

The San Francisco Zoo Recycled Water Project

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The San Francisco Zoo Recycled Water Project will construct a new recycled water pipeline on Sloat Boulevard, west of Skyline Boulevard, to convey advanced treated recycled water from the new Westside Recycled Water Treatment Facility at the Oceanside Wastewater Treatment Plant to the San Francisco Zoo. The recycled water will be used for non-potable purposes such as irrigation, animal exhibit washdown, and animal pool filling. This project will enable the use of recycled water instead of groundwater for uses at the Zoo and irrigation of the Lower Great Highway. The project will also add new components to and make modifications within the existing reservoir and pump station facility for recycled water use. If delivery of recycled water is disrupted (e.g., planned or unplanned maintenance), the primary backup supply will be the groundwater from the Zoo well.

The San Francisco Zoo Recycled Water Project will offset approximately 200,000 gallons per day, or 100%, of the current groundwater use, which will diversify SFPUC's water supply portfolio and benefit the Westside Groundwater Basin. The project will conserve high-quality groundwater that is treated and blended with surface water supplies, enhancing the sustainability of the City's drinking water supply now and into the future.

JOINT PROJECT WITH SFRPD AND SF ZOO

The SFPUC has worked closely with San Francisco Recreation and Parks Department (SFRPD) and the San Francisco Zoological Society (SF Zoo) with planning and design of the project. SFPUC will work with SFRPD and SF Zoo to implement retrofits including installation of recycled water use and advisory signage and system identification tags, labels, markings, and colors for system components throughout the areas of the Zoo and Lower Great Highway. Cross-connection testing will be conducted to ensure the recycled water system is separate from the potable water system. SFPUC will also work with SF Zoo to update their Standard Operating Procedures to include specific procedures for the proper use of recycled water and best management practices to provide assurance that recycled water is safely used for animal cage washdown, filling of animal pools, and irrigation at the SF Zoo. SF Zoo will join its peers like Denver Zoo, San Diego Wild Animal Park, and Martinez Animal Shelter in demonstrating leadership in water conservation and sustainability by using recycled water.



TIMELINE/SCHEDULE

Construction is anticipated to begin in August 2024 with expected completion in August 2025. We anticipate no impact on traffic or parking. Delivery of recycled water is anticipated to begin in late 2026 after retrofits and cross-connection testing are completed.

