

Recycled Water In Our Community



SAN ELIJO
JOINT POWERS AUTHORITY

Recycled water is a valuable alternative water supply for the rapidly growing San Diego County, which relies heavily on imported water from the Colorado River and northern California. While numerous concurrent projects are underway in the County to be less reliant on imported water, using recycled water for non-drinking purposes will help us conserve and extend our precious drinking water supply.

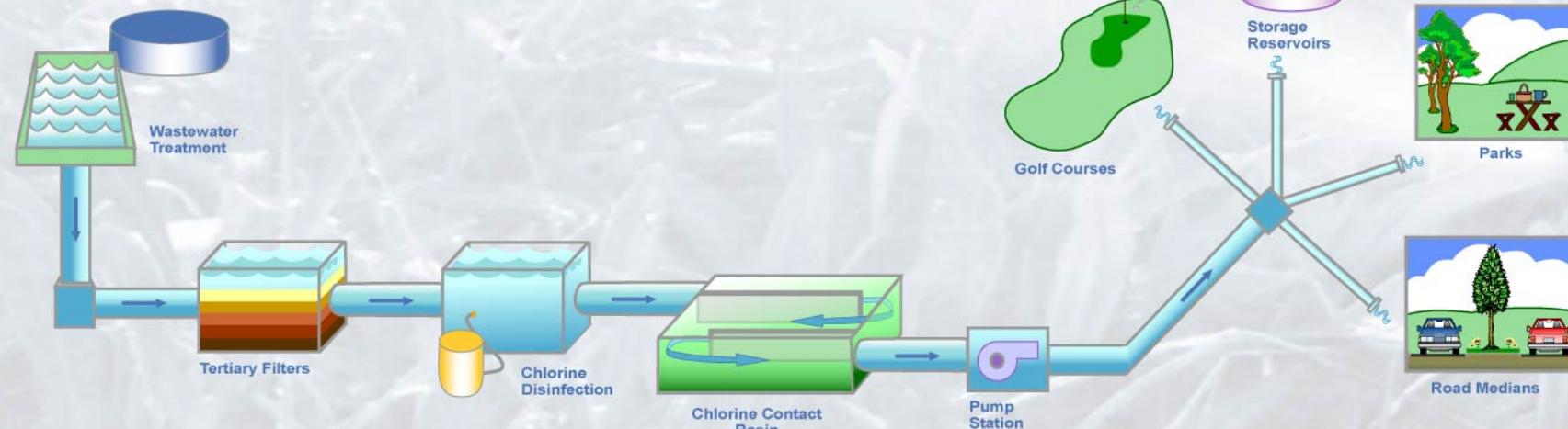
How It Works

Locally, wastewater leaves homes and businesses through a network of sewer pipes and ends up at the San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility, where it undergoes primary and secondary treatment. After

secondary treatment, the treated wastewater is either sent through additional treatment for use as recycled water or is discharged to the ocean outfall.

During the water recycling treatment process, treated wastewater is sent through a separate, highly specialized **tertiary filter** system. The wastewater flows upward through the DynaSand™ filter's sand bed where impurities are trapped. This process duplicates and accelerates nature's own purifying actions. When the water leaves the filters, more than 99% of the contaminants have been removed and the water is sparkling clear.

The final step in treatment is the addition of **chlorine** for disinfection. The chlorine kills any bacteria and viruses remaining in the water that could be harmful to the public or to the environment. The chlorinated water travels through a serpentine **basin** to ensure full disinfection.



Where It Goes

Recycled water is distributed in the Encinitas/Solana Beach area through a system of purple pipes, which are completely separate from the drinking water system. Recycled water is currently used to irrigate schools, parks, street medians, commercial landscaping and sports fields.



Santa Fe Country Club conserves drinking water by using recycled water on their golf course.

Fast Facts

- Recycled water is the fastest growing water supply in California.
- The greenbelts and common areas of over 15 Home Owner Associations in our community are served by San Elijo Joint Powers Authority.
- The Encinitas Ranch Golf Course, Santa Fe Country Club and Executive Golf Courses, and the Del Mar Fairgrounds all utilize recycled water for irrigation.
- San Elijo Joint Powers Authority provides water to CalTrans from La Costa Avenue to Via De La Valle.



Del Mar Racetrack / Fairgrounds utilizes recycled water from San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility.

Recycled water service from San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility stretches from Encinitas to Del Mar.



Did You Know?

- There are more than 300 recycled water systems currently operating in California.
- California's first water recycling project began in 1929 when the City of Pomona began providing treated wastewater from its municipal sewage treatment plant for landscape irrigation.
- The first plant built solely for recycling and reuse was constructed in 1932 in San Francisco.
- The Irvine Ranch Water District in Orange County has been recycling water for over 30 years and currently supplies recycled water to high-rise office buildings for use in toilet and urinal flushings.
- The San Elijo Joint Powers Authority provided over 350 million gallons of recycled water in 2003 for reuse.

Why It's Safe

Recycled water is clean, clear and safe! In fact, no health related incidents have ever been linked to the use of recycled water.

In California, the production, conveyance and use of recycled water is carefully regulated by the California Department of Health Services and the California Regional Water Quality Control Board. California's regulations for recycled water are some of the most stringent in the world.



Although recycled water is not intended for drinking, it is clean, clear and safe, and has many beneficial uses.

Careful monitoring by responsible local health and water quality control agencies ensures that the San Elijo Water Reclamation Facility produces a high quality water product that meets all federal, state and local water quality standards.