

SUCCESS STORIES

Islandia Homeowner Association

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On site association manager Dave Gattey, called for a FREE Irrigation audit from the East Bay Municipal Water District (EBMUD) Water Conservation Division in 1999. During the audit, many of the original old sprinklers inspected did not pop-up above the grass, and the original sprinkler spacing was poor. This contributed to hot spots in the turf, overall poor turf appearance, irrigation run-off, and high water bills. On site staff manually activated the irrigation valves during the year.



Islandia was interested in reducing water costs and improving the appearance of the landscaping. To track how much water was being used for the 13 acres of landscaping, staff installed 38 irrigation submeters on irrigation piping throughout the landscape area. The submeters are read monthly and used to compare irrigation water consumption versus a monthly water budget.



Existing sprinkler uniformity tested poorly at 48%



New sprinklers installed improved uniformity to 75%

Landscape personnel staff then started the task of improving how efficiently water is applied by the existing 30-year old sprinkler system. Automated sprinkler systems were installed with new pressure reducing sprinklers in new locations to reduce overspray and improve how evenly water is applied.

By 2005, irrigation submeters were installed for all of the landscaping and 90% of the irrigation systems were completely renovated. Water consumption was tracked and checked against a landscape water budget based on local weather and the total irrigated area. The submeter results indicated that 37 of the 38 irrigated areas used less water than what was budgeted. The new irrigation controllers were adjusted throughout the year by staff. Only 5 of the submeters had brief periods where water consumption was higher after July, when the landscape water needs are the highest.

Great work!

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EBMUD recognizes this business for their water conservation efforts at this site. However, EBMUD makes no representation regarding these businesses or that similar water savings will be achieved on other sites.