

Officials Celebrate Recycled Water Extension in Western Dublin

The event took place at the City of Dublin's Shannon Park.

By Autumn Johnson (Patch National Staff)(<http://patch.com/users/autumn-johnson-a3d5026b>)

August 14, 2015 6:13 pm ET (<http://patch.com/article/25514236/edit>)



Caption: At an event Wednesday celebrating the installation of more recycled water pipelines, Dublin Vice Mayor Abe Gupta said that more than 80 percent of the water the city uses today for

Announcement, photo submitted by Dublin San Ramon Services District:

Earlier this week, the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) celebrated extending its purple pipeline network beyond Interstate 680 to bring recycled water irrigation into western Dublin. About 40 people attended a short ceremony, including elected officials and representatives of various agencies that have partnered with DSRSD to bring a drought-resistant water supply to the community.

The event took place at the City of Dublin's Shannon Park, with a construction crew busy in the background installing pipes that will deliver recycled water to irrigate the park's drought-parched lawns. By the end of the year, DSRSD will have installed 3.125 miles of new purple pipes on Dublin's west side and converted sprinklers at 35 large irrigation sites, including parks, schools, road medians, and multi-family and commercial

properties. The project will save 49 million gallons of drinking water every year, enough to serve about 865 Dublin homes, according to the DSRSD project manager, Senior Civil Engineer Steve Delight.

“Dublin is a model city in its use of recycled water for irrigation. They’ve been an indispensable partner from the beginning of this effort 20 years ago and share our vision of a more diverse and reliable water supply portfolio for the Tri-Valley,” said DSRSD General Manager Bert Michalczyk at the event.

Earlier this year, DSRSD installed pipelines in central Dublin to connect the Santa Rita Jail and other Alameda County properties to the recycled water distribution system. The District accelerated the timetable for both the central and western Dublin projects in 2014 in response to the region’s severe drought. A \$2 million grant from the California Department of Water Resources Integrated Regional Water Management Plan (IRWMP), funded through Proposition 84, is partially funding both projects, reducing the District’s cost to \$5.984 million.

Get free real-time news alerts from the **Dublin Patch**.

SUBSCRIBE

Speaking at the event, Dublin Vice Mayor Abe Gupta noted that more than 80 percent of the water used for the city’s municipal operations is recycled water, saving more than 150 million gallons of potable water annually. By the end of 2016, that number will grow to about 94 percent, reducing the city’s drinking water demand by 164 million gallons annually.

Tim Sbranti, deputy chief of staff for Congressman Eric Swalwell and a former Dublin mayor noted that Rep. Swalwell fully supports local efforts through the Water Policy Roundtable to explore next steps in water recycling, including using it as a source of drinking water. The Roundtable is an ad hoc committee of elected officials from the Tri-

Valley's cities and water utilities that is discussing an indirect potable reuse project using reverse osmosis technology to make the region's drinking water supply less dependent on imports from the State Water Project.

Other speakers included DSRSD Board Chair Ed Duarte, East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) Board Chair Frank Mellon, Alameda County Supervisor Scott Haggerty's Chief of Staff Dawn Argula, and Jayne Strommer, Government Affairs Manager for Delta Diablo, who spoke on behalf of the Western Recycled Water Coalition. The coalition is a collaboration among 25 cities, water and wastewater districts, and investor-owned utilities that works to increase federal and state funding for water recycling projects. Dublin City Councilmember Doreen Wehrenberg and DSRSD Directors Georgean Vonheeder-Leopold and Dawn Benson also attended the event.

DSRSD has partnered with EBMUD since 1995 to produce recycled water from wastewater through the San Ramon Valley Recycled Water Program. Between 1995 and 2006, the two agencies built a water recycling plant and distribution network of pipelines, pumping stations, and storage reservoirs, and they continue to connect new irrigation customers to the network every year. In 2014, the program produced 1.3 billion gallons of recycled water used by DSRSD, EBMUD, and Pleasanton water customers.