed water will be used in the business park's large ponds and fountains.

In Dublin, one new pipeline will pass under Interstate 680 and open the door for recycled water deliveries to west Dublin schools, parks, city streetscape landscaping, business parks and a fire station. Construction begins in December and is expected to be complete by January.

In central Dublin, another new pipeline will deliver water to six federal and county facilities, including Alameda County's Santa Rita Jail. Construction will begin in summer of 2015. Construction is expected to begin on the EBMUD pipeline to Bishop Ranch in 2015.

The two water agencies team up on recycled water projects in Dublin and the San Ramon Valley. Dublin San Ramon has the nearest available source of effluent from its sewage plant in Pleasanton just east of the junction of Interstates 680 and 580.

EBMUD serves Danville, Alamo, Blackhawk, Diablo and most of San Ramon. The Dublin San Ramon Services District gets more than 20 percent of its water supply from reclaimed water -- one of the highest rates in California.

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