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Directors of San Elijo JPA approve \$18.3M capital program

ENCINITAS—Directors of the San Elijo Joint Powers Authority approved a three-year, \$18.3 million program to improve stormwater capture, wastewater processing, and recycled water storage.

The upgrades include \$2.1 million for capturing and reusing stormwater at the agency's Water Campus on Manchester Avenue. The project will capture rain and urban runoff from a regional storm channel, as well as redirect runoff from the 21-acre water campus site for treatment and reuse. The project is designed to capture more than 7-million gallons per year of stormwater and to intercept sediment and other water pollutants that would otherwise reach the San Elijo Lagoon. The project is expected to take ten months to construct, beginning in 2024.

Across town and adjacent to the Encinitas Ranch Golf Course, the capital program calls for \$3.6 million to renovate an existing, 3-million-gallon reservoir to store recycled water. The Wanket Tank Refurbishment project is a collaborative effort with San Elijo Joint Powers Authority, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, and the San Dieguito Water District to expand the availability of recycled water in the northern portion of Encinitas and southern portion of Carlsbad.

Near Moonlight Beach, \$2.1 million is budgeted to replace aging pumps and other mechanical components at the Moonlight Beach Sewer Pump Station, which is located alongside Cottonwood Creek at Third and B streets. The project will replace critical systems and improve reliability for the protection of public health and the environment.

Construction of the Wanket Refurbishment and Moonlight Beach Projects are estimated to begin in fall of 2023 and last for approximately 13 months.

Back at the Water Campus, \$10.5 million is budgeted for biological treatment improvements to enhance the water quality for both ocean discharge and water recycling. The improvements will optimize the biological treatment process, improve disinfection efficiency, reduce chemical usage, and provide the foundational treatment needed for potable reuse. An 18-month construction period is scheduled to begin in spring of 2024.

State and federal grants are expected to cover \$5.8 million, or 31 percent, of the program's costs.

Earlier phases of the program included improvements to the Water Campus, expansion of recycled water and the installation of 0.6 MW of solar panels that produce 25% of the facility's typical demand.

The San Elijo JPA purifies wastewater and storm water and delivers recycled water to customers in Encinitas, Solana Beach, Del Mar and portions of Rancho Santa Fe. San Elijo JPA recycles up to 70% of its wastewater flow, producing more than 500 million gallons of recycled water annually, which is equivalent to the volume of water used annually by a population of nearly 18,000 people.