# ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES

# OCCUPANT OF RO

# **Happy Holidays!**



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

# Santa Returns to Roseville!

### **DECEMBER 9, 11, 16 & 18**

For the seventh straight year, Santa will again visit the neighborhoods of Roseville and will be spreading his visit over several evenings.

Santa is expected to visit Roseville on the evenings of December 9, 11, 16, and 18. Santa's routes are available on the city's web site at www.Roseville.ca.us. or, for more information, call Santa's hotline at 746-1388.



## Christmas Tree Drop-off Sites

### DECEMBER 27 THRU JANUARY 11

When it's time to undeck the halls, and before your glorious Christmas tree starts to look like Charlie Brown's scraggly friend, Roseville offers free drop-off sites at several locations—

- Maidu Community Center
   1550 Maidu Drive
- Roseville Corporation Yard
   2005 Hilltop Circle
- Mahany Park
   1545 Pleasant Grove Boulevard
- Saugstad Park
   100 Buljan Drive
- Washington Boulevard Recycling Site

The drop-off sites will be open from December 27, 2003 through January 11, 2004. Look for the Christmas tree banners at each location. Unflocked trees will be chipped and made available to customers. Flocked trees are not recyclable and will be placed in the landfill.

# Diamond Creek Well—

# **Novel Way to Store Drinking Water Nears Completion**

Roseville's first of five aguifer storage and recovery (ASR) wells is nearing completion. The Diamond Creek Well offers an innovative system that uses a deep underground water source known as the Central Valley Aquifer as a unique storage facility for treated water. During the rainy season, when our Folsom Lake water source generally receives an abundance of rain and snowmelt runoff, the Roseville Water Treatment Plant can treat more water than customers use. The new well is equipped to inject the excess treated water back into the aquifer, where it will be stored. In the summer months, when water demands increase, the well can reverse operation to pump clean water up from the aquifer and into the city's water supply.





**DECEMBER 2003** 

In a region where summer water demands may soon exceed supplies, the innovative system, along with conservation measures, will allow us to effectively manage our valuable and dwindling resources. The well system, similar to systems used in desert regions of the world, will help protect Roseville against shortages caused by drought and can act as a backup water supply in the event of an interruption.

# Tiny Recycling Symbols Tell a Big Story

Take a moment and look at the bottom of plastic containers in your refrigerator.

On the bottom of most plastic containers you'll now see the triangle recycling symbols with a number from one to seven inside. The number tells recyclers exactly what type of plastic was used to make the container so that it can be sorted appropriately and used again to manufacture another item. If the letters below the symbol contain an "R," it means the product was made from recycled materials.

These little symbols popping up on everything from milk jugs to batteries show how far recycling has come in the last 20 years. Many industry organizations, such as the Corrugated Packaging Council for manufacturers of corrugated cardboard, have developed industry-specific symbols to illustrate which products can be recycled. The behind-thescenes story shows that recycling has grown from a grassroots good idea to a major industry with sophisticated systems and controls.

Communities like Roseville that offer recycling drop-off locations and a materials recovery facility (MRF) are important contributors to the system. While all trash from Roseville homes and businesses goes through the MRF, the drop-off containers bypass the MRF and go straight to recyclers. The direct route reduces Roseville's expense for recycling, which helps pay for our recycling efforts and keeps your rates lower.

For a list of convenient recycling locations, visit www.roseville.ca.us, go to Departments, Environmental Utilities, Solid Waste, then Recycling.



# **Vulnerability Assessment Completed**

As part of the homeland security efforts following the tragedy on 9/11, the Federal government expanded the role of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to include protecting our nation against the consequences of terrorism. Congress passed the Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 that outlines steps water utilities must take to assess vulnerabilities and safeguard water systems against terrorist acts.

While the mission of our water utility has always been to deliver safe and dependable water to Roseville residents and businesses, the challenges of carrying out that role have heightened to include greater security against threats not considered just a few years ago. As a first step in meeting those challenges, utilities are required to conduct and submit to the EPA a vulnerability assessment that includes a prioritized list of proposed improvements and a plan of action to reduce risks.

The City of Roseville has completed its work with an outside consultant on the first steps of the vulnerability assessment. The findings show that while all water utilities typically need greater safeguards, Roseville is in much better shape than most, with many protections already in place. The prioritized list of suggested improvements will be presented to the city council and submitted to the EPA before the December 31 deadline. In addition to shoring up any existing vulnerability, the assessment results will be used in planning and designing all future improvements to ensure we continue to deliver safe, dependable drinking water to our community.

# Free! Free! Free! Water-Wise **House Calls**

# Have you made plans for cold weather?

Don't let outdoor plumbing freeze and create costly damage. It takes very little time or money to winterize by insulating exposed pool filter equipment, piping, water valves, backflow preventers, and other outdoor plumbing on your property. There's no need to get elaborate—self-sticking foam insulation with tape works fine.

A certified water auditor can help you identify ways to save water and money. As a thank you for participating, we'll provide you with the following water-saver devices you can install—

- Low-flow showerhead
- Bath and kitchen aerators
- Toilet displacement devices for high-flush models
- Hose shutoff nozzle
- More items upon availability

**CALL 774-5761 TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT** 

# Why am I receiving metered bill information

Since April 2003, approximately 13,000 residential water customers with water meters have been receiving "mock bills" to help them with the transition from a flat rate to paying for the amount of water they use. As additional neighborhoods become fully metered, they too will begin receiving this information.

Supplying this information during the transition period is intended to help customers see their potential water bill each month over a one-year period. Monthly and seasonal water consumption varies, with use generally running higher in the spring and summer due to landscape irrigation needs. If you notice the amount used seems higher than anticipated or if it increases suddenly, you might have a water leak that needs attention. Higher usage may also be caused by filling a swimming pool, construction, an irrigation malfunction, excessive outdoor watering, and other issues.

To avoid paying too much for water once metered rates take effect, get into water-wise habits now!

- If you would like additional help, contact us for a Water-Wise House Call by calling Mitch Myers at 774-5761.
- And, visit the city's web site at www.roseville.ca.us, go to Departments, Environmental Utilities, then Water Conservation. You will find a wealth of good ideas you can practice to lower consumption, and soon, lower bills.

# **Ultra-Low Flush Toilet Rebate Program** Saves 1.5 Million Gallons So Far

Reserve your rebate before funds are depleted and receive up to \$75 for each toilet replaced with an ultra-low flush model. If your toilet was installed before 1992, chances are you can save water and lower your utility bill by replacing it.

Since January 2003, 116 water customers have participated in the Ultra-Low Flush Toilet Rebate Program, saving an estimated 1,528,800 gallons of water annually. Below is an example of how much water a four member family can save if they change out their pre-1992 toilet with the newer 1.6 gallon-per-flush toilet.

- Pre-1970—uses 7.0 gallons per flush. You could save 108 gallons per day.
- Pre-1980—uses 5.5 gallons per flush. You could save 78 gallons per day.
- Pre-1992—uses 3.5 gallons per flush. You could save 46 gallons per day.

New or old, a leaky toilet can waste over 200 gallons a day. To find out if your toilet leaks, introduce a little food coloring into the tank and wait about 15 minutes before flushing. If the bowl changes color, you have a leaky toilet.

### For more information-

- Call Mitch Myers at 774-5761
- Or, visit www.roseville.ca.us, go to Departments. **Environmental Utilities,** then Water Conservation

# **Washing Machine Rebate Money** Still Available

If you're thinking about replacing your washing machine, now is the perfect time. Roseville Electric and Environmental Utilities have teamed up to encourage energy and water savings by offering \$75 rebates for purchasing a new washing machine with an Energy Star AAA rating.

This program ends May 31, 2004, or when funds are depleted.

### For more information-

- Call 774-5110
- Or. visit www.RosevilleElectric.org

TODAY is published for Roseville's residents by the Environmental Utilities Department of the City of Roseville, @2003.

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



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