
To: Kelly Avery, Community Manager
Vierra Moore, 2870 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95833
CC: File
Date: November 22, 2017
From: Mike Blankinship, PE, Blankinship & Associates, Inc.
Re: Reclaimed (Recycled) Water Use

Background

Laguna West is a 1,000-acre planned community located on the west side of the city of Elk Grove, CA, east of US Interstate 5, and west of Franklin Blvd. Residents are concerned that despite introduction of water from the 2 on-site groundwater wells, the level of the communities' four lake system drops during the summer months. Low water levels are visually unappealing and create aesthetic concerns.

Purpose

The purpose of this memo is to describe the feasibility of obtaining reclaimed (recycled) water to assist in keeping the Laguna Lakes full.

Reclaimed Water Use

The Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA), in partnership with the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San) has a recycled water program that treats and delivers up to five million-gallons-per-day of recycled water. Since 2013, the recycled water system has delivered recycled water to the communities of Laguna West, Lakeside, and Stonelake in the Elk Grove and Laguna areas. However, the recycled water is only used for irrigation purposes such as commercial landscaping, parks, and school sites. The use of water recycled is regulated by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) through the Master Reclamation Permit (Master Permit).

Regional San produces recycled water at the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, located approximately 5 miles north of Laguna Lakes and holds the Master Permit for Water Reclamation Requirements (RWQCB Order No. 97-146). For Laguna West to consider using recycled water to fill up the lakes, the Master Permit would need to be amended to allow recycled water to be impounded, as this is not currently allowed.

If the Master Permit is successfully amended, Laguna West must then file an application for recycled water service. This application includes, but is not limited to engineering plans and specifications addressing pressure and flow, service connections, runoff control, public education and water quality monitoring. If the application is accepted, a permit would be issued to Laguna West to allow for the install a service meter and begin receiving water.

Conclusions

Current permit conditions do not allow for reclaimed water impoundment. If permitted, significant engineering and infrastructure work will be required, restrictions on lake use may be imposed, and aesthetic issues may arise from residents.

Recommendations

Further investigation into the feasibility of reclaimed water use in Laguna Lakes is not recommended at this time. However, regulations on reclaimed water are continually evolving and should be monitored to evaluate future feasibility.