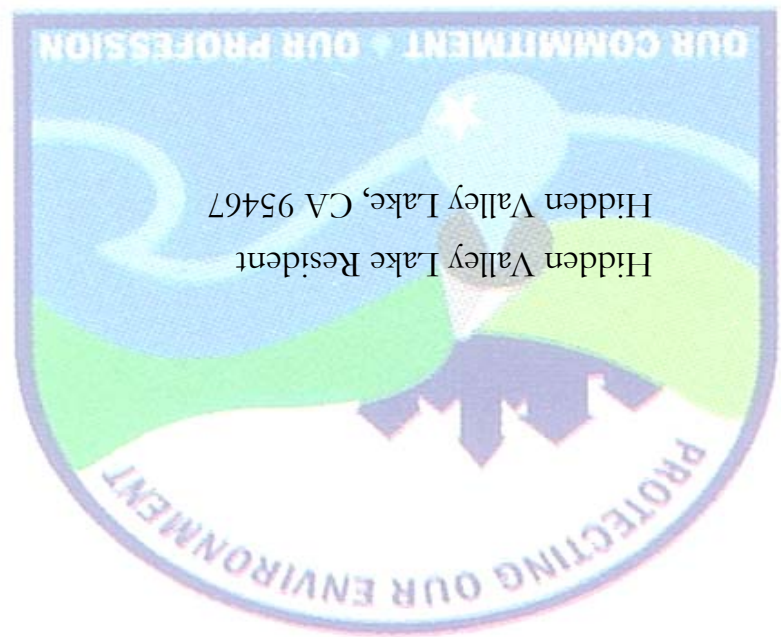


Community Services District
Hidden Valley Lake



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Hidden Valley Lake CSD
19400 Hartmann Road
Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467

19400 Hartmann Road Phone: 707-987-9201
Hidden Valley Lake, CA 95467 Fax: 707-987-3237
Board meetings - third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

www.hiddenvalleylakecsd.com

All agendas and public hearing notices are published on our website under the "Recent Agenda" tab.

Seven Water Savings Tips for Homeowners

Did you ever think that you could be saving water by using an irrigation system? If your irrigation system is correctly designed, installed, and maintained, it will help to minimize the amount of water you use and still keep your lawn and landscaping looking healthy. Here are some practical tips to help you have a lush landscape.....

1. Don't drown your plants

The greatest waste of water comes from applying too much, too often – much of the water is never absorbed. Instead of watering for one long session, water a few times for shorter periods and take 15 minute breaks between each session. This will allow water to soak in while minimizing runoff.

2. Watch the clock

Water between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.– when the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are cool during the spring and summer months. Mid-day watering tends to be less efficient because of water loss due to evaporation and windy conditions during the day. Watering in the evening isn't a good idea either because leaves can remain wet overnight – inviting fungus to grow. By watering in the morning, leaves have a chance to dry out during the day.

3. Divide by zones

Different plants need different amounts of water. Divide your yard and landscape areas into separate irrigation zones so grass can be watered separately and more frequently than groundcovers, shrubs and trees.

Both sprinklers and drip irrigation can be incorporated to achieve more efficient use of water.

4. Water only things that grow

If you have an underground sprinkler system, make sure the sprinkler heads are adjusted properly to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways. A properly adjusted sprinkler head should spray large droplets of water instead of a fine mist (minimizing evaporation and wind drift).

5. Consider dripping

When it comes to watering individual trees, flowerbeds, potted containers, or other non-grassy areas, consider applying water directly to the roots using low volume drip irrigation. This will reduce water waste through evaporation or runoff and will prevent unwanted weeds from growing.

6. Do routine inspections

Since lawns and gardens should be watered in the early morning hours, a problem may not be discovered until it is too late. Periodically check your sprinklers to make sure everything is working properly. A clogged head or a torn line can wreak havoc on your landscape and water bill. Replace drip system emitters every two years.

7. Be rain smart

Adjust your irrigation system as the seasons and weather change. Or better yet, install a shut-off device that automatically detects rain or moisture. These devices are inexpensive and enable you to take advantage of the water without having paying for it.

September 1, 2011
Fall Quarterly Newsletter

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Hidden Valley Lake
Community Services District

Inside this issue:

<i>HVLCSD Photovoltaic Energy Sustainability Project Update</i>	1
<i>District Welcomes Nick Robertson!</i>	1
<i>2011-2012 Fiscal Year Water, Sewer and Reclaimed Water Rates</i>	2
<i>What's so Special About a Special District?</i>	2
<i>District Assessment Bonds and Loans on Property Taxes</i>	3
<i>Toys for Kids Thanks You!</i>	3
<i>Seven Water Savings Tips for Homeowners</i>	4

A public service to the HVL community

Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District

HVLCSD Photovoltaic Energy Sustainability Project Update

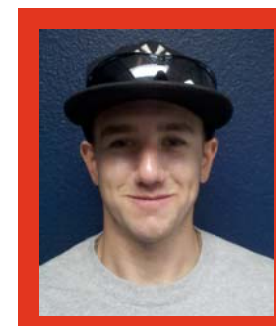
After reviewing four proposals, Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District has formally awarded the contract for the photovoltaic project at its Grange Rd. treatment facility to Real Goods Solar, San Raphael, CA. This innovative project is supported by the United States Department of Agriculture's Rural Development and will be funded with a combination grant/loan package.

To meet power demands at the District's Water Reclamation Plant, Real Goods will be installing 1,176 Sharp 240W solar panels, covering 35,000 square feet, that are expected to produce 420,000 kWh per year. The array will produce enough power to run approximately 75 normal houses. USDA has expressed an interest in using the development as a demonstration project for other water districts throughout the United States. The green on green project will fix the energy prices for treating wastewater at the District for the next three decades.

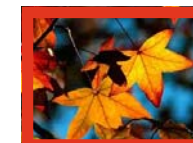
The solar project will support the local economy; Real Goods Solar has committed to use Lake County sub contractors and other local labor whenever possible throughout the project. The timeline presented is aggressive and the District expects to have the project online by the end of 2011.

Included with the construction cost is a monitoring system that will allow customers to view power production and demand online through the District's website, www.hiddenvalleylakecsd.com. The District is gearing up for field trips from local schools where students can view and understand the expanse of silicone used to harvest the sun's power. We're excited to see the many years worth of effort from District staff and engineers coming together to bring the solar project into fruition.

District Welcomes Nick Robertson!



The District recently welcomed a new employee to its operations team. Nick Robertson started in late June and brings experience in both construction and customer service to his position as a Utility Worker. Welcome aboard Nick!



**Hidden Valley Lake CSD
Board of Directors**

- Linda Herndon - President**
- Judy Mirbegian - Vice President**
- Bob Barton - Director**
- Lyle LaFaver - Director**
- Frances Bunce - Director**

2011-2012 Fiscal Year Water, Sewer and Reclaimed Water Rates

During the economic downturn District revenues have declined significantly while expenses have risen. Financial pressure from those tight budget years, increasing energy costs, maintenance, and state and federal regulations have tipped the balance so that current rates are inadequate to meet our financial obligations. As approved at the July 20, 2010 board meeting, a 3% rate increase for the 2011-2012 fiscal year will be reflected in your July - August 2011 bill (mailed the first week of September 2011). Following is the updated rate schedule:

<u>2011-2012 Fiscal Year</u>	
Rate Per <i>Bimonthly</i> Billing Cycle:	
Water Base Rate -	\$ 72.10 (3,000 cubic foot allotment)
Water Use Over Base Rate -	\$.0241 (per cubic foot)
Sewer Base Rate -	\$ 97.44
Reclaimed Water -	\$283.25 (per acre foot, billed monthly)

What's so Special About a Special District?

Special districts are a form of government with an elected Board of Directors that may provide up to 26 different services, and have defined boundaries.

There are two types of special districts, independent and dependent. Independent special districts have their own governing Board of Directors who are elected by their district's voters for a four year term. They are separate, local agencies, created by local petition or through popular election. Independent special districts are directly accountable to their constituents and are not another layer of government.

Dependent special districts are governed by other legislative bodies such as the City Council or a County Board of Supervisors and are administrative extensions of cities and counties. They depend on another unit of government (city or county) for their existence and are accountable to this layer of government.

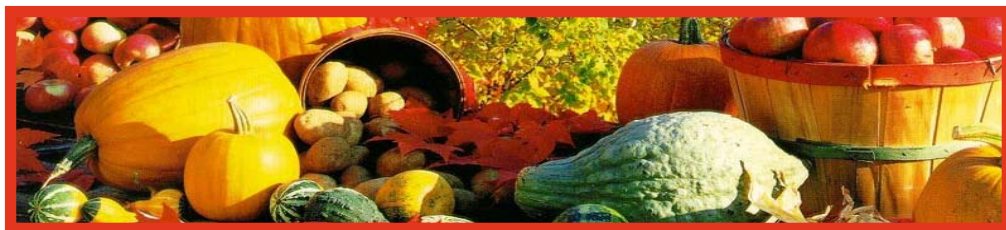
Independent special districts are further characterized as non enterprise and enterprise districts. Non

-enterprise districts provide services on a wide spread basis, such as fire and libraries and rely on public tax dollars for funding. Enterprise districts, provide direct, site specific services, to properties within their boundaries and recover most or all of their service costs through rates imposed upon the user.

Special districts generate revenue from three basic sources:

- 1) Taxes
- 2) Benefit Assessments
- 3) Service Charges

Hidden Valley Lake CSD is an independent enterprise special district and operates solely from service revenues. (The assessment bonds and state loan that are levied on Hidden Valley Lake property owners' taxes are not considered revenue as the funds are restricted to pay off the loan and bonds that were used to fund the construction of the Water Reclamation Plant.)



District Assessment Bonds and Loan on Property Taxes



It's almost property tax time, and we're sure that you are enthusiastically awaiting for that envelope. To help you to better understand your tax bill, we have prepared a brief overview of District charges that are levied on the tax roll.

To fund the construction of the Water Reclamation Plant, Hidden Valley Lake Community Services District issued four bonds and took out a low interest loan. The project included sewer stub out to each parcel, pump stations, reclamation plant, and the reclaimed water reservoir and pipeline.

(The District provides reclaimed water to the Hidden Valley Lake Association Golf Course for irrigation at a substantial cost savings to the association. The reuse of this water also allows the District to conserve 30% of the water it provides.)

Bonds can be paid off early, and of the four original bonds held by the District, two are paid in full. The outstanding bonds are as follows:

- 95-2: due September 2034, original carrier Farmers Home Administration, 5.5% interest
- 95-3: due May 2015, issued by HVLCSD for the repayment of the SRF loan, 3% interest

The State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan, at 3% interest, will be paid in full in May 2015. It cannot be paid early.

If you are interested in paying off your bond assessments early, please call our office for the bond payoff amount, (707) 987-9201. Please note that the amount of the bonds differ by area, as the costs associated with the project were higher in some areas and lower in others.



Toys for Kids Thanks You!

Once again the Hidden Valley Lake golfers showed up early on July 3rd to participate in the Red, White and Blue tournament benefiting Toys for Kids. Thank you Bob Cummesky and Frances Bunce for formatting the tournament and to all the volunteers, Kathy burns, Karen Jensen, Jessica Ipsen, Donna Hodges, Joanne Rau, Kaya Nunn, and Lyn Nunn. Thank you to the businesses that sponsored the event, Winzler & Kelly, PG&E, California Rural Water Association, Bunce Consulting, Cole Creek Equestrian, Grinders Steep, Mike Sand Construction, Big Chill and Hebert Painting, and a special thank you, for the second year in a row, to Blaine Ruggio for serving as the golf professional for the "Beat the Pro" hole. Golf, raffle prizes, a barbeque... who could ask for more? A HUGE thank you everyone who made this even such a success!

Toys for Kids Committee:

Honorary Chair Congressman Mike Thompson
Board of Directors Mel Aust, Tami Ipsen, Peggy McCloud,
Bob Minenna, Anna Ocon and Joanne VanEck

