

CONTRA COSTA TIMES

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Back Miller water bill

REP. GEORGE MILLER, D-Martinez, should be commended for introducing new water legislation to help the seven Bay Area communities increase their municipal water supplies through innovative water recycling projects.

Water recycling is an effective way to protect our environment and efficiently use natural resources.

There is no good reason to flush wastewater into rivers, bays, estuaries and the ocean if it can be treated and used again for other purposes such as irrigating parks and golf courses.

That is the philosophy behind seven Bay Area water recycling projects ready to begin once they are fully funded. They are in Pittsburg, Antioch, Pacifica, Palo Alto-Mountain View, Redwood City, San Jose and South Santa Clara County.

The recycled water will be treated and piped to water golf courses, parks, school grounds and roadway medians, and will be used by some businesses.

Half of the money for the projects will come from local sources. One-fourth will come from the state, including Prop. 50 funds. But the remainder must come from the federal government; hence the Miller bill.

Pittsburg has taken the lead in the recycling effort by raising local money, putting some infrastructure in place and doing some recycling. Antioch is not far behind.

Miller made a similar effort last year, but this year made significant changes to the legislation and expanded it to include additional regional programs.

Reps. Anna Eshoo, D-Atherton, Ellen Tauscher, D-Alamo, Jerry McNerney, D-Pleasanton, Tom Lantos, D-San Mateo, Mike Honda, D-San Jose, Zoe Lofgren, D-San Jose, and Pete Stark, D-Fremont are all on board.

Miller said he is encouraged that the bill stands a strong chance of being enacted now that Democrats control the Congress.

We certainly hope so because this is a bill that makes plenty of sense. Although recycling is not the