

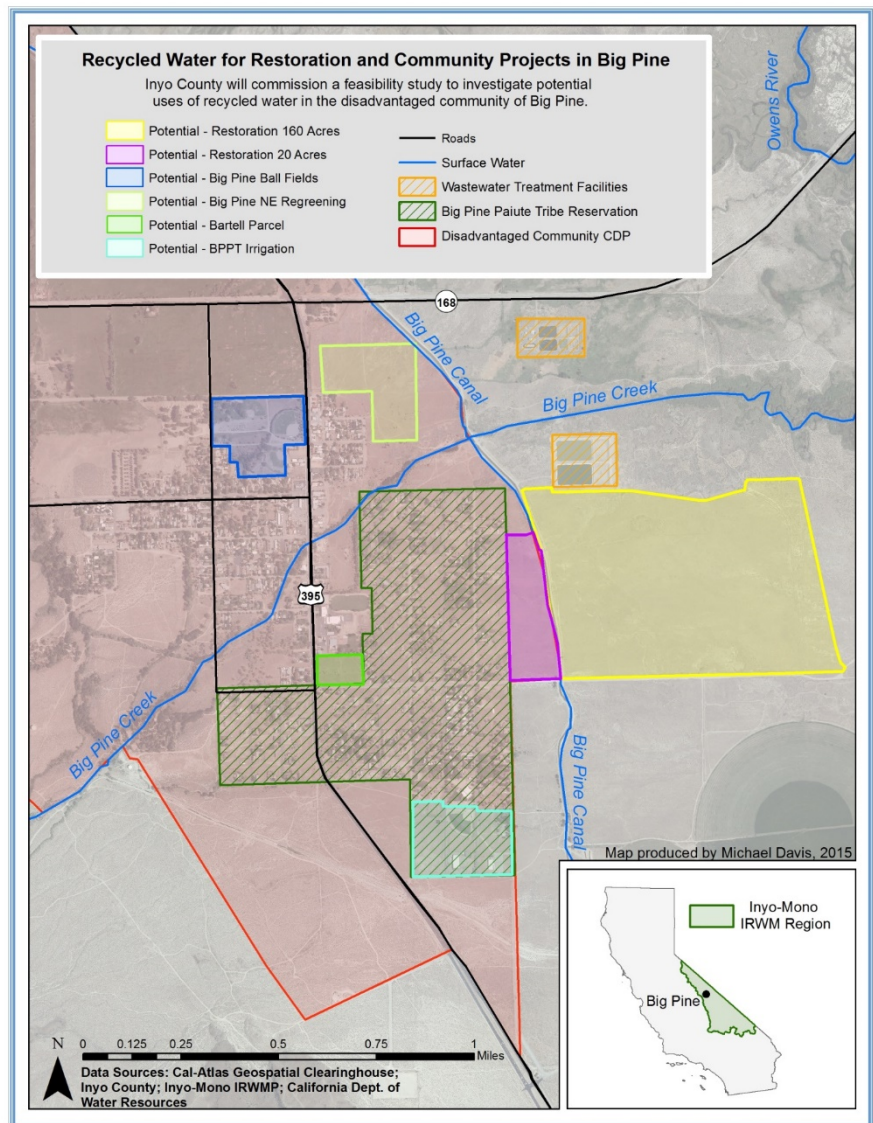


INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Recycled Water for Restoration and Community Projects in Big Pine Inyo County Water Department

With water shortages repeatedly facing California communities, and local water availability strained by year-after-year low runoff, water recycling needs to be part of the mix of communities' water supply. In Inyo County, there are currently no recycled water projects. Inyo County Water Department proposed to establish a wastewater recycling facility in the town of Big Pine. The first step in this process was to complete a feasibility study to investigate potential opportunities to implement reclamation of treated wastewater to irrigate landscaping, recreational facilities, agriculture, and/or environmental restoration sites in the Big Pine area.

The feasibility study, which was conducted by R.O. Anderson Engineering, Inc., evaluated using effluent from the Big Pine Community Services District (BPCSD) and Big Pine Paiute Tribe (BBPT) wastewater treatment plants to serve restoration and community needs at a number of locations within the community of Big Pine and on the BPPT Reservation. The BPCSD serves approximately 340 residences and 20 commercial properties. Their 150,000 gallons/day wastewater facility provides primary treatment at an average flow of 90,000 gallons/day (100 acre-



foot/year). The plant currently has an aeration channel, two oxidation ponds, and four percolation ponds. Nearby (0.21 miles), the BPPT wastewater facility treats 20,000 gallons/day (22.4 acre-foot/year). The BPPT system serves 462 members.

Potential uses of recycled water include: providing water to revegetate, with native vegetation, up to 180 acres of abandoned agricultural land that is a source of dust affecting the town and Reservation; irrigating pastureland for re-greening a barren parcel; providing landscape irrigation to a park and associated ballfields; providing water to the BPPT Development Corporation to serve a planned commercial park; serving a community agriculture program. Of 18 proposed projects, a single preferred alternative was identified: applying recycled water to a 160-acre parcel of land owned by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power for the purposes of revegetation.

The project was overseen by a planning committee that was comprised of representatives from Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Big Pine Community Services District, and Inyo County. Public input was also gathered throughout the project.

The Inyo County Recycled Water planning project was funded through California Proposition 84, which was approved by voters in 2006 to support water supply, water quality, and natural resource protection. This Prop. 84 grant was provided through the Inyo-Mono Integrated Regional Water Management Program (IRWMP), which has been working to secure funding for water projects in the region since 2008. In 2016, the Inyo-Mono IRWMP was awarded a grant of \$1,816,943 from the California Department of Water Resources to fund six on-the-ground projects that supported improvements in water supply and water quality in Inyo, Mono, and Kern Counties. Inyo County was awarded \$280,234 for the project. Preliminary analysis began in 2016, and the final feasibility study was completed in December 2017.

For more information about this project, contact Holly Alpert, Inyo-Mono IRWM Program Director, holly@inyo-monowater.org, 760-709-2212.

