### I R O N M E N T



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

## **Wastewater Collection System Named State's BEST**



You've probably never thought about the wastewater collection system you depend on each day, but you'll be glad to know that you're served by the best. The California Water Environment Association (CWEA) recently singled out Roseville's Wastewater Collection Division for its "Collection System of the Year" award among large wastewater systems statewide. Roseville's Wastewater Collection Division was chosen over the City of Fresno and the City of Newport Beach for this prestigious award.

**UPDATE** 

**Proposed Utility Rate Increases for Water** and Solid Waste

Utility rate increases for water and solid waste utility service were proposed earlier this year and if approved would impact your utility bill starting in August 2011.

To get the latest information on what is being proposed, visit www.roseville.ca.us/eurates or call 774-5300.

Roseville's Wastewater Collection Division is no stranger to receiving the CWEA "Sacramento Area Section" award for Collection System of the Year, having won that award on five different occasions, dating back to 1995, but has received statewide honors on only one prior occasion.

The award recognizes the Wastewater Collection Division for its record of innovative, proactive and cost-effective maintenance programs, professional and courteous employees dedicated to providing highest possible customer service, excellent response times and its exceptional wastewater spill record since 2007. City staff are committed to maintaining and managing infrastructure at the lowest possible cost, thus allowing residents to enjoy one of the lowest wastewater utility rates in the region.

To proactively maintain infrastructure, the Wastewater Collection Division utilizes a Computer Maintenance and Management System (CMMS) that assures maintenance is getting done. Also, the wastewater utility's rehabilitation and capital improvement programs provide the foundation for the city's award-winning system by enabling the city to stay ahead of problems and in front of new regulations. Amongst these capital improvement programs are the citywide cleanout installation project, manhole rehabilitation, and lateral lining projects.

The city also uses a cost-saving robotic surveillance camera to inspect more than 700 miles of sewer pipes and identify those needing replacement. Once repairs have been identified, the wastewater crews make the necessary repairs.

Additionally, many large projects have been completed that have helped protect the environment. Examples include improvements to creek crossings, completed last summer, that prevent pipe failure and catastrophic releases of wastewater into local creeks.

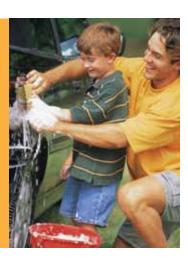
These upgrades and innovations are but a small part of the reasons behind the CWEA award. More important, they are among the reasons you can turn on your faucet, flush your toilet, and run your washing machine without worry.

#### **Car Washing Tips**

The fish and wildlife living in and around our city creeks need us to help keep their homes clean by preventing car-washing dirt, grease and soap from running into stormwater drains. Here are a few simple ways you can help keep our creeks healthy:

- Use minimal amounts of biodegradable phosphate-free soap.
- Wash your car on a grass or gravel area, or divert runoff to grass or gravel
- Put a spray nozzle on your hose to conserve water.
- Empty any remaining soapy water into a toilet or sink.

Also, commercial car washes are piped to keep runoff out of creeks. So now you have a great excuse for getting out of hand washing your car at home!



Today ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES June 2011



#### Let Us Help You SAVE WATER

This has been a great year for water, but as anyone who has lived here long knows, dry years are inevitable. And with the recently passed state law requiring every California resident to use 20 percent less water by 2020, we all need to think ahead and start finding ways to save.

For maximum savings, start by discovering where you use the most water. In Roseville's drier climate, the average home consumes about 170,000 gallons a year, with about 60 percent (102,000 gallons) used outside to irrigate, maintain pools, wash cars, etc. The remaining 30 percent is water used indoors. You'll notice, too, that our rebates and water efficiency programs line up with the highest-use areas.

Cash for Grass Program Our popular program starts up again with new funding on July 1. Available in the order of applications we receive, the program provides \$1.00 for every square foot of thirsty lawn you replace with low-water-use plants (up to \$1,000). Replacing grass could also lower your water bills by saving up to 60 gallons for every square foot of turf you replace—that's 36,000 gallons each year for a 600 square foot lawn!

**Irrigation Efficiency and Smart-Timer Rebates** Upgrade your irrigation system for better efficiency, use **20 percent less water** for irrigation with each upgrade—and we'll help cover the costs.

**Pool Cover Rebates** If you'll install a pool cover and help us prevent up to **15,000 gallons** of water from evaporating, we'll help you pay for the cover.

**Toilets** Save more than **9,000 gallons a year** for every pre-1992 toilet you replace with a high-efficiency model and receive a \$150 rebate per toilet replaced.

**Clothes Washer Rebate** Save **more than 5,000 gallons of water each year** with a qualifying high-efficiency washing machine and receive a \$75 rebate.

**FREE Water Wise House Calls** Follow the recommendations we provide during your free in-home visit and you could **reduce water use by 10 percent or more**. Call 774-5761 to schedule your weekday appointment today.

**FREE Plumbing Retrofit Devices** During your Water Wise House Call, we'll give you the pieces you need to upgrade older faucets, showerheads and more—and help you **save more than 4,000 gallons a year**.

New funding for rebates will be available starting July 1, 2011 on a first-come, first-served basis. Get ready by getting the complete details and rebate applications at www.roseville.ca.us/savewater or by calling 774-5761.

Living Green

# Integrated Pest Management: What It Is and Why It Matters

Our long dry summers put stress on city creeks. With little snowmelt or rain flowing in, creeks get much of their water from lawn and pavement runoff that often carries with it fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides.

To protect our creeks, consider trying an *integrated pest management (IPM)* approach. IPM is a newer term for the way farmers and gardeners of earlier times fought back against weeds, pests and diseases before synthetic chemicals came along. It involves six simple steps:

- Identify the problem.
- Learn about the pest—its lifecycle, food sources, preferred habitat, natural enemies, etc.
- Decide when the pest population requires action. (Pests like aphids attract natural predators that may take care of the problem if you let it reach a certain level before taking action).
- Choose a gentle, yet effective natural treatment first. (Aphids, for example, can be controlled with remedies that range from garlic sprays to aluminum foil, banana peels to calcium dust, which all offer additional benefits to plant health.)
- Monitor the results.

Move to a stronger remedy or combination control method and monitor until the problem resolves.

The good news is that you can now find many time-tested ideas and a host of new discoveries on the Internet, with easy recipes for remedies you can make at home. Better still for those with little time, many companies offer products made from completely natural ingredients and they're now widely available.

The website www.ourwaterourworld.org is a great place to find fact sheets on various pests, pesticide alternatives, beneficial insects, and much more. Local garden centers that work with Our Water – Our World carry many of the products listed on the site. They include:

- Sierra Nursery, 3985 Douglas Boulevard, Roseville, 791-7077
- Green Acres Nursery & Supply, 901 Galleria Boulevard, Roseville, 782-2273
- Bushnell Gardens Nursery, 5255 Douglas Boulevard, Granite Bay, 791-4199

In addition to carrying products, these garden centers have IPM-trained staff who can answer your questions and help you identify and eliminate pest problems.

#### Safety Tip: Beware of Thieves Posing as Utility Workers

Though we've had no reports of this happening in Roseville, nearby communities have reported burglaries by thieves impersonating utility workers. It's important to know that our workers carry badges and drive trucks clearly displaying the City of Roseville emblem. Keep your family and property safe by checking for the following:

- Employee is driving a clearly marked City of Roseville truck.
- City of Roseville badge is in plain sight. If there's no badge visible, ask to see one.
- Though it's not always the case, employees typically carry paperwork that identifies tasks to be performed. Ask to see the paperwork.
- If you have any concerns, ask to speak with the employee's supervisor or call the appropriate department and explain your concern.
- Never let the person inside your home until you have confirmed that he or she is an authorized city employee. Create a barrier between yourself and solicitors with a metal screen door or security door.

Remember, our employees are always happy to answer questions and provide proof. So, when in doubt check it out!

#### New Urban Water Management Plan Nears Completion

Every five years, the city must submit an updated Urban Water Management Plan (UWMP) to the California Department of Water Resources. The plan outlines how the city will meet customer's water needs over the next 20 years. This year, the plan also includes the measures we will take to comply with recently passed legislation requiring that each Californian consume 20 percent less water by the year 2020.

In arriving at the plan, our water utility staff analyzes the many factors that affect our supply and consumption, taking into account past water use, supply sources, future projections and contingency plans for shortages. Also included are the city's recycled water program, aquifer storage wells, conservation efforts and other programs that affect our drinking water supply.

The new UWMP will be posted to our website in July—www.roseville.ca.us/water.



#### **ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES**

www.roseville.ca.us/eu

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