

Who is Regional San, and what is the EchoWater Project?

Regional San serves more than 1.4 million people, treating the Sacramento region’s wastewater at our treatment plant near Elk Grove. The cleaned water is then discharged into the Sacramento River. The existing plant was built in the late 1970s and became fully operational in 1982. Over the decades, Regional San has worked diligently to comply with strict water quality requirements. But in 2010, new mandates were imposed by the State, requiring we take our wastewater treatment to a whole new level. To meet these mandates, our treatment plant needs a major upgrade requiring new processes, including nutrient removal, filtration, additional disinfection, and more. Named the EchoWater Project, the upgrade is currently underway and must be completed by 2023.

What are the benefits of the EchoWater Project?

When the EchoWater Project is completed, the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant will be capable of meeting our region's needs well into the future. It will produce cleaner water for discharge to the Sacramento River, which will help protect the Delta downstream. It will also substantially increase water recycling opportunities (e.g., for agricultural irrigation, public landscapes, and industrial processes) by producing highly treated water that meets water reuse standards. Use of recycled water helps preserve our precious water supplies, especially during drought conditions.

How much will EchoWater cost to build?

The total EchoWater Project cost is estimated between \$1.5 and \$2.1 billion. To fund it, customer rates are expected to gradually increase annually to be between the high \$30s per month by 2023. Fees for connecting new homes and buildings to the system will also increase.



How long will it take to build?

From initial pilot tests in 2012 to final commissioning in 2022–2023, the EchoWater Project will take more than a decade to build.

What can the community expect during construction?

With a dozen construction projects and numerous contractors on site through 2023, the neighboring community can expect more traffic on local roadways, especially along Laguna Boulevard between I-5 and Dwight Road.

What is Regional San doing to minimize construction impacts?

Regional San is working to minimize construction impacts and be a good neighbor to the Elk Grove community. Efforts will be made to coordinate construction hours and traffic patterns to minimize the impacts to motorists and neighbors, especially during peak drive times.

Project construction will generate vehicle trips from both the commutes of the construction workforce and the movement of construction equipment and material deliveries. Traffic impacts will vary as construction activities ebb and flow over the next few years. The greatest level of traffic increase is expected to occur on Laguna Boulevard, especially between Dwight Road and I-5.

A new 4-lane entrance to the treatment plant has already been constructed at Dwight Road north of Laguna Boulevard. The Sims Road entrance off of Franklin Boulevard will remain in use for regular plant staff and some of the construction workforce, but all other construction-related traffic (e.g., heavy equipment, off-haul vehicles, and deliveries) will access the site through Dwight Road. This will allow quick access to/from the freeway.

Regional San will direct hours of work to avoid the peak commute times, as feasible. As most construction traffic is expected to arrive at the project site by 7 a.m. and depart by mid-afternoon, the impacts should be more manageable than if the construction arrival and departure periods occurred at later times.

Regional San will also coordinate with the City of Elk Grove to monitor and model traffic patterns and adjust signal timing to improve traffic flow, as needed.

How will Regional San keep the community informed?

Ongoing communication with residents, businesses, and commuters will remain a top priority during construction. Regional San will utilize the following methods to keep people informed during construction:

- Updates on the project website at **EchoWaterProject.com**
- Project hotline updates at **(916) 876-ECHO**
- Signage on Laguna Boulevard near Dwight Road to advise motorists about construction traffic
- Direct dialogue with those potentially impacted by construction traffic
- Updates in the annual EchoWater Project Newsletter each fall
- Traffic advisories and press releases
- Periodic updates in the City of Elk Grove newsletter

During periods of expected heavy activity, Regional San will increase outreach to ensure the community is informed and prepared.

How can I get more information?

For more information about the EchoWater Project and the construction process, please visit **EchoWaterProject.com**, email us at EchoWater@sacsewer.com, or call our hotline at **(916) 876-ECHO**.