

Utilities Connections



Learn About the 2007 Tiered Water Rates and More at the Water Smart Festival

In January of 2007, the new tiered rates for water use will go into effect. These rates are designed to encourage efficient landscape irrigation and reduce overall high summer water use. The City of Santa Rosa would like to help you understand these rates, how they may affect you, and ways you can increase your water use efficiency.

The Water Smart Festival will be held on Saturday, May 13 from 1:00 – 5:00 PM at the Finley Community Center, 2060 West College Avenue, Santa Rosa.

Representatives from various City services, as well as landscapers, nurseries, irrigation manufacturers and more, will be on hand to answer your questions and give you ideas on how you can lower your water use.

The Festival will include workshops to explain the new tiered water rates and to show how to prepare outdoor areas with low water use plants to reduce water consumption (xeriscaping). You can “ask a professional” landscaper (nursery professional, landscape architect, landscape contractor) any questions you have about the water needs of your plants, or even about new landscaping design concepts.

The Festival will be fun for the entire family. There will be face painting, clowns, balloon artists and a kids art area in the auditorium. Children can create water conservation posters while you talk to local nurseries and peruse examples of beautiful and diverse low

water use plants. Take home information and free water-conserving devices, enjoy food from local vendors and, if you are a City of Santa Rosa water customer, enter to win one of three water-conserving clothes washing machines!



The Water Smart Festival is a place for learning and family fun.



Don't miss this fun and informative event. If you have questions about the Water Smart Festival, contact Water Conservation Staff at (707) 543-3985 for more information, or visit our Web site: www.srcity.org/wc. We look forward to seeing you there!

Web Resources

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

- Recycled Water:**
www.SRcity.org/RecycledWater
- Geysers Recharge Project:**
www.SRcity.org/GeysersProject
- Water Conservation:**
www.SRcity.org/wc
- Incremental Recycled Water Program (IRWP):**
www.RecycledWaterProgram.com

A YEAR IN REVIEW: The Santa Rosa Subregional Water Reuse System Recaps 2005; Looks Forward to 2006

The year 2005 was a busy one for the Santa Rosa Subregional Water Reuse System with many new challenges met and many plans for the future well underway.

In 2005, the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant processed 8.1 billion gallons of wastewater into recycled water that meets or exceeds all state and federal water quality regulations. Of the recycled water produced, 4.4 billion gallons was delivered to the Geysers steamfields for energy production and 2.4 billion gallons was used for irrigation. These reuse activities reduced the Subregional System's river discharge to about 25 percent of what it was before the Geysers Project began operations, bringing river discharge to its lowest level since the 1950's.

The Biosolids Reuse program used 78 percent of all biosolids produced for land application, composting or storing for future uses. Construction of the Alpha Farm Seasonal Storage Facility was also completed in 2005, further reducing landfill disposal of biosolid materials. And a \$4 million expansion to the Laguna Environmental Laboratory was completed, allowing staff to apply even more stringent testing to the water produced at the plant.

It is important that the public knows how their personal disposal behaviors affect the Subregional System and the

continued on back...

Your Utilities Department at Work for You

Ensuring Water Quality for Santa Rosans



Peter Fulkerson has been a City employee for the past 18 years.

While working as a Crew Supervisor in the Water Meter shop, Peter was required to become certified in testing backflow prevention assemblies. The course highlighted the many hazards that could affect the potable water system. Because Peter was very interested in learning more, he became certified in water treatment as well as water distribution systems, which led him to his current position of Water Quality Supervisor.

Peter and his crew are responsible for ensuring that the water supplied to the citizens of Santa Rosa meets or exceeds all the requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Additionally, the Water Quality section flushes water lines to ensure that only the freshest water is available to our customers, and they evaluate all connections to the City potable water

system to eliminate any potential hazards.

Water Quality supervisors need to have Water Treatment and Water Distribution certificates from the California Department of Health Services. They also must hold a backflow prevention and cross-connection control specialist certification from the California-Nevada Section of the American Water Works Association. Having a background or education in laboratory testing or chemistry is very advantageous to working in this field.

Peter feels strongly about his role in ensuring water quality. "I enjoy making sure Santa Rosa has high quality drinking water for our citizens. Santa Rosa has a great source of drinking water in the Russian River and the water quality section wants to ensure it continues to stay fresh till the final tap."

To learn more about the quality of your drinking water, or to request a copy of the annual City of Santa Rosa Consumer Confidence Report on water quality, contact Water Quality at (707) 543-3965.

"A Year in Review" continued...

environment. Therefore, educational Treatment Plant tours for over 2,000 people were conducted in 2005 and the Environmental Compliance Section began the creation of new outreach and educational materials.



Winter storms led to unprecedented flooding at the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Also in 2005, the System continued efforts to respond to the changing

regulatory environment and planned future growth by broadening its water reuse options. Opportunities are being evaluated that not only expand urban reuse but also have the potential to enhance future water supply. Using more recycled water for irrigation and industrial purposes means preserving our precious drinking water sources.

2005 went out with a bang at the Laguna Wastewater Treatment Plant when winter storms led to unprecedented flooding at the plant on the last day of the year. In typical fashion of the dedicated men and women who work for the Santa Rosa Subregional Water Reuse System, treatment plant staff took immediate steps to safeguard critical facilities and minimize damage. The team effort resulted in no

Santa Rosa's Success with Recycled Water

Do you know where and why recycled water is being used in Santa Rosa? To find out, you can look for newly-installed informational kiosks at three public locations currently taking advantage of this valuable resource: the Westside Transit Transfer Station, Finley Park and A Place to Play.



A Place to Play sports complex is irrigated with recycled water.

Among other things, the kiosks explain the benefits of using recycled water, how it is produced, where it is being used and for what purposes.

Finley Park has been using recycled water on their grass and landscaped areas since September 1995. A Place to Play was designed for recycled water irrigation and has provided three years of green turf for soccer and baseball.

For every gallon of recycled water used for irrigation purposes, a gallon of precious drinkable water is saved.



injuries or major equipment failure and the system maintained operations throughout the event.

2005 also marked two decades of truly outstanding leadership and service by Utilities Director, Miles Ferris. The Subregional System has truly benefited from his commitment and dedication.

Now the Subregional System staff have embarked on 2006, which promises more challenges and new exciting opportunities.