



Work under way

By [Susan Meeker/Tri-County Newspapers](#)

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Just one day after the new Williams wastewater plant project passed its final hurdle, heavy construction equipment began to roll.

Folsom-based Syblon Reid took advantage of the spring like weather this past week to go to work on the new state-of-the art plant, which will be built on the existing site along Old Highway 99W, north of Williams.

Work on the project started Tuesday, according to plant engineer Gerry LaBudde, of Eco-Logic Consultants, the same day the state issued its notice to proceed.

"The clock is on," LaBudde said. "It's going to get exciting out there."

The new Williams plant will be similar to the one completed by Colusa for \$16 million in October 2008, and will use the latest ultraviolet light disinfection technology.

The new environmentally friendly technology removes bacteria from the wastewater without the use of chemical disinfectants, city officials said.

The plant improvements in Williams will include an upgrade of the existing pump station, construction of a headworks, construction of a secondary treatment system — including a new aeration basin — a secondary clarifier, new tertiary filtration facilities, an equalization basin and two pump stations.

The project also includes structures for housing motor control equipment and a new office building.

The City Council awarded the contract to Syblon Reid in July for \$12 million, about \$8 million below the engineer's estimate in 2003, before the economic downturn pushed prices down, according to Williams Councilman John Troughton Jr.

The city took advantage of the low bid to upgrade some of the structure to stainless steel, as well as spend additional money on sludge removal, LaBudde said.

The California Water Resources Control Board awarded a \$17 million, 40-year, no-interest loan to the city in December to finance the new facility.

On Wednesday, the City Council approved a \$1.4 million contract with Eco-Logic to oversee the plant's construction and engineering over the next 18 months.

The expense is included in the total cost of the plant, LaBudde said.

The plant should be completed by October 2011, two months before the state's deadline for the city to become compliant with state and federal clean water mandates.

The City Council plans to host a ground-breaking ceremony at the site in early March to allow the public to

get a look at the construction of the facility.

The new plant will be completed without disrupting operations of the existing facility, LaBudde said.

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