

ANTELOPE VALLEY WATER CONSERVATION COALITION (AVWCC) MEETING

Held at Lancaster City Hall

December 4, 2008

MINUTES

1. Introductions

Attendance:

Chad Reed	Quartz Hill Water District
Julie Bossin	Quartz Hill Water District
Gretchen Gutierrez	AVBIA/IRWMP Leadership Team
Sue Mathis	Sue Mathis Landscape Design
Melinda Barrett	LA County Waterworks District
Nicole Rizzo	City of Lancaster
Mike Campbell	City of Lancaster
Keith Dyas	AVEK
Tom Barnes	AVEK
Glenn Guenther	Glen's Lawn Care
John Reca	Reca Landscape
Claudette Roberts	Palmdale Water District

2. Agency Status on Water Conservation Efforts

a. City of Lancaster

- i. Lancaster's landscape ordinance was adopted on October 28, 2008.
- ii. Tierra Bonita Park is removing 18,500 sqft of turf to accommodate installation of a xeriscape area. Construction will be complete by April 2009.
- iii. Public Works field employees will soon be distributing reminder postcards to property owners found to be out-of-compliance with Lancaster's emergency water wasting ordinance.

b. LA County Waterworks

- i. The County Board of Supervisors adopted a water wasting ordinance. It is not yet available online.
- ii. As of the end of November, Waterworks District 40 reports an 11% decrease in water use over the prior year.
- iii. Working this week on publicizing the AVEK Quartz Hill Water Treatment Plant shutdown from December 7th to 13th.
- iv. Waterworks receives about 40 applications per month for their rebate program.
- v. Working on a turf buyback program. Will reimburse \$1/sf. Waterworks received a \$250K grant from DWR and annual rebate budget is \$425K.
- vi. Currently purchasing new billing system which will accommodate new rate structures.

c. AVEK

- i. Participated in AV Fair this year distributing literature on water conservation.

- ii. Have realized a reduction in customer water usage especially for LA County and agriculture uses. Permanent crop customers cut usage by 70%.
 - iii. LA County's carryover from last year will be 10,000 AF.
 - iv. Expect a 15% allocation from the state next year.
 - d. Palmdale Water District
 - i. Unveiling water budget rate structure in Spring/Summer 09. Looking for a 15% reduction in customer water use.
 - ii. Have a water management program with vendor Turf Tech. Will do a water survey for customers and tell them what their budget is. Free for 6 months.
 - iii. WaterWise CD should be complete by February 09.
 - iv. Demonstration Garden-Going to Board to relocate the site from the PWD offices to the treatment plant on Avenue S. Still looking for partners and grant funding on project.
 - v. Recently became a member of the CA Urban Water Conservation Council.
 - e. Quartz Hill Water District
 - i. New rate structure coming to customers in February 09 modeled after Irvine Ranch Water District and City of Boulder. In the Prop 218 phase of the change now. This will be based on lot size and number of house occupants.
 - ii. QHWD customers now use 1.2 AF/household. Trying to get to 0.9 and 0.6 by 2015. Can be a challenge given the large lot sizes of my homeowners.
 - iii. Display garden is in place at the QHWD office.
 - iv. Starting an outreach campaign with 5 mailers on the new rate structure. Attended 2 QH town council meetings talking about new structure.
 - v. Will start home landscape auditing soon.

3. Other Issues

- a. AVBIA – KB Home is installing ET controllers for all new tracts. Using Gothic Landscape of Valencia.
- b. Sue Mathis – New city landscape ordinances have some practical problems. Largest is that both ordinances mandate separate water meters of building and landscaping. Installing a 2nd meter can be prohibitively expensive for the property owner. A possible solution is to have 1 main meter with sub-meters.
- c. Glenn Guenther – Landscape ordinances were not advertised enough to industry and property owners so they knew it was coming down the pipeline.
- d. Nicole will give an update on the Coalition at the next IRWMP meeting scheduled for December 10 at City of Lancaster EOC room.

4. Next Meeting – Nicole will schedule for the third or fourth week in January.

Minutes provided by Nicole Rizzo, City of Lancaster (661) 723-5893.