

Pilot Program to Expand Voluntary Water Conservation in Non-Urban Areas in Sonoma Valley

Background

\$25,000 grant awarded to Sonoma County Water Agency and Sonoma Valley Sanitation District, on behalf of the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Management Program Basin Advisory Panel (BAP) by North Bay Watershed Association (NBWA) to conduct a pilot program to evaluate water conservation programs for areas within the NBWA service area that currently do not have formal conservation programs.

The U.S. Geological Survey has estimated that approximately 57% of the total water use in Sonoma Valley is sourced from local groundwater. Of this local groundwater use within Sonoma Valley, an estimated 91% is represented by non-urban uses. The BAP has determined that water conservation programs in areas outside of the urban areas (i.e., City of Sonoma and Valley of the Moon Water District [VOMWD]) are a high priority to enhance the sustainability of groundwater resources in Sonoma Valley.

Typical residential supply well.



Typical agricultural supply well



Scope of Program

Voluntary water use assessments will be conducted to educate private well users (residential and agricultural water users) regarding water conservation practices.

The data collected from the assessments will be evaluated for trends to determine incentives that will benefit well users in all service areas of the NBWA. The recommended incentives can then be utilized by NBWA members to pursue grant funding for implementation of expanded programs (e.g., rebates, additional assessments, or other assistance to ensure water use efficiency).

Residential Site Assessments (25)

- Conducted by trained Water Agency staff.
- Will include measuring of flow rates from all water-using fixtures (showerheads, faucet aerators, toilets, etc), checking for leaks, providing an efficient irrigation schedule, and making water saving recommendations for the home.
- **Free** low flow hardware (shower heads and faucet aerators) will be offered to the participant, as needed.
- An information packet will be provided to the participant outlining the data collected and highlighting the recommendations.

Agricultural Irrigation (10) and Processing Facility (2) Assessments

- Agricultural irrigation facilities include vineyards, nurseries, etc. conducted by Dr. Mark Greenspan of Advanced Viticulture LLC
- Agricultural processing facilities include wineries, dairies, etc.
- Consists of a site visit to determine significant areas of water use, analysis of current fixtures, recommendations and guidance for water efficient improvements.

Contact for Information and to Sign-up for the Program

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