



Recycled Water Expansion Project



Water is one of our most precious natural resources. For more than 100 years, communities across California have been using recycled or tertiary-treated water for landscape irrigation.

One of the most visible examples of ETWD's commitment to recycled water is the Recycled Water Expansion Project - a comprehensive, multi-phase project to significantly increase the amount of recycled water produced.

The District's Recycled Water Expansion Project includes two components.

- The District is expanding its existing Water Recycling Plant to increase the treatment and delivery of recycled water from 500 acre feet to up to 1,400 acre feet per year. That's the equivalent of covering the entire footprint of Laguna Woods Village with five inches of water or filling Angel Stadium nineteen times.
- Simultaneously, the District is building a new recycled water distribution system. Approximately 100,000 feet or 19 miles of recycled water pipeline is being constructed beneath the roadways in portions of Laguna Woods and the northwest portion of Laguna Hills. This new distribution system is completely separate from the drinking water distribution system and used for irrigation only.



El Toro Water District is committed to using recycled water for irrigation to extend local water supplies and conserve precious imported water for drinking water (potable) for household consumption and sanitary uses.

The District is utilizing a variety of innovative funding sources to pay for the project, including a state grant, state revolving fund loan, Metropolitan Water District rebate program and District reserves.

What is recycled water?

Recycled water is wastewater that has received advance treatment so it can safely be used for landscape and agricultural irrigation. Recycled water is processed through biological treatment and a filtration and disinfection system before being provided to customers. Pipes that carry recycled water are often purple in color to distinguish them from drinking water pipes.

Is Recycled Water Safe?

All recycled water produced by ETWD for irrigation meets, or exceeds, the stringent water quality requirements for California as established by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and California Department of Public Health.

The District's state certified laboratory conducts extensive monitoring and daily testing to ensure the reliability of the disinfection and tertiary treatment processes. This highly treated recycled water is virtually free from all pathogens (disease causing organisms). Several long-term microbiological studies involving thousands of samples have confirmed that pathogens are reduced to non-detectable or insignificant levels in tertiary-treated recycled water.

Where is it used?

ETWD uses recycled water for landscape irrigation, including parks, golf courses, greenbelts and common areas managed by homeowner associations.



Why use recycled water for irrigation?

- Enhances local supplies and reliability by using water more than once
- Reduces dependence on imported water by using drinking water (potable) for household consumption, sanitary uses and recycled water for irrigation
- Creates a more self-reliant water system, particularly important in times of unplanned service interruptions such as drought and emergencies
- Reduces treated wastewater discharge to the ocean

Will recycled water harm my pets?

Recycled water, used appropriately, will not harm pets. However, it is not intended to be used for drinking water for pets. Remember that recycled water is highly treated and disinfected.



Does recycled water smell or look different from tap water?

No. Recycled water is the end product of a three-stage multi-barrier treatment process. Following tertiary treatment, the water is clear, colorless, odorless and virtually indistinguishable from tap water.

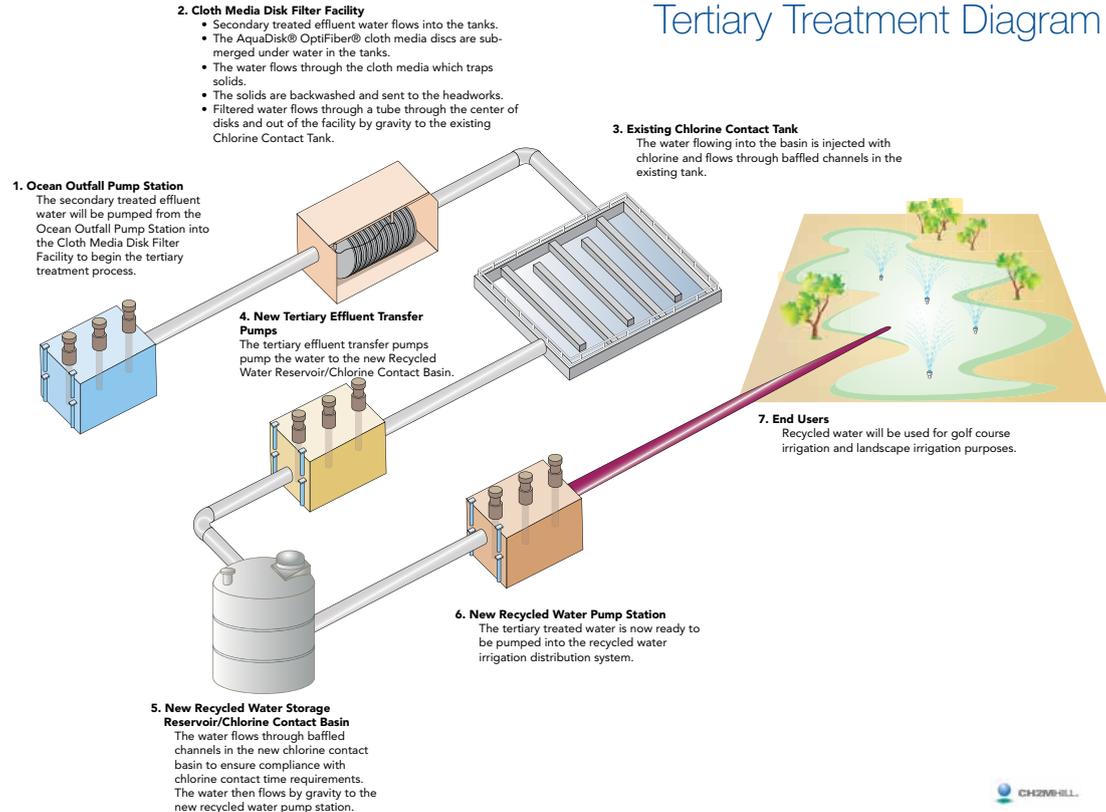
What is tertiary treatment?

Tertiary treatment is the process that wastewater must go through before it can be discharged into the environment or used for irrigation. In the preliminary treatment phase, wastewater is pumped through cloth media discs. The cloth media traps solids and large pieces of debris, while the filtered water flows into a basin injected with chlorine.

The chlorine infused water travels through a series of baffled channels in three different tanks to ensure compliance with chlorine contact time requirements. The tertiary treated water is now ready to be pumped into the recycled water irrigation distribution system.

The District's tertiary treatment process is an additional step that follows the current primary and secondary treatment processes.

Tertiary Treatment Diagram



Recycled Water

Who can I contact for more information on recycled water?

The District has qualified personnel with extensive experience in recycled water.

To learn more about recycled water, please call

Customer Service at (949) 837-0660.

For additional information on the Recycled Water Expansion Project,

please visit our website at **www.etwd.com**

or call our Dedicated Project Helpline at (949) 837-0880.



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