



May 22, 2009

An Important Note to our Customers who use Recycled Water

Landscapes irrigated with Recycled Water can use more water and are immune from Drought Restrictions

During the last three years of below average rainfall, Redwood City has been working extra hard to reduce excessive use of its precious drinking water supplies. Our efforts which have included converting irrigation sites from drinking water to recycled water have paid off because we are now seeing reduced demand on the drinking water that we purchase from the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. However, we are now becoming concerned that our recycled water customers may not be applying enough recycled water to their sites. Though we appreciate the conservation efforts of our customers, we would like to stress the importance of recycled water users applying appropriate amounts of water to their landscape in order to maintain a healthy appearance.

Redwood City recently requested an independent study to examine the issue of soil and water salinity and the effects it has on certain plant life. Results from the study show that, when using recycled water, landscapes need to maintain a proper soil / water balance in order to maintain a healthy appearance. If the soil on recycled water use sites does not remain moist, plants and trees may begin to show symptoms of water stress very quickly. Recycled water customers should use as much water as necessary to maintain soil moisture while avoiding anaerobic conditions (this is the lack of oxygen in the soil resulting from prolonged saturation which facilitates the growth of micro-organisms).

Recycled water customers are unaffected by the State's current water supply conditions and will have plenty of recycled water available for landscape irrigation even in the worst drought. We urge our recycled water customers to use as much water as necessary to maintain a healthy, vibrant landscape.

Using Recycled Water Saves Money

Redwood City recycled water customers are charged at the lowest water rate tier for landscape irrigation; regardless of the amount of water used while also receiving a 25% discount on their water bill. We ask our customers to use as much water in the landscape as necessary and continue to save money over the cost of using potable water.

If you have any questions regarding recycled water, please contact Courtney Rubin, Recycled Water Specialist, at (650) 780-5733.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Ezell', is written over a white background.

JUSTIN EZELL
Public Works Superintendent