

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE

Today

June 2009



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

Economic Downturn Slows City Projects

With the economy slowing and Roseville new construction starts almost at a standstill, the Environmental Utilities Department is putting a hold on planned construction projects.

New facilities and other capital improvement projects receive funding from developer and connection fees; while utility rates fund maintenance and necessary refurbishment projects. With development and connection fees slowing to a trickle, the city is only moving forward with capital improvement projects already begun and rate-funded projects needed to maintain systems.

Did you know?

- Per capita, Roseville customers use about 280 gallons of water every day.
- Year around, the average Roseville home uses 14,609 gallons of water per month, for a yearly total of 175,308 gallons.
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- During the summer months, when irrigation demands are at the peak, average water use jumps to 22,604 gallons per month per household—about twice as much as an average household uses the rest of the year.

DROUGHT UPDATE: How Are We Doing?

There's good news and bad news. The bad news is that even with the late season rains, we still came in under the yearly average rainfall. The good news is that we are making good strides at conserving water. From January through March, we used 1.33 billion gallons of water, which is about 250 million gallons less than projected, about 200 million gallons less than the same period last year, and about 186 million gallons less than the first three months of 2007.



City renews call to save water following new water supply update

Environmental Utilities announced a new water conservation alert asking customers to voluntarily reduce their water use by 20% for the remainder of the year. The alert was issued by the city following an announcement on April 21 by the U.S Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) on the water supply situation at USBR facilities, one of which is Folsom Lake. The city, which gets most of its water from Folsom Lake also learned that the current lake level is sufficient to help distribute water it purchases from other agencies. Roseville plans to continue working with its customers to reduce water use to remain consistent with the Governor's call for statewide water use reduction of 20%.

The announcement by the USBR sets water allocation at 65% of normal for the remainder of the year. In addition, higher lake levels make it possible for the city to pump water it purchases from the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) to city customers to make up for the shortage in USBR water. This improvement in water supply conditions allows the city to move from a mandatory water reduction to a voluntary water reduction.

"Last year, our customers responded to the call to reduce their water use and we are confident that we can work with our customers again to meet the Governor's voluntary 20% water reduction target," said Derrick Whitehead, director of Environmental Utilities.

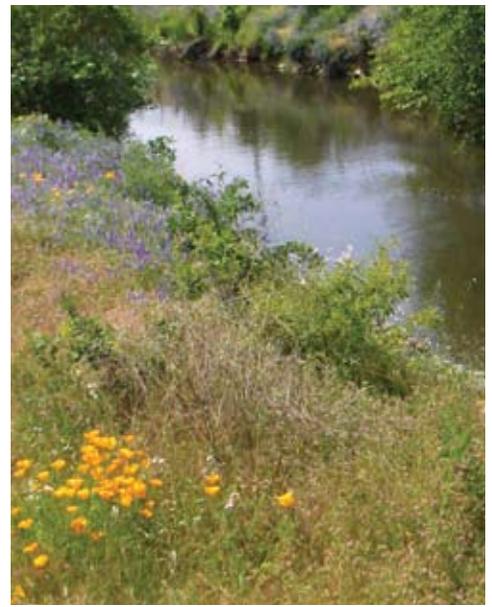
The city is encouraging its customers to take actions now to reduce their water use, such as:

- Reviewing irrigation schedules and reducing run times
- Watering with weather conditions in mind
- Check homes for leaks in irrigation, toilets and other water using fixtures
- Retrofitting faucets and showerheads with water saving aerators and other devices
- Covering swimming pools to reduce evaporation during hot weather
- Taking advantage of free city programs like Water Wise House Calls, free water saving devices, and rebates from the City of Roseville www.roseville.ca.us/savewater

Water Rate Tiers Reward Conservation, Penalize Excess

The city's expanded tiered rate structure that went into effect last month is designed specifically to encourage water conservation. Rewarding those who use less than the average amount per month with the lowest rate of 33 cents per 100 cubic feet. It really pays to save!

Water Quantity Rates (Metered)	2009 Rate
First 1,200 cu. ft. (about 9,000 gallons)	\$0.33 per 100 cubic feet
Next 3,000 cu. ft. (up to about 31,500 gallons)	\$0.65 per 100 cubic feet
Next 3,300 cu. ft. (up to about 56,000 gallons)	\$0.98 per 100 cubic feet
Over 7,500 cu ft. (more than 56,000 gallons)	\$1.46 per 100 cubic feet



Hot Topic: Creating a Rain Garden

Before there were city stormwater systems that divert rain directly into creeks, people planted gardens sunken just enough to catch the rain and allow it to drain away slowly. Rain gardens are being rediscovered today as a smart way to **prevent thousands of gallons of water from surging through the storm drain system** and scouring our creek beds after a good storm.

Creating a rain garden requires planning to determine a good place (or places) to send runoff from roofs and hardscape areas like driveways and patios. The area may be a naturally low spot or may require some digging to create a depression. In either case, rain gardens should contain soil amended to create maximum absorption and native plants already adapted to our area's wet winters and long, dry summers. Talk to your local nursery about creating a rain garden and native plants best suited to Roseville's climate.

More information is also available by searching "rain garden" on the University of California Cooperative Extension Web site at <http://ucanr.org>.

UV Technology Provides Chemical-Free Wastewater Disinfection

Destroying microorganisms is a major function wastewater treatment plants. Until recently, the only way to achieve that goal has been to add chlorine to kill the microorganisms. Though effective, chlorine is a chemical that requires careful handling at every step of the process and must be removed again before releasing the water back into our creeks.

To reduce chlorine use and to comply with increasingly more stringent regulations, the city has recently completed installation of state-of-the-art ultraviolet (UV) technology at its Dry Creek facility and is currently in the process of installing a similar system at the Pleasant Grove Wastewater Treatment Plant. The new UV systems use ultraviolet light to inactivate microorganisms, offering the same level of effectiveness chlorine provides without the chemical drawbacks. The end result is well-treated, chemical-free water that can be used for irrigation or placed back into creeks.

New Water Reservoir Tanks Improve Safety, Increase Reliability and Reserves

The city is currently constructing two new water reservoir storage tanks that will improve its water delivery system by increasing the storage capacity and system reliability.

- The larger of the two projects off Scarsborough Drive in Northeast Roseville replaces an older 6 million gallon storage tank with one that holds 7.25 million gallons. The project is expected to be completed by January 2010 and was initiated to ensure the storage tank meets current seismic standards.
- The second 2.9 million gallon tank off Halverson Drive is expected to be completed by this month. Both storage tanks will help the city store treated water to meet daily demand variations and provide better response to emergency water demands.

Honoring Excellence and Rewarding Outstanding Employees (HEROE) Award Hat Off to Our HEROES!

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

Our February HEROE award goes to Senior Water Distribution Worker **LARRY KOSTAKIS** following a letter sent in from a resident thanking Larry for his customer-focused approach to service. Larry initially met with the resident about placing a new water shut-off box cover in concrete. When the resident called to say the concrete forms were in place, Larry recalled the earlier conversation and delivered the new box the same day. The resident wrote that Larry is a pleasure to work with and wanted to make management aware of a valuable employee.

Our March HEROE award goes to Refuse Supervisor **CHRIS UHERCIK** who was contacted by an employee of the Civic Center, and alerted that some important paperwork was thrown away in error. Unfortunately, the dumpster had already been emptied. Chris quickly identified the specific truck on that route, and pulled it over at the Materials Recovery Facility. Chris and three members of his crew emptied all of the trash from the truck placing it into small piles and helped the employee sort through all of it. This was above and beyond the call of duty, and amazingly, the paperwork was recovered. Yes, it was a bit smelly, but their efforts are impressive and sincerely appreciated. A big kudos to Chris Uhercik and his team—this is truly a great example of communication and teamwork.

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 916-774-5770.



Larry Kostakis



Chris Uhercik

CREEK ALERT

With rain a distant memory and lower-than-normal snowmelt all but gone, our creeks are drying up fast. PLEASE REMEMBER that all motor oil, fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides, and other chemicals that run off from lawns and driveways will go directly into our creeks at high concentration levels during the summer months. The fish symbol found on stormwater drains is a reminder that what enters those drains ends up in a fish's home. Help keep our creeks safe and healthy by keeping out pollutants.

New Web Guide Reveals Utility Bills' Secrets

A good understanding of exactly how much water and electricity you use is an important step in reducing consumption and lowering your utility bills. To provide that insight, we created a new Web page with detailed explanations of such things as:

- What a kWh (short for kilowatt hours) is and how it relates to watts.
- Why you may be charged at different rates for the amount of water and electricity you use
- How water use is measured
- How the city charges for water wastewater, and solid waste services

Get an insider's view of your utility bill and start taking action to lower its numbers by visiting www.roseville.ca.us/yourbill today.

Roseville Surpasses Landfill Diversion Goals

According to new California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB) measurement standards, each Roseville resident generated about 5.8 lbs. of trash daily in 2007—or about 175 lbs. each month for a total of 2,117 lbs. for the year. That's a lot of trash per person, but it's down quite a bit from an average 17.6 lbs. a day for the years 2003-2006, which came out to about 6,338 lbs. per person per year.

How Well Did We Do?

When compared to the target goal of 50 percent less trash per person, Roseville came in well above the mark at 68 percent less per person. The city credits the "one big bin" recycling program that sorts recyclable materials from residential and commercial trash streams, its green trash pick-up program, and the large number of voluntary recycling programs available to residential and business customers.



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