

The City of Palo Alto's Duck Pond Receives a Sustainable Fresh Water Source

RECYCLED WATER IMPROVES THE DUCK POND HABITAT!

During the summer months, the water quality in the duck pond is extremely poor due to the combination of duck waste, sun, and minimal flushing, which causes the duck pond to become eutrophic. In order to minimize the associated odors, fresh water is added to the duck pond.



WHY DOES THE DUCK POND NEED RECYCLED WATER?



Historically, the duck pond's fresh water source was from surface water runoff in the winter and the addition of well water in the summer. Currently it is cost prohibitive to use well water, therefore recycled water from the Regional Water Quality Control Plant provides a cost effective sustainable solution. The addition of recycled water improves flushing and minimizes unpleasant odors emitted from the duck pond in the summer months.

RECYCLED WATER USE AT THE DUCK POND

The use of recycled water from the Regional Water Quality Control Plant to the duck pond commenced in April 2004, at approximately 20 gallons per minute.

SHOULD WE BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RESIDUAL CHLORINE IN THE RECYCLED WATER?

When the duck pond overflows, the water is released into the Baylands through an overflow pipe. Given that the average residence time of water in the pond is 150 days and that, the free chlorine in the recycled water reacts almost immediately with the organics within the pond, the City concluded that no chlorine would be released to the Baylands. Water testing has verified that conclusion and will continue to be conducted. In addition, testing confirms that the chlorine in the recycled water does not impact the duck pond; the chlorine dissipates almost immediately when it reaches the duck pond.

