

ENVIRONMENTAL UTILITIES CITY OF ROSEVILLE Today

February 2008



WATER • WASTEWATER • RECYCLED WATER • STORMWATER • SOLID WASTE

2008 Projected To Be a Dry One



Folsom Lake, November 27, 2007.

Those who have lived in Roseville long enough remember the 1987-1992 drought that caused residents to curtail watering lawns and washing cars to save precious water for drinking and cooking. Those lessons may once again prove necessary if drought predictions come true this year.

After ending the 2007 wet season with Sierra Nevada snowpack water content 71 percent below normal, we came into this year's rainy season with Folsom Lake below 25 percent full. The lake's water comes directly from snowmelt runoff, which is stored for our drinking water. Though we will not receive final news of our yearly water allocation until March, there are indications we may receive less than our normal allotment. In the event that occurs, we are encouraging everyone in Roseville to start taking voluntary actions now to limit water use and to turn those water-saving practices into habits.

Setting aside causes and political debates, we must face the reality that the earth has experienced seven of the eight warmest years on record since 2001. If that trend continues, as many scientists predict, Northern California will likely see less Sierra Nevada snowpack in the future. Less snowpack translates directly into less drinking water available for our city and other important uses.

Water conservation must become a way of life for those of us who live with hot, rain-free summers. Now is the time to start looking at the ways you use water and making positive changes:

- Installing systems to make conservation easier, including drip irrigation, high efficiency fixtures, such as toilets and showerheads, and water efficient plantings along with adjusting your irrigation timer to water with the weather.
- Changing water-wasteful habits such as taking long showers, washing down driveways and patios, and letting the water run while brushing teeth or doing dishes.
- Checking faucets, toilets and irrigation systems for leaks. A leaky toilet can waste up to 50 gallons of water a day, or 18,250 gallons per year. Leaky faucets that drip at the rate of one drip per second add up to 3,000 wasted gallons each year! *(continued on back)*

Start SAVING WATER today!
For more information—

CALL 774-5761

VISIT roseville.ca.us/savewater

Roseville recently launched an Expanded Polystyrene or EPS packing foam* recycling program on a pilot basis. EPS packing foam is typically used to protect electronics or other fragile items during the shipping process. EPS packing foam is now being accepted at the following recycling drop-off locations:

- Maidu Park at 1550 Maidu Drive
- Washington Boulevard at 800 All American City Boulevard, across from Placer County Fairgrounds
- Mahany Park at 1575 Pleasant Grove Boulevard, next to Bear Dog Park
- Berry Street off of Galleria Boulevard

Please note that the EPS packing foam must be clean and that the city cannot accept packaging peanuts or food containers. Those wishing to recycle foam peanuts should check with local mail-drop stores. Many accept used peanuts and appreciate recycling them over purchasing new ones. *(continued on back)

New EPS Recycling Pilot Program



New Utility Exploration Center Offers Fun, Surprises

Today's hottest topic, climate change, comes alive for children and adults at the new Roseville Utility Exploration Center (RUEC). Opened in January, 2008, the center delivers first-rate interactive learning mixed with fun—and served up cool. Every visit will bring you new, thought-provoking information, a refreshed commitment to do your part for the planet, and practical ways to put that commitment into action.

The RUEC is located within the Martha Riley Community Library at 1501 Pleasant Grove Boulevard. While you're there, explore the ultramodern library and the building, soon to be the city's first green building certified under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System™.

Find out more online at www.roseville.ca.us/explore, or call 916-776-1550.



The "Green Not Green" interactive game show.



The "Wasteful World" exhibit.

Water Treatment Plant Upgrade Completed

The city's water treatment plant on Barton Road has recently undergone an upgrade and expansion, increasing capacity from 60 million to 100 million gallons per day. The plant also added new systems and equipment to expand the water treatment process and to deal with treatment byproducts.

April Bills to Reflect Part Two of 2007 Rate Adjustment

The second half of the rate adjustment approved by Roseville City Council in 2007 is set to take effect in April. Monthly rates for water, wastewater and solid waste will all change, adding up to a combined increase of 8 percent. For the average Roseville household, that takes the monthly bill from \$64.77 in 2007 to \$69.95 in 2008.

City council approved the rate adjustment last year due to rising material costs, regulatory compliance requirements, system rehabilitation, and ongoing maintenance. The rate adjustment also allows the city to stay progressive and offer such innovative recycling programs as home pickup of fats, oils, greases and electronic waste; the new EPS recycling pilot, the green waste program, and others. Even with the increase, the city's rates remain among the region's lowest, while the level of convenience and service remain the highest.

EU HEROEs Deserve a Hand

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



Gary Simpson

Civil Engineering Technician **GARY SIMPSON** was nominated for the October award by a new Mapping and Data Management team member for his skillful mentoring and exceptional patience. Gary has long been a quiet hero to countless co-workers for delivering expert field maps they rely on daily. Last year alone, Gary prepared more than 5,400 map sheets for water, wastewater and stormwater map books.



Terry Chapman

November's award goes to Level III Water Treatment Plant Operator **TERRY CHAPMAN** for his quick thinking and action that averted a potential overflow at the wastewater treatment plant. Terry noticed a recently installed pump was operating improperly and quickly performed a temporary fix to an ultrasonic sensor. Terry's fast action allowed the plant to operate safely until the pump could be repaired.

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.



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2008 Projected To Be a Dry One

One of the fortunate actions the City of Roseville took after the last major drought was to begin building aquifer storage recovery (ASR) wells that allow us to store drinking water during the rainy season and make it available during the dry months. If needed, we could run up to three ASR wells now and we are currently building a fourth. Future plans call for a total of 8 to 10 over the next few years.

City officials may be required to mandate water conservation measures in the future, but they are currently asking residents and businesses to take voluntary action. If we work together to cut back on water use now, we may be able to avoid mandated action later. Roseville has numerous free programs and services to help you save water.

So let's work together to be a water-wise community and set a proud standard others can follow.

Visit www.roseville.ca.us/savewater or call 774-5761 to see all that we have to offer.



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New EPS Recycling Program Pilot

The pilot program is the region's first effort at collecting EPS packing foam and sending it to recyclers that turn it into baseboards, crown molding, lightweight concrete, packaging and other products. In addition to the drop off sites, the city is partnering with businesses to enable retailers to recycle their EPS packing foam.

While lightweight EPS packing foam takes at least 500 hundred years to biodegrade and spends that time filling up landfills, clogging waterways with floating debris, and littering the landscape, little attention has been given to diverting it from the waste stream. Part of the reason is that EPS packing foam recycling has only recently become widespread. In addition, waste-stream diversion goals target weight rather than volume. Though the program will not do much to help Roseville move up from its current 62 percent diversion rate (measured in pounds), the city feels the program is a right and responsible step toward a greener community.

You can help make the program a success by using the recycling drop off sites and making sure you deposit clean, uncontaminated EPS packing foam only.

Visit www.roseville.ca.us/foam for more information.



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.

www.roseville.ca.us/eu



For more information
about recycling, please visit—

roseville.ca.us/recycle