



Dublin San Ramon Services District 7051 Dublin Blvd Dublin CA 94568

www.dsrds.com

news release

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contact Renee Olsen (925) 875-2294

Olsen@dsrds.com

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\$23.5 Million in Infrastructure Projects in the Works for Utility District

Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) will mark National Public Works Week, May 17-23, 2009, with \$23.5 million in infrastructure projects under design and construction. The projects touch all three components of the District's service portfolio—wastewater treatment, potable water distribution, and recycled water production and distribution—and extend in scope from a new, multi-million dollar anaerobic digester to refurbishing construction meters so contractors can use recycled water instead of drinking water.

“Public works agencies must constantly reinvest in infrastructure that protects the health, safety, and quality of life in our communities,” said District Engineer David Requa. “Our job is to build for the future by managing, replacing, and reinvigorating the systems and structures that our customers depend on every day.”

Anaerobic Digester

In the fall, DSRSD plans to begin designing a fourth and final anaerobic digester for its Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility in Pleasanton. Construction of the one-million-gallon digester could begin as early as late 2010, depending on the availability of funds. Construction cost is estimated at \$7.2 million in 2009 dollars. The new digester will provide required biosolids process redundancy for an average dry weather flow of 12.8 million gallons per day, improve treatment, and reduce the risk of digester upset and associated odors.

In anaerobic digestion, microorganisms break down biodegradable material in sewage sludge in the absence of oxygen. The process produces methane, which DSRSD burns in cogeneration engines and two fuel cells to generate nearly all of the electric power needed to operate its wastewater treatment and recycled water plants. DSRSD uses the waste heat generated by the fuel cells and co-generation engines to heat sludge in the digesters to 98 degrees Fahrenheit, which is necessary for the anaerobic bacteria to thrive. Waste heat also is used to heat and cool all of the offices at the wastewater treatment plant.

Sludge Thickening Facility Improvements

Within the next 15 months, DSRSD plans to invest an estimated \$1.5 million in upgrading its 20-year-old Dissolved Air Flotation Thickener (DAFT), a device that thickens sewage sludge after primary treatment and prior to anaerobic digestion. The project also will improve the Gravity Belt Thickener, a backup system used during DAFT maintenance. District engineers currently are developing the project's pre-design report. Construction is expected to begin in approximately one year.

Band Screen to Remove Plastics during Recycled Water Treatment

This month, DSRSD will finish a \$342,000 project to install a band screen at its Recycled Water Treatment Facility. The screen removes tiny pieces of plastic that clog the sand filters used during recycled water production, as well as irrigation meters and sprinkler heads in the recycled water distribution system. Plastic debris in wastewater comes from many sources, including plastic bags and produce stickers. Plastic items should never be flushed down toilets or drains because they are not biodegradable and they break into tiny fragments that are difficult to remove from wastewater.

New Maintenance Complex

By September, DSRSD will complete a new \$12.4 million complex at its Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility to house its maintenance, safety, and electrical instrumentation divisions. Two buildings totaling 20,000 square feet will significantly upgrade District maintenance facilities and include a "clean room" for repairing electronic instruments and components, a shop equipped with a 5-ton overhead crane for handling pumps and other large equipment, vehicle repair bays, and a paint booth. The larger building is heated and cooled by on-site cogeneration using digester gas, a renewable fuel produced during the wastewater treatment process. Photovoltaic roof panels will generate electricity to recharge electric vehicles used at the plant.

District Office Improvements

In August, DSRSD will begin a three-month project to bring walkways and parking lots at its District Office on Dublin Boulevard into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities

Act and City of Dublin requirements, repair landscaping and irrigation systems, and relocate the west driveway sign to improve sight lines. Estimated construction cost is \$330,500.

Potable Water Distribution System Improvements

In September 2008, the District began renovating six potable water pump stations in western Dublin, some of which were operating with original equipment from the 1970s. The \$1.7 million project is scheduled to be completed by the end of June. In addition, a new \$3.4 million pump station is being built near the intersection of Fallon Road and Cydonia Court to serve the higher elevations in eastern Dublin and increase the reliability of the Dougherty Valley water supply. This project will be finished by the end of June.

Recycled Water Hydrants and Construction Meters

In a small but important infrastructure and conservation project, the District recently converted 20 construction meters so they can be connected to purple recycled water hydrants instead of yellow potable water hydrants. Construction and dust control are appropriate uses for recycled water, and the District has 10 recycled water hydrants available to contractors. To minimize the possibility of cross connections between the separate potable and recycled water distribution systems, the District installed unique nozzles on the purple meters and hydrants.

More about National Public Works Week, May 17-23, 2009

The American Public Works Association (APWA) proclaims the third week of May as National Public Works Week to recognize the contributions of public works professionals who plan, build, manage, and operate public facilities and services. More information is available at www.apwa.net.

About DSRSD

Founded in 1953, Dublin San Ramon Services District serves 144,000 people, providing potable water service to Dublin and Dougherty Valley, and wastewater collection and treatment to Dublin, south San Ramon, and Pleasanton (by contract). More information about the District can be obtained from its web site at www.dsrdsd.com.

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