



Pasatiempo Golf Course Superintendent Justin Mandon manually waters the area around the ninth green Thursday. SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Tapping into recycled water

WATER SHORTAGE: Pasatiempo Golf Club proposes purchasing 30 million gallons from Scotts Valley to stabilize demand

Water Supply

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✓ SANTA CRUZ — In the face of countywide water shortages and mandatory cutbacks in water usage, a decade-old idea of maintaining the Pasatiempo Gold Club's 60 acres of greens with recycled water has been revitalized.

Golf course officials fear the top-tier course could be devastated by restrictions imposed by the Santa Cruz Water Department.

"There's a constant threat of a water shortage," said Scott Hoyt, Pasatiempo's general manager. "Every single time we're the first one to get our water use cut and by the highest amount. We need to secure the water so we can continue to run our business."

The recycled water the golf course wants to use would come from the Scotts Valley Water District, which is owned by the city of Scotts Valley and produces more reclaimed water than it has customers for.

The majority of the plant's recycled water, about 70 percent, gets sent to the ocean.

Pasatiempo, a Santa Cruz water customer that's outside city limits and can strain supplies during dry summer months, proposes buying about 30 million



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

The Boardwalk's Giant Dipper roller coaster is visible, at top, as a foursome holes out on Pasatiempo's eighth green on Thursday.

gallons of recycled water from Scotts Valley between April and October to stabilize its demand of 45 million gallons each year.

"We need a long-term supply guarantee," Hoyt said.

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WATER

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IS IT A LONGSHOT?

Pasatiempo won approval from the Scotts Valley City Council on Wednesday — a requirement for the water district to sell water outside its service boundaries — to hire an expert to study the logistics of shipping recycled water to the golf course.

The study would analyze cost, engineering, agency agreements, changes at the treatment plant and most crucially, the disinfection of an existing outfall pipeline for delivering water to the golf course. The outfall pipe was not intended for recycled water.

Distributing water from Scotts Valley to Pasatiempo for irrigation requires dual use of the pipe. During wet winter months the pipe would be used for ocean discharge of secondarily treated wastewater. In summer, the pipe would deliver reclaimed water to the golf course.

Scotts Valley officials say the California Department of Public Health has approved dual use of the pipe and recommends approval by the Regional Water Quality Board.

Robert Deloach, Scotts Valley water district's interim general manager, said turning the outfall line into a recycled water line requires significant modifications to the plant.

He supports the plan, but doesn't see water delivery happening until 2014 at the earliest.

He said Thursday he wants to learn more about the process before giving full support.

"We would love to sell them water," Deloach said. "However, we need to know if this is even feasible and what the cost is. It requires shutting the water off and disinfecting the line and turning the water back on at least one time a year."

WAVE OF THE FUTURE

Bill Kocher, head of the Santa Cruz Water Department, said irrigated water for his district's two golf courses, including city-owned DeLaveaga, is a low priority for the strained system.

In a drought, both golf courses would be cut by 80 percent, he said.

In support of recycled water at Pasatiempo, Kocher's department would track the amount of recycled water used by the golf course in the summer and ship that much fresh water to Scotts Valley in the winter when supplies are more abundant to help relieve the area's wells.

"This is just the wave of the future, using reclaimed water for irrigation and agriculture," Kocher said. "It just makes good sense."

More and more golf courses across the state depend on reclaimed water to meet their thirst demands, including top courses in San Francisco and Monterey.

"There's no reason not to do it," Kocher said.

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