

For Immediate Release

San Elijo Joint Powers Authority and City of Solana Beach Announce Completion of Storm Water Diversion Project to Reuse Storm Water and Keep Ocean Safe

Newly Installed facility protects ocean water quality in Solana Beach and helps increase local water supply.

Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA — 11-25-2014 —The San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA), in partnership with the City of Solana Beach, announced the completion of its Storm Water Diversion Structure at Seascape Sur in Solana Beach. This underground facility is the final component of a \$5 million recycled water project that includes capturing urban runoff and some strategic storm water flows for the protection of beach water quality and the development of new local water supplies.

The Storm Water Diversion Structure includes automated pumping equipment and water level gauges to direct nuisance runoff and “first flush” storm water away from the beach storm drain pipes and into the sanitary sewer system for treatment and reuse. These flows are received at the San Elijo



Construction of the Storm Water Diversion Structure in Solana Beach.

Water Reclamation Facility which is equipped with sand filters, micro-filtration and reverse osmosis to produce high quality recycled water for irrigation and industrial use. “Protecting the environment and public health are the foundation of SEJPA’s mission,” said Mark Muir, Chair of the SEJPA Board of Directors. “We worked collaboratively with the City of Solana Beach to solve a water quality issue and create new water at the same time.”

History and Use

The Seascape Sur Storm Water Diversion Structure was one of two constructed as part of the SEJPA’s Advanced Water Purification Facility that broke ground in 2011. SEJPA’s recycled water currently irrigates landscapes in Del Mar, Solana Beach, and Encinitas

though partnerships with the local water districts. The Advanced Water Purification Facility was originally designed and built to lower the level of salt in the SEJPA's recycled water, protecting landscape and turf irrigated by this water. While evaluating the Advanced Water Purification project, the Board of Directors and Management concluded that additional environmental benefits could be achieved by integrating two storm water diverters into the project. "SEJPA is experiencing more demand than ever for recycled water," said Mike Thornton, General Manager. "Strategically capturing urban runoff and some storm water allows us to protect the environment and public health while creating new water supplies that are greatly needed. With the successful integration of these two diverters, more may be added in the future." Expanding the Advanced Water Purification project to include storm water recycling also resonated with the State of California as the project received approximately \$800,000 in grant funding through Proposition 84, Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

The Seascape Sur project has maintained ongoing support of local environmental organizations as well. "The Surfrider Foundation's San Diego Chapter is excited to see SEJPA's Stormwater Diversion Project completed," said Roger Kube, Chair of the San Diego County Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. "Our activist network works tirelessly to ensure public access to the beach and improve water quality so that we don't have beach closures. We're excited by the efforts of SEJPA's Board and Staff to think proactively for the environment, and hope this project serves as a model and inspiration for other agencies to do their part to protect our oceans, waves and beaches."

Background

The San Diego region imports as much as 85% of its water demand, and much of this water is for outdoor irrigation. SEJPA currently provides wastewater treatment and recycled water services to approximately 36,000 people in Solana Beach, Encinitas, Del Mar and Rancho Santa Fe. The SEJPA serves the community and helps offset water shortages by recycling over 50% of the wastewater it treats, providing up to 488 million gallons of irrigation water every year through 19 miles of pipelines that stretch through the coastal corridor from Encinitas to Del Mar. This system helps to conserve enough water to meet the annual needs of approximately 4,000 homes.

Founded in 1965, the SEJPA serves the local communities by providing safe and reliable recycled water and wastewater services in order to protect the environment and public health.

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