



Encinitas Ranch Recycled Water Project Receives Local Environmental Award

Encinitas, CA – The Encinitas Ranch Community Association was recognized by the City of Encinitas Environmental Commission for converting its landscape irrigation to recycled water, conserving 13.7 million gallons of potable water each year. The project was awarded the Winner of Excellence Award in the Environmental Stewardship Non-profit Organization category, as part of the City’s Environmental Award Program (EAP). At the August 2020 City Council meeting, Mayor Catherine Blakespear presented the environmental achievement award to Richard Stern, Community Association President, and congratulated the association for their commitment to sustainability and their forward-looking actions to drought preparedness.

The Encinitas Ranch Community Association, which is comprised of more than 500 homes, a beautiful public golf course, trails, and open space parks, has eliminated use of potable water for irrigation of its 35 acres of shared landscaping. This project provides the community with a sustainable source of water that can withstand all climate conditions including severe droughts. The project also installed a fully automated smart irrigation system providing increased efficiencies and effectiveness for water management. The project was a component of the San Elijo Joint Power Authority’s (SEJPA) \$1.8 million recycled water expansion project that builds local sustainability and reduces ocean disposal of wastewater.

The Encinitas Ranch Recycled Water Project was a collaborative effort between SEJPA, the City of Encinitas, San Dieguito Water District, Brightview, and local contractors. SEJPA received \$600,000 in grant funding from the California Department of Water Resources and San Diego County Water Authority for constructing nearly 8,000 feet of recycled water pipeline and a pressure boosting station to serve the project area. Similarly, the Encinitas Ranch Community Association also qualified for water conservation grant funding to offset construction costs from the Metropolitan Water Districts of Southern California.

The City’s prestigious EAP was initiated in 2015 and recognizes local businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals for their significant contributions to environmental efforts. Learn more about the winners of the EAP [here](#).

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San Elijo Joint Powers Authority protects the water quality of the ocean and creates renewable water supplies by treating and recycling wastewater, stormwater, and urban runoff. SEJPA owns and operates the San Elijo Water Campus in Cardiff by the Sea, which provides wastewater and stormwater treatment and recycling for the cities of Encinitas, Solana Beach, and Del Mar, as well as Rancho Santa Fe communities. Its recycled water utility provides approximately 500 million gallons annually of locally produced, drought resistant, water for landscaping, agriculture, golf courses, and industrial uses in association with the City of Del Mar, Encinitas Ranch Golf Authority, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, San Dieguito Water District, and Santa Fe Irrigation District.

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