

MAIN *the* HVLCSD line

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PLANNING YOUR XERISCAPE

Before you know it, it'll be Spring again! Here in our mediterranean climate, the warm dry weather comes early, and can last through November. Watering your garden or landscaping all that time can really put a dent in your water budget, especially if you have "thirsty" plants. Xeriscape is a method of landscaping that focuses on plants and surfaces that have little or no water demands. Since it is already time to start making landscaping and gardening plans, why not consider updating some or all of your landscaping to a xeriscape theme? The following links offer some great ideas on how to make your yard beautiful, while also helping to lower your water bill!

<https://dengarden.com/gardening/Xeroscaping-in-California>

<https://blog.moonvalleynurseries.com/california/xeriscape-101-your-guide-to-drought-tolerant-landscaping-in-2022>

<https://dpw.lacounty.gov/wwd/web/conservation/xeriscapeeducation.aspx>

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WELCOME!

Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District has some exciting updates and news to share with you! We continue to provide a concise report of the important news and events and how they affect your water and wastewater systems. As always, if you have questions about items in this newsletter, please email them to Penny Cuadras, Administrative Services Manager, at pcuadras@hvllcsd.org. We will respond to your inquiries as soon as we possibly can. In the meantime, we urge you to familiarize yourself with our website, hvllcsd.org. Our website contains a lot of helpful information.

We encourage you to check it out!

DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

FINANCIALS

At our Board of Director's December meeting (12/20/22) the results of last year's financial audit were presented. CSD accounting staff received high marks, and there were no material weaknesses (i.e., the auditors did not find any problems). It is always deeply appreciated when a third-party expert compliments staff on a job well done. You can review the audit on our website at www.hvllcsd.org/financial-audit. Without skipping a beat, though, staff is already looking towards the next fiscal year, and starting the budget planning. Budget planning involves looking at the audit results of last year, looking at the progress of this year's budget, and of course looking to the future. Good news from the audit and this year being within budget guidelines helps build a strong basis for planning. Infrastructure improvements continue to be a priority in budget expenditure.

DROUGHT

Winter is the time of year that rivers, streams, and underground aquifers have a chance to recharge. Water Conservation however, really doesn't have an "off-switch," even when it is raining outside. It is helpful to remain mindful


of the need to conserve water year-round. For those customers connected to our wastewater treatment system, the year-round sewer average is calculated during the winter months. Conserving now will help lower the sewer portion of your bill. Winter is also a good time to make a new landscape plan. A drought tolerant landscape can really help lower your water bill in the warmer months, and now might be a good time to start thinking about it. CSD suggests that you consider implementing xeriscape concepts to your plan as discussed at left in "Planning your Xeriscape."

PROJECTS

Some of CSD's high priority projects are listed below.

AMI—Customers Saving Money!

- You may have seen our field operators installing new water meters throughout the community. We are just shy of being halfway done. This is a water infrastructure improvement project that directly benefits our customers, as well as CSD. These new meters will help you detect and resolve leaks quickly, while

the meter reading process for CSD staff will be completely transformed. Once complete, our field staff will no longer be required to manually read every meter in the community. Their talents will be re-directed, and better utilized on maintenance tasks and other improvement activities. If your CSD account number starts with a 01, 02, 03, 06, 07, 08, 09 or 10 chances are you have a smart meter! Congratulations! Follow this link to more information, and tutorials on setting up the  EyeOnWater app www.hvllcsd.org/eye-on-water, and to monitoring your water usage online.

I&I

- We are pleased to report that a major portion of CSD's battle against I&I, the sewer easement repair running from North Shore Court to Lakeridge Circle is now complete. Supply chain issues of some key materials slowed the progress a bit, but we are happy to have been able to complete this work before the full effects of the rainy season were upon us. Sealing or replacing these leaky pipes lead to a more efficient treatment process that is more cost effective and safer for everyone. CSD together with the state's Department of Water Resources is pleased to bring you this improvement to the underground sewer system.

WATER STORAGE TANKS

- Surveying and geotechnical investigations are underway! CSD has contracted with engineering firms to build the design, the plans, and all the necessary specifications to replace a few wooden water storage tanks in the community. This part of the process is arguably the most important, because it is similar to an instruction manual for the construction contractor. First on the list of things to do is an investigative analysis of the land, both on the surface (landscape and contours), and underneath (soils analysis). The information gathered from this work will help build the preliminary design, which is scheduled to be completed a few weeks after the delivery of this newsletter. CSD is working hard to "protect our community's water" as evidenced in our mission statement.



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 THE MISSION OF THE HIDDEN VALLEY LAKE COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT IS TO PROVIDE, MAINTAIN AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITY'S WATER.



LITTLE DISTRICT, BIG VOICE!

CSD remains active in advocating for water agency rights. Your CSD is a member of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), and a voting member of ACWA's State Legislative Committee. Participation in this group helps protect the rights of local government as it relates to water service. This year at the Fall Conference, staff was honored to receive two awards, the Most Active Small Agency of 2022, and the Top Outreach Agency in Region 1 (fourth year running!)

spotlight

NORTHSHORE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT (NFPD) TO THE RESCUE!

Battalion Chief Mike Wink of the South Lake County Fire Protection District recently announced the creation and availability of the Fuels Reduction Crew, tasked with protecting critical infrastructure. CSD is deeply grateful for the opportunity to put this amazing crew to work and really help keep vegetation around our water storage tanks under control. A thousand thanks to Battalion Chief Mike Ciancio, Fire Captain Brian Bartko, Battalion Chief Mike Wink, and all the crew members for making this happen and getting it done!

