



Public Works Department

Landscaping Section

E-News 01/04/2008 Water Wise Article

The Public Works Department is taking steps to conserve water and be "water wise". Toward the end of 2007, the Landscape Section initiated steps to eliminate the operation of irrigation systems during rainy conditions.



Rain Bird Rain Check

A rain sensor compatible with irrigation equipment already in use will regulate watering on the entire system of sprinklers installed on one irrigation control clock. The number of valves and sprinklers varies according to the needs but it is not uncommon for one clock to have up to eight valves and each valve to have a dozen or more sprinklers. The sensors chosen for the initial project are made by Rain Bird Corporation to match the equipment used in the existing irrigation. Various other companies also manufacture rain sensors for commercial applications as well as residential use.

The initial area covering a two mile loop along Alessandro Boulevard has been fitted with the new sensors. The rest of the City will be fitted with rain sensors or more sophisticated systems as part of the Public Works Department's ongoing maintenance and replacement practices.

A more sophisticated approach is being used for new construction projects involving landscape irrigation within City rights-of-way. The Calsense management system is the City's current standard for new installations. Calsense focuses on water conservation, labor savings, and irrigation control. Features of the Calsense system include:

- Ability to be controlled by a computer or radio controller from off site locations;
- Rain sensors to automatically adjust station run times;
- Moisture sensors to allowing system to respond to real time soil conditions;
- Waterline failure sensors which automatically shut off the flow during a leakage;
- Capability of handling up to 48 stations;
- Usage reports; and
- Adjustability for maximum irrigation efficiency.

The water wise steps being implemented by the Public Works Department support the City's Clean and Green initiative.