

PRESS RELEASE

San Elijo Joint Powers Authority Approves Advanced Water Treatment System

Cardiff-by-the-Sea, November 14, 2011: The San Elijo Joint Powers Authority (SEJPA) announced the approval to construct advanced water treatment at the San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility. As an organization dedicated to protecting the water quality of the ocean in Cardiff, Solana Beach and the surrounding beach communities, these upgrades represent a major step toward eliminating the discharge of treated wastewater into the ocean while creating a new drought resistant supply of water. The treatment system will include microfiltration followed by reverse osmosis to produce ultra clean recycled water.

The SEJPA Board of Directors is focused on reducing the amount of wastewater that is treated and pumped into the ocean, and increasing the amount of water that is recycled and reused through the SEJPA purple pipe network. Over the past 10 years, the SEJPA has recycled more than 3 billion gallons of water that was beneficially used by local golf courses, CalTrans, parks, schools, home owner associations and the Del Mar Fairgrounds. According to SEJPA Board of Directors Vice-Chair Teresa Barth, "The agency has successfully reduced the amount of wastewater it pumps to the ocean and has created a new source of water for our community. The new advanced filtration systems will be a major improvement to the existing treatment system allowing the agency to produce highly purified water that will meet the water quality needs of our customer and expand production capabilities to meet new opportunities. We are very proud of our ability to act in a meaningful way to protect a major part of the community in Cardiff and Solana Beach, its coastline."

A critical component of this project for improving water quality on the beaches is that it will also enable the SEJPA to capture urban runoff at strategic locations before it reaches the ocean. SEJPA will be able to recycle and reuse that water, reducing bacteria, oils, fertilizer and animal waste that would otherwise flow untreated directly into the surf zone. SEJPA General Manager Michael Thornton is enthusiastic about the future of this program. "As a surfer, I'm intimately aware of the impact of polluted water on my neighbors, my friends and my family. We are purposefully building the right infrastructure now so that we'll be able to recycle and reuse nearly all of the wastewater that our facility receives every day. This gives us the water supply San Diego desperately needs, and protects the coastline that contributes to San Diego's unparalleled quality of life."

SEJPA is working with many groups in the environmental community to reduce pollution along the coastline, including the Surfrider Foundation's San Diego Chapter and San Diego Coastkeeper, and actively invites members of the community to come and share their ideas and concerns. The SEJPA Board of Directors includes Solana Beach Council Members Thomas Campbell (Chair) and Dave Roberts, and Encinitas Council Members Teresa Barth (Vice Chair) and Mark Muir.

Please email contactus@sejpa.org for additional information about the SEJPA and its wastewater treatment and recycling efforts. Facility tours and school educational events are available upon request.