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More recycled water available

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By Marilyn Dubil (editor@morganhilltimes.com)

A South County water partnership will likely benefit from a water resources bill that would provide federal funding for seven Bay Area recycled water projects.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the bill on Tuesday. It has already passed the Senate and is expected to be signed by President Bush.

The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (S 2739) authorizes the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to participate in seven Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program projects. Under this bill, each project will receive 25 percent of the construction cost. Two Santa Clara Valley Water District partnered projects could receive an estimated \$15.25 million in federal funding.



"This project will allow us to increase the number of pipelines we have in the South County for recycled water," said Susan Siravo, spokeswoman for the Santa Clara Valley Water District. "For us to be able to supply South County with more recycled water, it is a good thing for the public because we don't have to rely on groundwater to water parks and golf courses and for industrial purposes. We think that's real positive. It will allow us to add 2,000 acre feet a year of new water. We'll be adding about 7.5 miles of distribution piping, a storage tank and pump station."

The local project the bill would fund is the South Santa Clara County Recycled Water Project, a joint effort between Valley Water and the South County Regional Wastewater Authority. This project would provide recycled water to golf courses, parks and industrial users within the City of Gilroy.

The seven water recycling projects are estimated to make 12,205 acre-feet of water available annually in the short term, and 37,600 acre-feet available annually in the long term.

Marilyn Dubil

Marilyn Dubil covered education and law enforcement for The Times.