

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE Today

October 2010



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE



Looking to Our Financial Future

Every two years, our department undergoes a rate study to look at the current and projected cost of each element that goes into providing water, wastewater treatment and solid waste disposal. Rate studies are especially important for not-for-profit municipal utilities, such as ours, that are required by law to charge customers only what it costs to provide a service. Laws prohibit us from making a profit and from using fees collected for one service to cover the cost of providing another. We can only use the fees collected for water to provide water service, for example. The same is true for wastewater and solid waste.

By conducting rate studies every two years that project costs out across four years, we can avoid surprise rate hikes by ensuring we are charging the right amount to cover our costs for each service. The studies also help us budget and control spending, which has contributed to keeping our rates for utility services the lowest in the region.

During the study, we examine a variety of costs that go into providing each service, including the costs to repair and replace facilities and equipment, pay employees, and cover operational expenses. In addition to those customary service costs, we also factor in how much it will cost us to implement new laws set to take effect. In recent years, for example, new security mandates, universal waste laws, and fats, oils and grease (FOG) disposal rules required us to add staff or incur other costs. In this study, we're looking at how Governor Schwarzenegger's 20x2020 Water Conservation Plan, finalized late last year, will affect our costs. The plan will require us to undertake steps to decrease water use 20 percent by the year 2020 (and decrease water use by 10 percent by 2015), so we're examining how much those steps will cost to implement and what effect that will have on our rates.

PUBLIC INPUT MILESTONES FOR UTILITY RATE PROCESS (DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

TARGET DATES

PUBLIC INPUT MILESTONES FOR UTILITY RATE PROCESS (DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE)	TARGET DATES
Roseville Coalition of Neighborhood Associations (RCONA)	9/16/10
Public Utilities Commission	9/28/10
Environmental Utilities Today Newsletter Update	10/01/10 – 10/31/10
Public Workshop #1, Maidu Reception Hall	11/16/10
Public Workshop #2, Martha Riley Library	11/18/10
Environmental Utilities Today Newsletter Update	12/01/10 – 12/31/10
Public Utilities Commission Special Meeting	12/14/10
Public Notice (Proposition 218) Mailing	12/27/10
Environmental Utilities Today Newsletter Update	02/01/11 – 02/28/11
Environmental Utilities Rates, City Council Public Hearing	02/06/11
Environmental Utilities Rates, City Council 2nd Public Hearing	03/02/11
Environmental Utilities Today Newsletter Update	04/01/11 – 04/30/11
Fiscal Year 2012 – 2013 Environmental Utilities Rates, Effective Date	04/02/11

If the current rate study determines the need to raise utility rates, Environmental Utilities will conduct an extensive outreach effort to inform our customers and provide opportunities for public feedback. The chart to the left shows tentative outreach opportunities our department is planning. For the latest updates, visit www.roseville.ca.us/eurates.

Did you know?

We provide residents with FREE home pickup of televisions, computers, monitors and printer cartridges; car batteries, oil filters and oil; water heaters; and universal waste, including batteries, fluorescent light tubes and bulbs; and items containing mercury. We'll also pickup your sealed containers of fats, oils and greases at no charge.

For a complete list of items we will pickup up, visit www.roseville.ca.us/batteries. To schedule a FREE pickup from your home, call 774-5780.

Roseville Is Turning Water Conservation into a Healthy Habit

Though mild years make it easy to forget the three hot, dry years that came before, Roseville residents and businesses are carrying forward the healthy water habits learned from those years. In 2008, we used 8 percent less water than was projected to be used. In 2009, we used 9 percent less water than in 2008 and 16 percent less than projected. This year, we hit our normal rainfall and snowpack amounts, but remain on track to use less water than we did in 2009.

That's great news in a region prone to droughts. It means that our community is paying attention to water use and taking steps to reduce consumption. That healthy habit could pay off in the years ahead. Experience tells us we can't count on the future to continue bringing wet and cooler than normal years like the one we're enjoying. Making water-wise changes today will ensure we are better prepared for whatever tomorrow brings.

▶ To find out how you can save water, schedule your free in-home Water Wise House Call by calling 774-5761. To learn more about our many additional water conservation programs, visit www.roseville.ca.us/savewater.



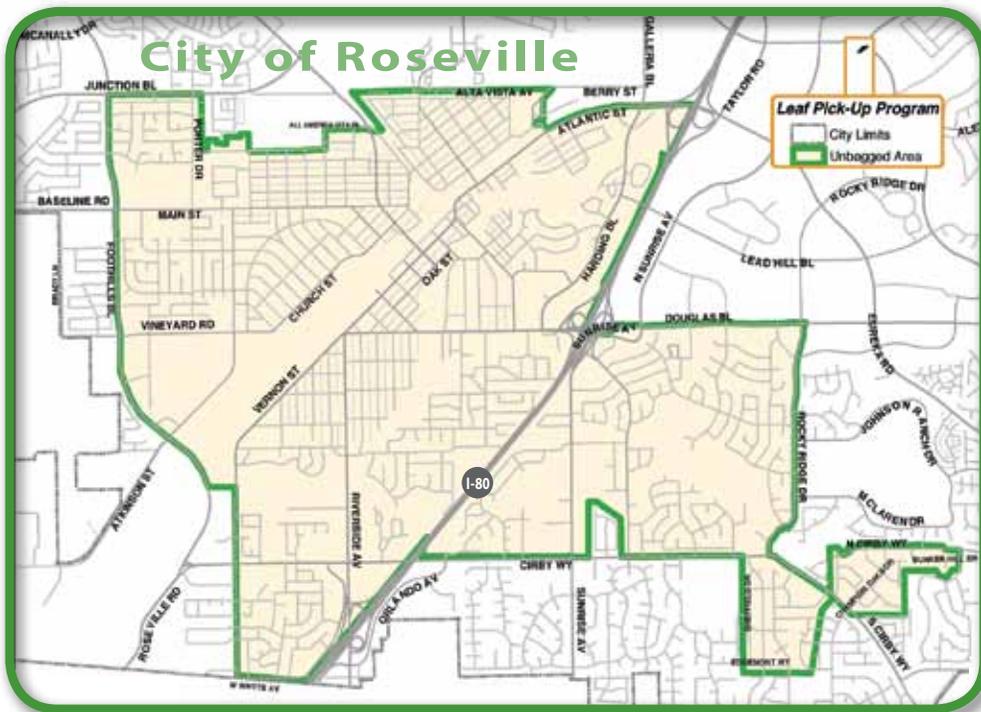
Cresthaven Neighbors Piloting New Water-Wise Landscaping Program

Trying something new is always more fun if you do it with friends. That's the idea behind a unique pilot program in Roseville's Cresthaven neighborhood. The Regional Water Authority (RWA) chose Cresthaven to test the idea that neighbors learning and working together to create water-efficient landscapes is an effective (and fun) way to bring about change.

According to the EPA, most families use about 75 percent of their summertime water on lawns and landscape, so switching to water-efficient landscapes and good irrigation techniques makes sense. Until recently, though, most homes had grassy lawns and overhead sprinklers, and few of us ever thought about how much water a plant required. Making the shift to water-wise landscapes requires learning new techniques for creating beauty the low-water-use way.

Seventeen Cresthaven families agreed to take part in the pilot program sponsored by the RWA, City of Roseville and a Department of Water Resources 2008 Urban Drought Assistance Grant. For their participation, residents receive free consultations with landscape and irrigation experts, custom irrigation schedules, education on checking for irrigation system leaks, written material and workshops on sustainable landscape design, plant selections and efficient watering.

Water providers from throughout the Sacramento region nominated neighborhoods within their service area to participate in the pilot project. Cresthaven earned the honor because of its deep sense of pride and community leaders' enthusiasm for the program. As hoped, the neighborhood has been highly engaged in the program and is making changes that are already lowering water consumption.



Leaf Pickup Program Begins November 1

To keep our waterways flowing freely, we offer Roseville residents two options for fall leaf disposal—our year-around green waste pickup program, and our seasonal leaf pickup that runs from November 1, 2010 through January 14, 2011.

Green Waste Pickup

To take advantage of our green waste pickup, simply place unbagged leaves and other yard clippings in your green waste bin and place it near the curb on your scheduled green waste pickup day.

Bagged Leaf Areas

Starting November 1, Roseville residents can also take advantage of our curbside removal of bagged front-yard leaves by putting the leaves in sealed trash bags weighing less than 40 pounds and placing them near the curb (without blocking the gutter). Call the Community Bulletin Board at 774-5842 and give us your name, address, home phone number, and the number of bags to be removed. Pickup days are Tuesdays and Fridays. Remember, crews cannot pick up leaves in gated or private neighborhoods.

Unbagged Leaf Areas

Roseville provides unbagged leaf-pile removal of front-yard leaves in the city's most densely treed areas, outlined on the map. Rake front-yard leaves into piles onto the street in front of your home. Place the piles at least three feet from parked cars and keep the storm drain inlets clear. Leaf crews will come by with our "Tink" machine and load the piles into a refuse truck for recycling. Bagging leaves is permissible in the map's "Unbagged Area" and you don't need to call the Community Bulletin Board if you live in that area. Our Tink crews will remove the leaves during their normal route that runs from north to south about every two weeks.

Unclogging the FOG

We all know that fats, oils and greases (FOG) can clog arteries and lead to heart attacks, so it comes as no surprise that FOG is also a leading cause of sewer clogs and resulting spills.

To combat FOG, the law requires restaurants to install grease traps and have FOG hauled away. The restaurant program has gone a long way toward eliminating greasy buildup that leads to smelly, costly sewer backups for commercial customers. Residential customers can avoid the same problems by following a few simple steps:

- Scrape greasy pans and dishes into the trash before washing.
- Use sink strainers to catch food items and empty into the trash.
- Pour FOG (cooking oils and shortening, butter and other dairy products, meat fats and juices, salad dressings, sauces and marinades) into a sealable container and call 774-5780 for a free pickup from your home.

People typically use more fats, oils and greases in cooking during the holidays when the cold can cause FOG to congeal, creating a sewer backup that leads to an expensive repair call. Since residents are responsible for sewer pipes on their property, the unhealthy mess can also add up to a very expensive cleanup and repair bill. FOG buildup is easy to avoid by following the steps above and calling us at 774-5780 to carry away your sealed containers of fats, oils and greases—at no charge.

► **Speakers series coming to the Utility Exploration Center. Get details at—www.roseville.ca.us/explore.**

Get Ready for Winter

Before winter sets in, set aside a couple of hours to winterize your plumbing and irrigation system with these quick steps:

- Turn off your irrigation system and drain it to prevent frozen pipes from swelling, cracking or bursting.
- Make sure no outdoor faucets are leaking.
- Prevent cracked garden hoses by draining them and placing indoors.
- Wrap exposed pipes with insulation or heat tape.
- Find your main water shut-off valve so that you can turn off the water quickly if a pipe breaks.
- Now is a good time to flush your water heater to clear out sediment and extend its life.
- Don't come home to a soggy home. Before leaving on an extended vacation, turn off your water to reduce the risk of a broken pipe.



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