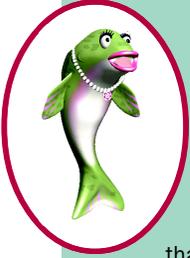


# ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE Today

FEBRUARY 2004

WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE



## Trina Trout makes a splash debut!

Roseville is fortunate that Trina Trout, one of our native steelhead trout, has graciously agreed to serve as spokesfish for all who call the streams of Roseville home. In her new role, Trina will help educate Roseville school children, residents and businesses about the importance of keeping our streams clean.

According to Ms. Trout, "Anything that washes down the stormwater drain ends up in my home. Imagine how you'd feel if people dumped things like paint, pesticides, detergents, oil, grass clippings, and pet droppings in your bedroom! Even dirt that washes into our creeks can clog creeks and spoil the gravel beds I need to lay my eggs."

While steelhead trout and Chinook salmon are the most celebrated stream inhabitants, Roseville is also home for the hitch and mosquito fish, Pacific lamprey, bluegill, and many others. "The steelhead family is already close to extinction," added Ms. Trout, "so we need to work together to ensure Roseville remains a fish-friendly community."

Find out what Trina Trout has to say about taking care of our streams by visiting [www.roseville.ca.us](http://www.roseville.ca.us), go to Departments, Environmental Utilities, Stormwater, and then to the bottom of the page where you can click on Trina to open her special section. Like her Sacramento neighbor, Sammy Salmon, you can expect Trina to make her appearance in classrooms, informational brochures, and many other places in the coming years.

## Mock Bills Get Real—

### First Metered-Rate Water Bills Appear in May

As part of the water meter retrofit program, roughly 12,000 Roseville residents who live in completely metered water zones began receiving an informational statement (or mock bill) in their April 2003 utility bills. The mock bill was created to increase awareness by showing residents what their water bill would have been for the month had they been on a metered water rate. Beginning with their May 2004 bills featuring their April usage, these residents will transition to a metered water rate.

Roseville's switch from flat to metered water rates is designed to encourage water use awareness, which is becoming increasingly important as the population continues to grow. To ease customers into the metered rates, customers receive the information-only statements for one year before transitioning to a metered water rate. This statement enables customers to see how their water costs change from month to month depending on water use. Generally, water bills will be higher in the summer months, when irrigation needs are high, and lower in the winter months.

Future metered water zones will follow a similar process for transition. The current plan for the water meter retrofit program calls for all connections to be billed on a metered rate by July 2012.

- ✓ For more information about our meter retrofit program, please visit our web site at [www.roseville.ca.us](http://www.roseville.ca.us), go to Departments, Environmental Utilities, Water/Wastewater and then to Water Metering.



## Green Waste Recycling Pilot Program Begins

Selected neighborhoods will soon be issued special green waste containers to dispose of their grass clippings, prunings less than 4" in diameter, leaves, weeds, and Christmas trees. These separate containers will allow residents to separate green waste from other household trash and keep green materials out of the public landfill. Green waste materials that can be reused in a variety of ways currently make up about 40 percent of the residential waste sent to our Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Residents chosen to participate in the Green Waste Pilot Program will receive a brochure about the program and will be issued a green 90-gallon waste container, free of charge. The containers will be emptied every other week, with standard trash pickup continuing on a weekly basis. Materials must fall freely from the container when dumped and cannot include any household garbage, plastic, animal waste, concrete, dirt, rocks, construction debris, or tree trunks.

If the pilot program proves successful, the Solid Waste Division hopes to create a citywide green waste recycling program. For more information on the pilot program, call 774-5780.

## Stormwater Ordinance Workshops Taking Shape for Spring

Roseville has developed a Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) that outlines how the city will reduce pollution from reaching its waterways. The SWMP is required under the Federal Environmental Protection Agency's enforcement of the Clean Water Act by ensuring cities and counties monitor stormwater runoff to eliminate pollution. The program includes a new stormwater ordinance currently being developed that will have tougher standards for managing stormwater and non-stormwater runoff from construction projects, and stronger measures for enforcement of stormwater regulations. The ordinance will be available for public review and comment before becoming final and will be the focus of public workshops. Dates are still pending for the workshops that will take place this spring.

The new ordinance, required by the city's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, represents a strengthening of current measures to protect our waterways. Roseville is patterning its new ordinance after others developed by similarly sized California municipalities. The most prominent difference in the new ordinance is a focus on enforcement, with stronger monitoring efforts for ensuring compliance. Increased penalties will help the city protect against illegal discharges and illegal connections into the stormwater system or directly into streams and creeks.

To find out about workshop schedules, visit our web site at [www.roseville.ca.us](http://www.roseville.ca.us), go to Departments, Environmental Utilities, Stormwater, and then to Up-Coming Events and Workshops. You can also call us at 774-5751.

## Water . . . it doesn't take much to make a BIG difference

Most of us turn on the faucet, run the washing machine, and flush the toilet with little awareness of how much water we are using. With the gradual transition to metered water rates, it's a good idea to learn about water use and how you can use almost one-third as much water with a few simple measures.

Estimated gallons used per day*	Conventional	Conservation-minded
<b>Shower (five minutes)</b>		
Conventional vs. low-flow showerhead	27.5	12.5
<b>Bath</b>		
Full tub vs. 1/4 to 1/3 tub	36	10.5
<b>Toilet (4 flushes per day)</b>		
Conventional vs. ultra-low flush	21	6.4
<b>Brushing teeth (twice per day)</b>		
Water running vs. water on at rinse only	7	.8
<b>Washing hands (twice per day)</b>		
Water running vs. water on at rinse only	4	2
<b>Auto dishwasher</b>		
Standard vs. short cycle	12.5	10.5
<b>Manual dishwashing</b>		
Water running vs. full basin wash and rinse	22	5
<b>Laundry (one load)</b>		
Full level/cycle vs. short cycle	13.3	4.2
<b>TOTAL PER DAY</b>	<b>143.3</b>	<b>51.9</b>
<b>TOTAL PER MONTH</b>	<b>4299</b>	<b>1557</b>

\*These estimates come from a variety of sources, including government, private, and academic studies.

## Design your landscape for WATER CONSERVATION

Most of the water used by a typical household goes to keep lawns and plants green. By practicing common-sense planning, irrigation, and maintenance, you can cut water use in half and reduce mowing and trimming time. You use less of our precious resources and gain more of what you like most—free time!

If you are planning to install new or redesign existing landscape, consider landscape design for water conservation by applying the following:

- 💧 Use design principles of natural landscaping (native plants) to reduce landscape water requirements. Indigenous plants that occur naturally in the local environment will likely need less supplemental moisture from irrigation than non-native species. These species have evolved under the local conditions and usually have well-developed mechanisms for surviving extremes in the weather.
- 💧 In addition to native plants, you can add plants that are adapted to dry conditions.
- 💧 Install drought-tolerant plants in dry spots, windy areas, exposed areas, on berms, and in areas against unshaded south or west building walls.
- 💧 Use plants adapted to wet soils only in low spots, waterways, retention ponds, spillways, and areas with poor drainage.
- 💧 Group plants in the landscape according to their water requirements. By grouping plants with similar water needs, the irrigation system can be zoned so that each group receives only the amount of water required to maintain the plants. This technique has the additional advantage that plants on the same irrigation set will not be under or over watered at the sacrifice of other plants. When selecting plants, typical factors to be considered would be the type of plants, the precipitation rate of sprinklers or emitters, solar radiation, wind, soil type, and slope.
- 💧 Add water-retaining organic matter such as mulches and soil conditioners to the soil and install windbreaks and fences to slow winds and reduce evapotranspiration (evaporation from soil and surfaces of rocks and vegetation). A three- to four-inch layer of mulch should be used in planting beds to reduce evaporation from the soil surface, moderate soil temperatures, and suppress weeds. Mulches can sometimes replace turf or groundcovers in areas where they require extensive watering or do not cover an area completely. In these situations, mulches provide the additional benefits of requiring less maintenance and not consuming water.

Check with your local nursery or browse the web sites for information about soil additives or conditioners. Better yet, call 774-5780 to request a compost bin and generate your own mulch.

## Turning Trashcans into Composting Treasures

The department responsible for recycling practices what it preaches by turning old, unusable trashcans into composting bins. The converted 90-gallon cans make excellent containers for composting leaves and grass clippings, which helps reduce the strain on our landfill.

We'll deliver bins on a first-come, first-served basis and create a waiting list to fill orders as we continue to convert retired trashcans.

- To participate in the program, call 774-5780.
- There is no charge for the bins or for delivery to your home.



## Fish-Friendly Cooling Units Installed

The Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant has completed installation of new cooling units designed to lower the temperature of treated water before it enters one of Roseville's cold-water fisheries. The evaporative coolers take in the plant's treated water and cool it to the lower temperatures required by local species before discharging the water into Dry Creek. The creek is a spawning site for Chinook salmon and steelhead trout, as well as home to many other fish species that require temperatures to stay within narrow limits.

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Comments and suggestions are welcome—please send to the attention of Lisa Brown.



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