

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE Today

December 2008



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

Drought Update



Browns Ravine, Folsom Lake, Sept. 2008

Following two critically dry years, 2009 has the potential to be one of the most severe drought years in California's recorded history, according to the California State Department of Water Resources. Water supplies in major reservoirs are well below average and will require a few wet years to replenish. At the end of summer, Folsom Lake, Roseville's primary water supply source, sat at just 31 percent of capacity or 48 percent of average.

Roseville received a 25 percent supply cutback from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) in 2008. The city does not know if there will be a supply cutback in 2009 but preparations are being made as if there will be. This winter, the USBR will begin sending projections, but will

not issue a final determination until April 2009. At that time, the city can determine if the Stage 1 drought condition can be removed or if shortages will require additional conservation measures.

It is best to prepare for another dry year, as reservoirs are low and indications show that regional rainfall will be moderate at best. It is extremely important for everyone to use water wisely and take efforts to decrease their individual water use to get us through these rough times. For assistance, please contact the Water Conservation Division at 916-774-5761 or visit us online at www.roseville.ca.us/savewater.

Water with the Weather

It's the time of year when you can let nature take over your irrigation duties. Even in drought years, winter's shorter, cooler days mean lawns and landscapes grow more slowly and require less water. During the winter months, pay attention to the weather and turn off your irrigation system when rainy days occur. You can also test lawn areas with an inexpensive moisture sensor probe to determine when your lawn needs water. There are also a number of systems available that detect moisture in the air or soil and automatically turn off or adjust watering to the weather conditions.

You can find more water-saving information at www.roseville.ca.us/savewater. If you have questions, feel free to call us at 916-774-5761

City offers way to help combat water waste

The City of Roseville needs your help to combat water waste observed in the community.

If you observe water waste, please report it online by going to www.roseville.ca.us/waterwaste or by calling 774-5761.

IDEAscape: Exploration Center's GREEN IDEAS Get Real

If you've visited Roseville's Exploration Center, you know there are countless ideas on how to conserve natural resources. The center will soon be turning those ideas into practical applications to give you a firsthand look at the latest ideas and technologies to integrate into your home and landscape.

The outdoor exhibit dubbed IDEAscape will cover a one-acre parcel between the Martha Riley Community Library, which houses the Exploration Center, and Kaseberg Creek. The wildlife-friendly design will feature sections on energy, water and reuse. Each section will offer down-to-earth innovations you can apply in your home and garden. The water section, for example, will showcase xeriscaping (landscaping that requires little supplemental water), native plant use, leading-edge irrigation systems, and more.

Construction is set to begin in fall 2010. In the meantime, the Exploration Center is actively seeking sponsors willing to fund the IDEAscape or provide in-kind contributions of products, material, or labor. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, contact Exploration Center's Bob Garrison at 916-746-1551.



Have You Seen Santa?

Children of all ages should be on the lookout for Santa's sleigh parading through Roseville neighborhoods for two weeks beginning on December 8. For the twelfth year in a row, Santa will be riding on a special sleigh powered by Environmental Utilities and Roseville Electric, while our police and fire departments light his way. To find out when Santa will be in your area, go to www.roseville.ca.us/santa to view route maps or call the Santa Hotline at 746-1388 to speak to one of his elves.

Happy ho-ho-holidays!



Go Green for the Holidays

During the holiday season, Americans throw away an extra one million tons of waste, including 38,000 miles of ribbon—enough to tie a bow around the Earth!

This year, avoid excessive waste with these clever ideas—

- Give gifts friends and family can experience, like tickets to events or organization memberships.
- Cut up old Christmas cards and use them as gift tags.
- Buy a recharger and rechargeable batteries for battery-powered gifts.
- Give gift certificates and cards instead of gifts.
- Hide unwrapped gifts and provide clues for kids to find them.
- Buy gifts, cards, wrapping and ribbons made with recycled content.
- Take your Roseville reusable shopping bag with you to carry home holiday purchases.
- Take advantage of Roseville's Christmas tree recycling program.

If we all do a little something, together we can make a world of difference.

City Closes for the Holidays

City offices will be closed from December 25 to January 2.

During this time, utility payments will be accepted online, over the phone, through the mail, and from the drop box in the Civic Center parking lot. Emergency public safety services will operate as usual and refuse pickups will continue as scheduled. *For details about the status of city services during this period, go to www.roseville.ca.us/holidayhours.*

Christmas Tree Recycling

We'll give your used Christmas tree new life by recycling it into compost or wood chips. There are three easy ways to recycle your tree:

- Take unflocked trees to one of the City's Christmas tree drop-off sites on any of the following dates: December 27 and December 28, 2008; or January 3 and January 4, 2009.
- Place unflocked trees in your green waste bin. Remove all branches and cut the trunk into sizes small enough to fit within the bin. Make sure the tree fits completely within the bin with the lid closed.
- As an annual fundraiser, Boy Scout troops work together to provide a Christmas tree pick up service in every Roseville neighborhood. All trees placed curbside by 9 a.m. will be removed by the scouts on December 27-28 or January 3-4. Donation envelopes with instructions, as well as the dates scouts will be in your area, will be delivered to all Roseville residents.

Water Treatment Plant Expansion Earns APWA Awards

Roseville's Water Treatment Plant Expansion/Phase III was named Project of the Year 2008 by the Sacramento Chapter of the American Public Works Association in the Environment Category/Water, Construction Division 4 (\$10 to \$50 million). The award recognizes excellence in management, administration, design, construction and community relations, as well as the alliance between the city and the contractors performing the work.

The project nearly doubled the city's water treatment and delivery capacity from 60 million gallons per day to more than 100 million gallons per days. Notable achievements during the project included no unplanned or major interruptions to water service and zero time lost for injuries of the more than 124,000 man hours it took to complete the project.

Hats Off to Our HEROES

Each month, an employee is selected to receive the department's Honoring Excellence and Rewarding Outstanding Employees (HEROE) award.

Refuse Supervisor **DON EMORY** was selected for our August award for his teamwork and personal sacrifice. Just before going home on a Friday afternoon, Don received a call from another employee who needed additional tables for a community event being held the following day. Don single-handedly loaded and delivered 18 tables to the event site before heading home.

BRUCE BETANCOURT, data management specialist for the wastewater treatment division, earned the September spotlight for his work on developing and maintaining the Environmental Utilities' state-of-the-art centralized data management system, which few other California agencies can match. Bruce's level of competency and professionalism are a daily inspiration to his associates.

If there's an Environmental Utilities Department employee who has provided you with outstanding service, we'd love to hear about it—please call us at 774-5770.



Don Emory



Bruce Betancourt

Our centennial year is almost here!

Watch the Rose Parade on New Year's Day as the City of Roseville kicks off its centennial anniversary on a national stage. If you'd like to help decorate the float in Pasadena, enter an essay contest for students, or to find out what's coming up for the centennial year, visit www.roseville.ca.us/100 for all the latest details.



Reusable bag earns frequent-travel miles

On a recent visit to Disneyland, one of our employees spotted a Roseville reusable shopping bag on Barbara

Ackley's arm and snapped this photo. The Loomis resident shares the bag with her daughter who lives in Roseville and says they use it when they travel and around town for toting library books and grandkids' swimming supplies, as well as shopping purchases.

Share your stories of how you have used your Roseville reusable shopping bag by emailing Sean Bigley at sbigley@roseville.ca.us.

2009 Student Art Calendars Available

More than 250 students competed for the chance to be one of the 13 artists featured in this year's Student Art Calendar Contest. The winning students brought this year's theme "Changing our Footprint—Looking Toward the Future" into colorful drawings and paintings for each month of the calendar and its cover.

The calendar is a free gift to residents and businesses from the city's Environmental Utilities and Roseville Electric. You can pick up your calendar at the Exploration Center or selected City of Roseville public counters.

No Need for a New TV



You've probably heard about the upcoming switch to all-digital television broadcasting.

What that means is that on February 17, 2009, all full-power television stations will end their analog broadcasting and move entirely to the digital format. What that does not mean is that you'll need a new television (no matter what your kids tell you).

If you use a set-top or roof antennae to receive television signals, you will need to purchase a digital converter box. If you subscribe to a cable or satellite service, even if you have an older analog TV, you don't need to do a thing.

To make the converters affordable for households that need them, the federal government is providing up to two \$40 coupons per household. You can apply for the coupons online at www.dtv2009.gov or by calling 1-800-388-2009.

If you decide to purchase a new TV, we'll pick up your old set for recycling at no charge—call 774-5780. When you're buying a new television or digital converter box, look for the ENERGY STAR label to purchase the most energy-efficient model.



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Comments and suggestions are welcome—please send to the attention of Sean Bigley.