



Connections

It's Fall — Time to Reduce Your Irrigation Use

The City of Santa Rosa Water Conservation program would like to

thank everyone for doing their part to use water wisely again this summer. As we enter in to the fall months, it is extremely important that we continue to use every drop as efficiently

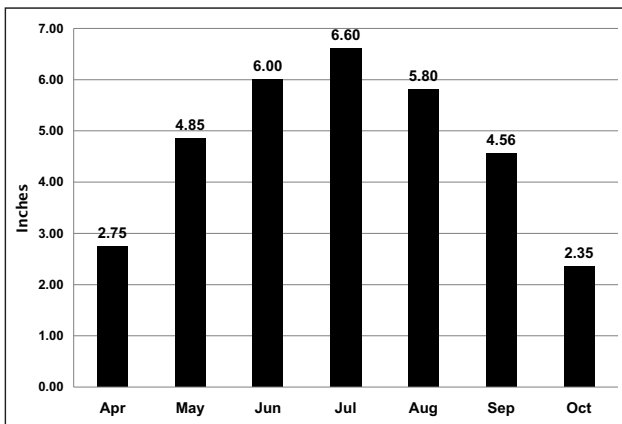
as possible. One way to do that is by reducing your irrigation use.

Throughout the year, the water needs of plants change. During an average year in Santa Rosa, plants need the most water in July. By October, plants need approximately 40 percent of the water that they needed during the month of July. Even when the weather is hot, shorter days mean fewer hours of sunlight, which is one of the biggest factors affecting the water needs of plants. Shorter days mean plants require less water, so remember to reduce your irrigation use in the fall.

Some simple ways to reduce your

irrigation use and prevent over-watering your plants include reducing the

amount of time you run your sprinklers, using repeat start times and short run times for each station, checking and adjusting your irrigation controller on a weekly basis, and calling



The average amount of water that plants need in Santa Rosa is greatest in July.

Turf Time at (707) 543-3466 or visiting www.srcity.org/turftime for suggested weekly lawn and drip watering requirements. In addition, the beginning and end of Daylight Saving Time are good reminders to start a new habit of replacing the back-up battery in your irrigation controller on a semi-annual basis.

Fall is also a great time to consider making changes to your landscape, such as planting new plants and tuning up your irrigation system. The Water Conservation Program offers rebates for improving the efficiency of your irrigation hardware and for replacing

continued on back...

Celebrating Five Years of Success — The Geysers Recharge Project

Construction of the Geysers Recharge Project (GRP) was completed in 2003 at a cost to the City of \$205 million. The original GRP conveyed an average of 11 million gallons per day (mgd), or 4 billion gallons (BG) per year, of highly treated recycled water through 41 miles of pipeline and up 3,000 vertical feet to the Geysers geothermal steamfield. There the recycled water is injected into the ground to produce steam that, in turn, generates “green” power that can supply up to 100,000 homes with electricity.

Calpine Corporation operates the steamfield and has invested over \$50 million toward the development of this project, which can be expanded to handle up to 20 mgd of recycled water. An amended agreement with Calpine, dubbed the Geysers Expansion Project (GEP), will take advantage of the system’s future potential by increasing the delivery of recycled water to the steamfield to as much as 7.1 BG per year.

The GEP agreement guarantees delivery of a maximum of 5.5 BG per year over the next 30 years and allows the City to deliver an additional 1.6 BG to accommodate anticipated growth and

continued on back...

Take a Tour of the Laguna Treatment Plant

Public Tours are offered on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00 AM and the first Wednesday of the month at 4:00 PM.

Reservations required: (707) 543-3350.

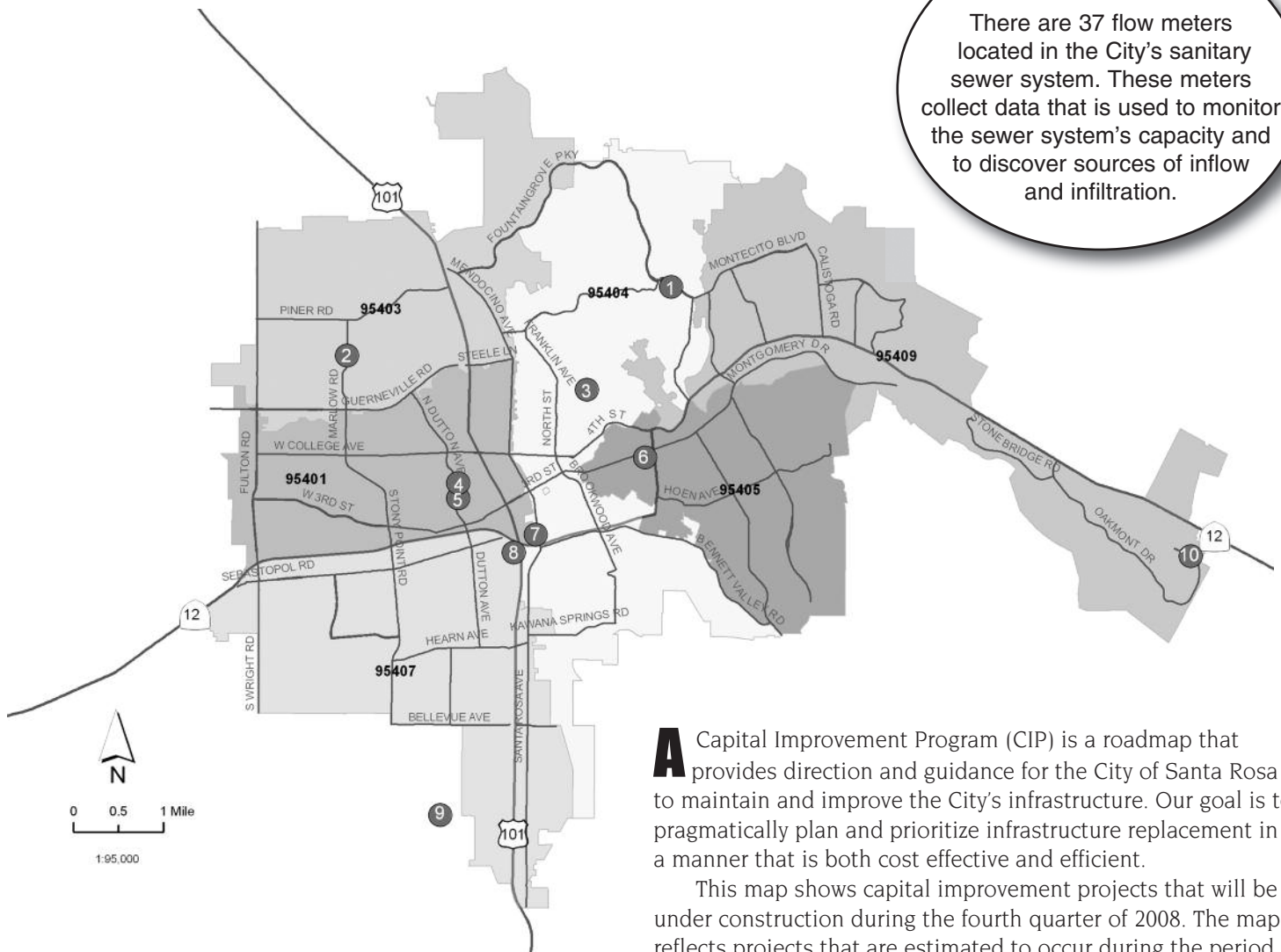
In This Issue

- Capital Improvement Projects
- Utilities Biosolids Program
- Did You Know? Water leaks...
- Maintaining Our Wastewater Treatment Plant

Water and Sewer Capital Improvement Projects in Construction — October through December 2008

Fun Fact!

There are 37 flow meters located in the City's sanitary sewer system. These meters collect data that is used to monitor the sewer system's capacity and to discover sources of inflow and infiltration.



The data represented has been generated from Utilities CIP Planning and Technology sources.

A Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a roadmap that provides direction and guidance for the City of Santa Rosa to maintain and improve the City's infrastructure. Our goal is to pragmatically plan and prioritize infrastructure replacement in a manner that is both cost effective and efficient.

This map shows capital improvement projects that will be under construction during the fourth quarter of 2008. The map reflects projects that are estimated to occur during the period October through December 2008 and, due to varying factors, are subject to change without notice.

#	Project Description
1	Montecito Avenue Water Main Replacement
2	Marlow Siphon Reconstruction
3	Parsons Drive and Terrace Way Sewer Improvements
4	Decker/Boyce/W 8th Sewer and Water Improvements
5	Trowbridge and Polk Sewer and Water Improvements
6	Midway Drive and Magowan Drive Sewer and Water Replacement
7	Palm Street and Santa Rosa Avenue Sewer and Water Improvements
8	Barnett, Davis and Earle Street Sewer Improvements
9	Todd Road Trunk Sewer Improvements
10	Oakmont Dr Bypass Line



Utilities Biosolids Program Progresses Toward National Certification

The City of Santa Rosa's Laguna Treatment Plant produces approximately 3,900-4,200 dry metric tons of highly treated biosolids each year. Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic matter resulting from the treatment of wastewater. Since 1992, the City of Santa Rosa has been beneficially reusing biosolids through land application and in 1996 started a compost facility. In 2007, the City of Santa Rosa

beneficially reused approximately 87 percent of the biosolids produced through land application, composting, and storage.

The City of Santa Rosa is working towards becoming a National Biosolids Partnership (NBP) Environmental Management System (EMS) certified municipality. In June 2007, the City of Santa Rosa's Biosolids Management System (BMS) became operational. The

City of Santa Rosa BMS is a set of standard procedures and steps, developed by the NBP, that biosolids managers can use to ensure the environmental integrity of their biosolids program, improve the effectiveness of their operations, meet regulatory requirements, and address issues of concern to stakeholders and the public.

The City of Santa Rosa's Utilities Department staff has been working to achieve the NBP's EMS certification for their BMS program. The certification process requires that a third party auditor perform an on-site audit of the Program. To prepare for the upcoming audit, City staff performed an on-site internal audit in April 2008. The internal audit was successful with only a few minor adjustments needed to the BMS program. The third party audit is tentatively scheduled for October/November 2008. Once certification is completed, the City will be recognized nationally for protecting the environment by providing high quality biosolids treatment and beneficial reuse.

If you have questions about the BMS Program or upcoming audit, visit www.srcity.org/environmentalprojects or contact the Biosolids Facility at 543-3442.

Did You Know?

The most frequent customer calls the Utilities Department receives are to investigate water leaks in the street or on private property. Our regular business hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday, but we have highly trained staff available to answer calls 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our "stand-by" employees respond to emergencies and customer service calls in the evenings and on weekends and holidays.

With our water supply under constant pressure we appreciate our conservation-minded customers reporting water leaks so our service crews can respond promptly.

Customer reports of water leaks are not the only way we are informed about water leaks. Our Utility Billing staff also reviews monthly readings of customer water meters — looking for high or low usage — which are investigated to

determine if there is a leak or defective water meter.

If a water leak is in the street, it is before the water meter and will not be registered on a customer's meter. If a water leak is on customer property, our staff can help customers troubleshoot the leak but they cannot make repairs to a customer's plumbing system. The customer will need to contact a plumbing professional.

Repairing water leaks in the street requires heavy equipment. Safety laws require identifying other utilities like

natural gas and high voltage electricity lines prior to making repairs. For minor leaks, this can delay repairs for two days or more, but major leaks are repaired immediately with cooperation from other utility companies. City work crews have the experience and knowledge to make the repair quickly with as little inconvenience to our customers as possible.

If you need to report a water leak, call (707) 543-4200 during regular business hours or (707) 543-3805 after hours.



Your Utilities Department at Work for You Maintaining Our Wastewater Treatment Plant



Most Santa Rosans know that their wastewater leaves their house and travels to the Laguna Treatment Plant (Plant) where it goes

through a four-step cleaning process, but most have never thought about the pumps, motors, and equipment that keep the Plant process running. For Terry Schimmel, Mechanical Services Superintendent, the pumps, motors and equipment that keep the Plant operational are what he thinks about most.

Terry started with the City of Santa Rosa in 1992 as a Millwright in the Mechanical Services Division. The Division is responsible for maintenance at several locations, including the Plant, the Oakmont Treatment Plant, the Biosolids facility, and the various reclamation pump stations spread around the Plant's service area. The Division consists of four sections — electrical, instrumentation, mechanical and skilled maintenance.

The electrical technicians are responsible for keeping the Plant powered, as well as maintaining the electrical substation, electrical distribution system, and the motors that power much of the Plant equipment. The mechanics are responsible for maintain-

ing the wide range of equipment that makes up the Plant, including keeping the pumps and valves operational. The skilled maintenance workers are responsible for protecting the equipment, maintaining the oil and grease levels for pumps and gear boxes, and painting and coating the equipment to protect it and make it last longer. The instrumentation technicians maintain the equipment and computers that run the Plant, including maintenance and repair of the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system.

As the Superintendent, Terry is responsible for managing all of these sections and knows that for employees to be successful in this heavy industrial setting it takes knowledge and experience with industrial machinery, awareness of the dangers, teamwork skills and a commitment to safety. Terry is most proud of the City's commitment to getting the job done safely. He says, "Keeping the equipment up and running, helping the Plant Operations meet the wastewater treatment requirements, and making sure employees are safe are our main priorities."

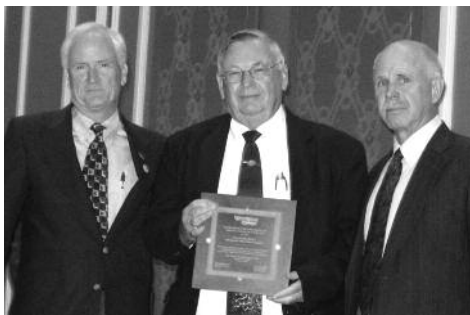
For additional information about the Laguna Treatment Plant or to book a tour, please contact (707) 543-3350 or visit www.srcity.org/ut.

"Celebrating Five Years of Success" continued from page 1...

excess water due to inflow and infiltration from heavy rains. The City has already begun implementing the GEP by increasing the average delivery of recycled water from 11 mgd to 12.6 mgd. Full implementation will take several years to accomplish.

The GEP will cost the City \$2.5 million to expand an existing pump station and add redundancy (system back-up) elements. The expansion project leverages the City's prior \$205 million investment in the GRP. Under the amended agreement, Calpine provides 20 megawatts — or about 75 percent of the power needed for pump station operation — and pays the Subregional Water Reuse System \$300,000 per year for the recycled water. This project continues to be a

success story for Santa Rosa and has won much recognition. Most recently it was named the Institution of the Year by the national WateReuse Association at their convention in Dallas, Texas on September 8, 2008.



Utilities Director Miles Ferris (center) and Utilities Deputy Director Dan Carlson (right) accept award from WateReuse Association President Rich Atwater.

"Fall Irrigation" continued from page 1...

turf with low water use alternatives. The Green Exchange Rebate Program provides up to \$350 for improving the efficiency of your irrigation hardware and up to \$250 for replacing up to 500 square feet of turf with low water use alternatives. To participate, call the Water Conservation Hotline at 707-543-3985 to schedule an irrigation audit pre-inspection.

The Water Conservation Program provides additional services and information that can help you improve your outdoor water use efficiency. Free shut-off hose nozzles and Water Wise Gardening CD's that provide information on low water use plants can be picked up from our office at 69 Stony Circle in Santa Rosa. The Water Conservation Program also provides free home "Check-Ups," where expert staff will come to your home, review your current water uses, and make recommendations for improving your water use efficiency indoors and outdoors.

For additional information on current rebates and incentives or to request assistance in reducing your irrigation use, please contact the Water Conservation Hotline at (707) 543-3985 or www.srcity.org/wc.



Web Resources

Visit these Web sites to learn more about issues mentioned in this Update.

Utilities Department:

www.SRCity.org/UT

Recycled Water:

www.SRCity.org/RecycledWater

Water Conservation:

www.SRCity.org/WC

Incremental Recycled Water Program (IRWP):

www.SRCity.org/IRWP

Environmental Projects:

www.SRCity.org/EnvironmentalProjects