

## PRESS RELEASE

May 28, 2015

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### **Local Dignitaries Break Ground on Massive Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades**

*EchoWater Project will span eight years, employ hundreds, produce high quality recycled water*

*Sacramento* — One of the largest public works projects in the Sacramento region’s history officially broke ground Thursday, as the \$2 billion upgrade to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant was launched before a gathering of local dignitaries and elected officials.

The event marked the start of construction for the massive EchoWater Project, which will bring the Sacramento region’s wastewater treatment plant to tertiary treatment levels and produce cleaner water for discharge to the Sacramento River, as well as additional future water recycling opportunities.

In 2010, the State of California mandated Regional San meet new water quality requirements, including removal of ammonia and nitrates, filtration, and enhanced disinfection, due to concerns about potential impacts to the Delta ecosystem. More than 1.4 million residents throughout Sacramento County and West Sacramento are served by Regional San’s wastewater treatment plant, which is located in Elk Grove, California.

The EchoWater Project will be constructed over the next eight years, bringing with it hundreds of construction-related jobs. At the peak of construction, as many as 600 construction-related workers will be on site daily, with expenditures expected to reach up to \$1 million per day.

“The EchoWater project is a clear demonstration of the value Regional San, regional leaders and local water users place on being good environmental stewards,” remarked Congresswoman Doris Matsui, keynote speaker at the event. “This unparalleled investment and monumental project is an important piece of California’s water puzzle. As times change, we must change with them to create a more sustainable water future,” added Congresswoman Matsui.

Regional San’s monthly rates are being increased to pay for the project, and recently Regional San secured favorable low-interest financing from the State of California’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund through an agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board. “This innovative financing mechanism will reduce interest-related costs by over half billion dollars during the life of the loan compared to traditional bond funding, providing long-term savings to Regional San’s ratepayers,” noted Jeannie Bruins, Chair of Regional San’s Board of Directors.

*More information about the EchoWater Project can be found at [www.EchoWaterProject.com](http://www.EchoWaterProject.com).*

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