



## **Recycled Water -- Making the Most of Every Drop**

To sustain the current population in Southern California, approximately 66% of the water needed must be imported from hundreds of miles away. Extended drought conditions and judicial rulings protecting certain species of fish continue to make drinking water more expensive and less reliable.

Recycled water (also called reclaimed water) is all about the efficient use of a vital resource and a sensible alternative for practically all non-potable applications. Recycled water is odorless and colorless virtually indistinguishable from potable water. Although completely safe to use and allowed for full-body human contact it is not suitable or approved for direct human consumption.

To ensure that we have enough water to meet our present and future needs, we need to conserve drinking water where practical and expand the use of recycled water for irrigation and industrial applications. By expanding the use of recycled water, we are conserving our drinking water supplies, decreasing imported water demands, and reducing treated wastewater into our coastal waterways.

### **Where is Recycled Water Currently Being Used?**

Approximately 65 commercial and institutional customers in the Rowland Water District service area currently use recycled water to irrigate landscaping. The growing list of customers using recycled water for irrigation purposes includes Los Angeles County parks, school athletic fields and playgrounds, commercial landscapes and a local cemetery. Recycled water customers are not subject to the mandatory watering restrictions currently in place.

Recycled water use is closely monitored by Rowland Water District and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health. There are specific requirements for landscape irrigation systems to identify the water source and subsequent annual inspections ensure complete isolation from public drinking water supplies. These efforts still make recycled water use an economical and viable alternative for irrigation demands.

### **Outlook for Rowland Water District and Recycled Water Use**

Because Rowland Water District receives 100% of its drinking water supplies from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan). Metropolitan in turn, relies heavily on imported water sources; for that reason, we are committed to reducing our dependence on Metropolitan. The Rowland Water District Board of Directors adopted a Recycled Water Use Master Plan which identifies the costs and benefits of recycled water use. The plan also develops a roadmap for expanding the existing recycled water distribution system and reaching potential recycled water users. A fully expanded recycled water system will shift nearly 4,000 acre feet (1.3 billion gallons) of potable water per year over to recycled water supplies.