

Cooperative Water Recycling Project Advancing

The Novato Sanitary District is working with the North Marin Water District on a joint project to provide recycled water to irrigate the Stone Tree Golf Course.

500,000 Gallons Recycled Each Day

The recycling project is expected to deliver up to 500,000 gallons a day of highly treated wastewater to irrigate the tees, fairways and greens at the golf course.

Funded By Golf Course

The project is being funded by the Stone Tree Golf Course, with the support of low-interest state financing.

New Environmentally Friendly Microturbine Cuts Electricity Use

A new microturbine recently installed in the Novato Treatment Plant reduces both air pollution and electricity use.

Burns Methane Gas

The unit generates electricity by burning the methane gas generated by the District's biological treatment process.

Benefits of Microturbine

The microturbine generates about 7.5 percent of the plant's electricity or about 30 kilowatts. It burns more efficiently and produces less air pollution than traditional generators. As an added benefit, waste heat from the microturbine is used to heat the biological digester, saving natural gas.

Reducing Energy Dependence

The microturbine reduces the District's energy dependence, resulting in a 7.5% saving on the District's electricity bill for

the treatment plant. Previously, the District cut electrical use by 200 kilowatts through energy conservation measures partially funded by the California Energy Commission.

Questions or Comments About the Treatment Plant Upgrade Project?

Call: 415-892-1694

Write: 500 Davidson Street/
Novato, Ca 94945

E-mail: manager@novatosan.com

Watch for more information in future newsletters and for a community forum to be announced for mid-November.

You Can Help Protect The Bay

Dispose of Hazardous Waste Properly

DON'T pour toxic substances down the drain or into storm drains

DO take them to a hazardous waste disposal center.

Novato Recycling Center
7576 Redwood Blvd.,
1st and 3rd Sunday &
Monday of each month.
10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
(415) 892-7344

***Appointment Needed**



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NOVATO SANITARY DISTRICT

FALL 2004

Time for Wastewater Treatment Plants to Be Upgraded

Will Provide Continued Public Health and Environmental Protection



Facilities Up to 50 Years Old

Our community's oldest treatment facilities were built in the 1950s. Even the newest facilities are at least 20 years old, and most range in age from 30 to 50 years. The District has stretched out the service of these facilities as long as possible, gaining every benefit from them.

Stricter Environmental Regulations

Today, the plants are nearing the end of their useful lives

and will be unable to meet increasingly strict environmental regulations. With rising maintenance costs and stricter environmental regulations, it is now time for a major upgrade.

Upgrade Also Needed to Meet Long Term Community Needs

The District must also provide for a small increase in wastewater that is expected with the conversion of existing septic tanks to sewer service, and the buildout of the City of Novato's General Plan.

Goal: Meet Community Needs at Lowest Reasonable Cost

Proposed upgrades would allow the District to comply with tougher current and future regulations, and meet the long term wastewater treatment needs of our community.



The Novato Treatment Plant (top) and Ignacio Plant (bottom) have been protecting public and environmental health around-the-clock for nearly one-half century. They underwent upgrades 20 years ago, but now it's time for a near total rebuild.

MAJOR TREATMENT PLANT REBUILD IS NEEDED

Detailed Environmental and Engineering Studies Underway

The existing wastewater treatment facilities have given the District effective and economical service for decades. However, the mechanical, structural, and electrical equipment are now old and can no longer meet discharge requirements. The equipment is expensive to maintain, the processes are energy inefficient and there is inadequate reliability and redundancy.



Existing wastewater treatment facilities have served well for decades, but are now worn, inefficient and can't meet requirements.

“By recycling treated wastewater to irrigate ponds and pasture lands, we support wildlife that use the ponds and also maintain a link to Novato’s agricultural past.”

*Beverly James,
Manager-Engineer*

Necessary Treatment Plant Improvements at a Glance

- Replace most 1950s and 1970s-era equipment
- Reuse 1980s era equipment where cost effective
- Upgrade treatment processes to meet water quality requirements
- Add backup equipment for redundancy
- Eliminate worker safety hazards
- Improve operational efficiency to decrease electrical power needs
- Add enough capacity to permit the transfer of remaining septic systems to District service, and to meet needs of final buildout called for in the City and County General Plans



Where Treated Wastewater Goes

Some to the Bay, Some to Wetlands and Pasture



Some Discharge Used for Wetlands Ponds and Pasture

During the summer, and often into the fall, the District discharges highly treated wastewater into storage ponds used to irrigate over 800 acres of pasture lands and wildlife refuges located north and south of Highway 37.

Treated wastewater from the District’s two plants is discharged during winter into San Pablo Bay, using an outfall pipeline adjacent to the former Hamilton Air Force Base.

Treatment Upgrade Alternatives

1. Consolidate all treatment at the Novato Treatment Plant. Convert the Ignacio plant to pump wastewater to the Novato Plant
2. Consolidate all treatment at the Ignacio Plant
3. Upgrade both plants

A detailed environmental and engineering analysis of the three alternatives is underway.

Pipeline Route Alternatives

If treatment is consolidated at either of the existing treatment sites, new pipelines will need to be constructed to transfer wastewater flows between the plants. There are four alternative routes for the potential pipelines, which are shown at right.

Rate Changes Expected in 2005

It is expected that the needed upgrades will require a substantial rate increase by mid-2005. Because rates are currently below average, they are expected to remain comparable with neighboring agencies, even after the rate increase. Early in 2005, when details of the project are better defined, rate options will be analyzed and presented to the public.

