

# ONMEN August 2008 ROSEVILLE

WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

# **WATER REDUCTIONS:**

# 391 Million Gallon Water Shortfall

### It's Time to Start **Saving Water**

We highly recommend taking advantage of our many water conservation programs and rebates, beginning with a free Water-Wise House Call. Simply call 774-5761 to schedule an appointment for a water-use expert to visit your home and help you locate possible leaks, fine tune your irrigation timing, and identify potential rebate opportunities.

#### **Simple Moves to Save Water**

- Turn off the water when brushing your teeth to save 8 gallons a day almost 3,000 gallons a year!
- Irrigate landscape plants with drip irrigation instead of sprinklers to reduce water use by 20 to 50 percent.
- Cover your swimming pool to eliminate evaporation losses, which can total hundreds of gallons each month. Get a rebate of \$50 or 50 percent (whichever is less) off the cost of a pool cover that reduces evaporation and keeps your pool clean. We also offer a \$200 rebate if you install a permanent mechanical pool cover.
- The average washing machine uses 41 gallons per load, while highefficiency machines use 23 gallons per load. Replace your older water-guzzling machine with a water-efficient model and receive a \$100 rebate.
- Fix leaky faucets-one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year.
- Leaking toilets cause more water waste than any other fixture in the home. Even a silent toilet leak can waste from 30 to 500 gallons of water per day! The ones you can hear will waste much, much more. Repair newer toilets (made after 1992). Replace older toilets with ultra-low-flow or high-efficiency models to receive rebates of \$125 (ULFT) or \$175 (HET).









If you've seen recent pictures of Folsom Lake Reservoir, you know that we're facing a very dry year.

The lake, which provides nearly 100 percent of the city's drinking water, never received this year's expected snowmelt, due to 67 percent of normal water content in the Sierra Nevada snowpack and two previous dry years. Because of this, the federal government announced this spring that the city's normal water allocation of 32,000 acre-feet would be reduced by 25 percent.

#### **What the Numbers Mean**

This year, the city's estimated demands are 35,600 acre-feet every year to meet normal needs. To meet that demand we planned to receive the 32,000 acre-feet from Folsom Lake and 10,000 acre-feet is available from a contract with the Placer County Water Agency and 400 acre-feet was produced through pilot testing of the Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) project for a total of 42,400 acre-feet.

Because this year's Folsom Lake allocation is just 24,000 acre-feet, our total supply comes

to 34,400 acre-feet. That leaves us with 1,200 acre-feet less than we use—or more than 391 million gallons.

If everyone in the city reduces water use by 10 percent, we can manage the water shortage with little disruption to our daily lives. Cutting back use begins with understanding that a Stage One Water Conservation Level means the city is:

- Increasing water waste patrols to ensure water is being used efficiently and leaks are repaired.
- Requests all city water users reduce their water use by 10 percent.
- Prohibits washing streets, parking lots, driveways, sidewalks or buildings, unless public health requires it.
- Requests restaurants only serve water upon request.

For more information please visit www.roseville.ca.us/savewater or call 774-5761.

- the city preserve precious drinking water. This year, the city expects to deliver more than a billion







# Rehab Keeps City Sparkling from the Inside Out

On the surface, Roseville is a bright clean city, but few of us stop to think about how it stays that way. One reason is that the city puts a great deal of effort into the unglamorous aspects of city living, including ensuring its water and sewer systems operate well and never break down unexpectedly.

The city performs constant maintenance on its systems, including employing such novel ideas as using specially trained scuba divers to clean the massive drinkingwater storage tanks. But while maintenance programs prolong a system's life span, even the best maintained components eventually break. The trick is to repair or replace old systems before they break, which is why the city began an ambitious water and sewer rehab program several years ago.

The sewer rehab program started with another innovative idea—sending remote-controlled video cameras into the sewer pipes to inspect, catalogue and determine which ones needed to be replaced, starting with the most critical. The camera crews began in the

oldest sections of Roseville, dating back to 1906, and gradually worked up by decades to the 1980s. When video inspections of areas built in the 1980s showed very few problems, the city determined it made better financial sense to channel its resources toward replacement efforts, which are now actively underway.

This summer, the water system will undergo a similar inspection. Since video cameras cannot go into the sealed water-delivery pipes, the city is using another high-tech approach. Highly sensitive acoustic sensors listen for vibrations caused when the pressurized pipes leak, providing the city an easier way to inspect all city water mains and repair or replace them as needed. At the same time, the city's water treatment plant will also undergo a rigorous inspection, with any needed repairs taking place accordingly.

Just as keeping veins and arteries healthy is vital to looking and feeling your best, keeping the water and wastewater systems in peak condition is critical to maintaining our community's good health.

# Wastewater Treatment Plants **Meet Higher Permit** Standards

On June 12, 2008, the California Regional Water Quality Control Board granted new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits to the Pleasant Grove and Dry Creek Wastewater Treatment Plants.

The new permits reflect the city's compliance in meeting increasingly rigorous standards for treating water discharged from the plants to our local creeks. Careful planning and funding allocations have enabled the city to remain ahead of new requirements. Both plants began the planning efforts for ultraviolet disinfection systems before being required to do so. The UV systems inactivate most germs without using chemicals or leaving any residual effects that could be harmful to people or aquatic life. Of course, we continue to produce recycled water from both plants that is used for irrigation at selected locations throughout the city.



What more appropriate way for a city named Roseville to launch its 100th anniversary than in front of a worldwide audience with a float in the

With float costs estimated at \$200,000, we have launched a grass-roots fundraising effort called "Pennies for the Parade," and you can find

talent, to purchase centennial memorabilia, or to sign up for a penny jar or purchase a sponsorship please call 774-5362 or visit www.roseville.ca.us/100.



2009 Rose Parade!

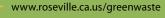
collection jars throughout the city. If you'd like to share your memories, time, or



If numbers tell the story, this city definitely likes the green waste pickup program. Since the program went citywide in 2006, residents have enthusiastically donated millions of pounds of green waste to the Western Placer Waste Management Authority's giant compost pile.

The city currently picks up 5,913 cans each week containing an average of 85 lbs. of green waste. That comes out to about 100,000 lbs. a day, which adds up to almost 23 million pounds for the year!

We'd like to thank you for participating and commend you for doing an excellent job of ensuring your green waste is clean. Our green waste contamination rates are very low, thanks to you.



# **Summertime Hints for Eliminating Trash Can Odors**

Every summer, as temperatures rise, we receive calls from residents wondering what they can do to take the odors out of their trash cans. Here are a few tips we've gathered on environmentally friendly ways to keep cans cleans and smells at bay:

#### Cleaning

- Use a long-handled brush, a biodegradable cleaner and a little water to scrub out the bin. Pour the water and cleaning solution into any gravel or plant-free area of your yard-not into the storm drain system, please!
- Take your bin to the carwash. Carwashes use recirculated water, so there's no worry about being wasteful.

## **Preventing Odors**

After your trash can is clean, here are some ideas for keeping smells from returning.

- Always put trash, including pet waste, in bags and make sure none are open or leaking.
- Layer the bottom of the bin with newspaper and pour in some deodorizing kitty litter or toss in a few charcoal briquettes. The litter or charcoal will absorb any smells, while the newspaper helps keep things from sticking to the can.
- Place some odor-absorbing baking soda in the bottom of your bin.
- There is a new class of nontoxic products available on the market that use enzymes to effectively eliminate odors by breaking down organically produced smells. These products are available from a number of retailers around Roseville and online. Simply search for 'organic odor eliminator' on any Internet search engine for a list of products and online retailers.

Be a good neighbor and keep odors at bay this summer long by following these simple, easy steps.

## Thank You to Our HEROEs

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





Sean Bigley

Our April HEROE award goes to Roy VanNess, Environmental Utilities Mapping Division supervisor. Roy's in-depth understanding of the city's electronic maps is known city wide. Recently, the city's business services manager faced a critical deadline and she rushed over to ask for Roy's help and immediately got her the information she needed to meet her deadline. Roy's willingness to use his knowledge to help out is greatly appreciated.

Sean Bigley was awarded the May HEROES award. Sean coordinates the department's communications outreach, juggling many duties to support its programs and activities. In May, his juggling skills were challenged when the city declared a Stage 1 Water Conservation Alert, creating a rush of press and community inquiries. Shortly after, the city announced its Cash for Grass program, generating another surge of media and community questions. With key Water Utility staff members out on medical leave and vacation, Sean stepped in with his usual relaxed calm, coordinating or handling media interviews and providing written information to the community.

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.



**ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES** 

2005 Hilltop Circle Roseville, CA 95747 916-774-5750

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