

FACT SHEET

Using Recycled Water at Dairies

INTRODUCTION

Regional San is proposing to use recycled water from the wastewater treatment plant to offset groundwater pumping, replenishing aquifers.

Dairies are excellent candidates for recycled water use because they require a significant amount of water for their operations. Using recycled water in Sacramento by the dairy industry is relatively new. However, dairies in other areas of California, including the San Jacinto Valley (Riverside County) and Sonoma County, have used recycled water safely and effectively for years, if not decades.

BENEFITS OF USING RECYCLED WATER

- Reduction in use of potable water for feed/forage/crop irrigation
- Reduction in use of potable water for cleaning animals and equipment
- Water supply reliability and long-term groundwater sustainability
- Reduction in use of potable water for other wash water, cooling and refrigeration

REGULATIONS AND REPORTING

Dairies are highly regulated businesses, subject to rigorous environmental monitoring and reporting requirements. Dairies are required to conduct routine water quality sampling and report results to the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Current State of California Food and Agriculture Code and Water Code regulations require that recycled water use at dairies meet California Department of Public Health (DPH) bacteriological standards for drinking water. DPH is now known as the Division of Drinking Water (DDW) under the State Water Resources Control Board. DDW is further required to approve "the use of tertiary treated recycled water for watering pasture animals unless it determines that such use would harm public health."

Tertiary treated wastewater from Regional San will meet the DDW's bacterial standards for drinking water.



"This is the kind of teamwork we need to encourage. The dairy gets a reliable water supply for irrigation, the drawdown of high-quality groundwater is minimized and residents can expect more from their local water supplies for domestic water purposes."

— Joseph Kuebler, Eastern Municipal Water District highlighting the Scott Brothers Dairy

For more information about the Water Recycling Program, please visit www.regionalsan.com/south-county-ag-program or contact Terrie Mitchell at mitchellt@sacsewer.com or (916) 876-6092.