



# PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY

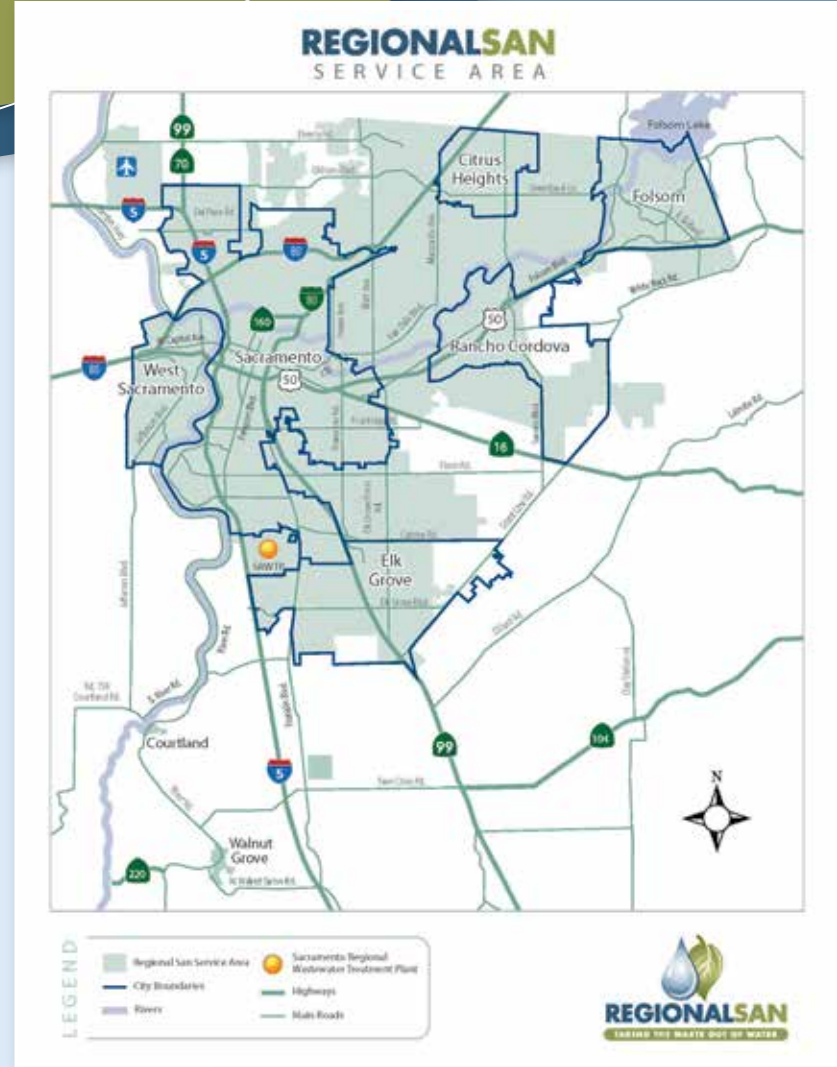
*Safeguarding the Environment*



## Who We Are

Regional San is the Sacramento region's wastewater treatment utility, providing service to more than 1.4 million residents. Regional San was formed in 1973, and the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant began service in 1982. Regional San serves unincorporated Sacramento County; the cities of Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Rancho Cordova, Sacramento and West Sacramento; and the communities of Courtland and Walnut Grove.

There are four contributing agencies responsible for collecting wastewater from customers, including the Sacramento Area Sewer District and the cities of Sacramento, Folsom, and West Sacramento. After collection, this wastewater enters Regional San's system of large interceptor pipelines. Ranging from 3 to 12 feet in diameter, these pipelines convey the wastewater to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant in Elk Grove, where the wastewater is treated and safely discharged to the Sacramento River.



**OUR MISSION:**  
*To protect public health and the environment through reliable and safe conveyance, treatment and disposal of wastewater in the most cost-effective manner possible, now and into the future.*

## Managing the Region's Wastewater

Safe and cost-effective management of the region's wastewater is at the heart of our mission. Regional San is regulated by a discharge permit that dictates the quality of water that can be discharged to the Sacramento River after the treatment process. To comply with this permit, our dedicated staff works around the clock to ensure our systems are running smoothly and efficiently.

Some of the operations activities our highly-skilled staff performs include the following:

- Round the clock operation of plant and collection system
- Infrastructure inspection and maintenance
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Equipment repair and rehabilitation projects



In addition, several other important functions are performed to support our overall mission. These include laboratory testing, safety, planning, public affairs, and financial management.

## Committed to a Greener Future

While conveying and treating wastewater is our core mission, our job does not stop there. Regional San also works to ensure the following byproducts of the treatment process are beneficially recycled.



### BIOSOLIDS RECYCLING

Biosolids are a safe, nutrient-rich byproduct of the treatment process. These solids are recycled through a heat-drying process into a safe, Class A fertilizer product. The biosolids fertilizer improves soil's ability to absorb and store moisture, decreases soil erosion and serves as a natural source of nutrients.

### BIOGAS RECYCLING

Biogas, or methane, is another natural byproduct of the treatment process. Regional San captures this biogas and sends it to Sacramento Municipal Utility District, who uses it to help generate electricity and steam. The electrical power produced with the digester gas is enough to provide energy for approximately 5,800 households annually. Steam is then returned to the wastewater treatment plant and is used for digester heat during the solid waste treatment process.

### WATER RECYCLING

Through a small, on-site, tertiary treatment facility, Regional San recycles a portion of its treated wastewater to help irrigate street medians, commercial landscaping, and park and school sites in several neighborhoods south of the wastewater treatment plant.



## Good Buffers Make Good Neighbors

### FAST FACTS:

<i>Approximate Population Served:</i>	<i>Treatment Plant Permitted Capacity:</i>	<i>Miles of Pipeline:</i>	<i>Pump Stations:</i>
<b>1.4 million people</b>	<b>181 million gallons/day</b>	<b>169 miles</b>	<b>11</b>

Surrounding the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant is a 2,650-acre expanse owned by Regional San and managed by our natural resource experts. This area, known as the "Bufferlands," not only provides a separation between treatment plant operations and nearby neighborhoods but also serves as a very important nature preserve, providing acres of wildlife habitat, wetlands and open space. With a varied mix of upland and

wetland habitats, the Bufferlands supports more than 230 species of birds, 25 species of mammals and many native insects, fish, amphibians and reptiles. The Bufferlands is home to dozens of rare plants and animals, including several threatened and endangered species, such as Swainson's hawks, vernal pool fairy shrimp and giant garter snakes.



### WATER RECYCLING FOR THE FUTURE

Regional San has a goal to greatly increase production and use of recycled water in the region. A number of key projects are actively being pursued including the use of recycling water for a local cogeneration plant's cooling towers, and irrigation for parks, landscape medians, golf courses, and thousands of acres of permanent agriculture and habitat mitigation lands in the south portion of Sacramento County. Through innovative planning, identification of funding sources, and strong local partnerships, Regional San will continue work to expand the use of recycled water to help preserve our most precious resource—water.



# Our Next Evolution in Wastewater Treatment: The EchoWater Project




Regional San is undertaking the most significant upgrade to our treatment plant since its original construction in

the 1970s. Known as the EchoWater Project, these upgrades must be completed by 2023 to meet new, stricter water quality requirements mandated by the State of California.

The mandates are designed primarily to help protect the Delta ecosystem downstream by removing most of the ammonia and nitrates from our discharge, as well as improving the removal of pathogens. The EchoWater Project will have the added benefits of expanding Regional San's opportunities for recycled water use and assuring plant capabilities well into the future.



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