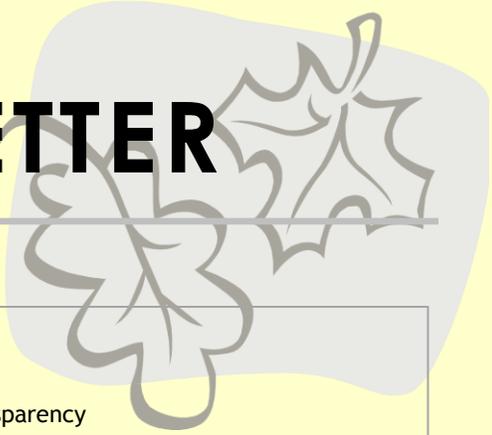




FALL NEWSLETTER



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Transparency Certificate of Excellence

On October 31, 2013, Heritage Ranch Community Services District received news it had received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance.

In order to receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of eight essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

The Heritage Ranch Community Services District also fulfilled fifteen website requirements, including

2014 Winter Water Outlook

The concern of low water elevation in the Nacimiento Reservoir is almost an annual occurrence during the fall season. The reservoir is dependent on annual rain fall runoff. The reservoir has the most active watershed in the State and can reach capacity during one wet season. Conversely, low rain fall years severely impact the amount of water collected each winter. Historically, the reservoir has gone through multiple years of high water elevations and corresponding multiple years with low water elevations.

Nacimiento Reservoir is the only water supply for Heritage Ranch. The Heritage Ranch CSD Board has worked towards providing a level of safety in the event of multi-year droughts including an emergency water supply project and water use restrictions. During the last water year (October 2012 - September 2013) the community of Heritage Ranch used an average of 465,000 gallons of water per day (gpd). The winter months have the lowest demand with a low point in December averaging 245,000 gpd and summer the highest demand with a peak in August of an average of 720,000 gpd. It is estimated that 68% of all water used is for outside irrigation.

Summarized below are important water supply items for the community:

Long Range Winter Forecast/Projections for next Summer

Long range weather forecasters are projecting a dryer than normal winter. Specifically, October - January will receive 85% of normal rainfall and

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providing readily available information to the public, such as board agendas, past minutes, current district budget, and the most recent financial audit.

Finally, the District must demonstrate outreach to its constituents that engages the public in its governance, through newsletters and community transparency reviews.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation and other recognition programs.

January - May will receive 95% of normal rainfall. If this occurs it will be a wetter winter than last year but still below normal. Presented below is the surface water elevation in Nacimiento that we have seen over the last several winters as defined starting on October 1 and ending on June 1.

Year	October 1	June 1	Change in Elevation
2007/08	739'	763'	+ 24'
2008/09	741'	741'	0
2009/10	705'	776'	+ 71'
2010/11	750'	798'	+ 48'
2011/12	780'	772'	- 8'
2012/13	747'	754'	+ 7'
2013/14	735'	745' (projected)	+ 10' (projected)

The above data and winter projections were provided by Monterey County Water Resources Agency (MCWRA). They estimate that if we get the rainfall as projected between 55,000 to 60,000 acre feet of water will flow into

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the reservoir resulting in an increase in elevation by ten feet. However, we will start the summer season with the lowest water surface elevation since June 1, 2009. The two winter years following 2009 produced very high rainfall that eventually filled the reservoir to capacity in 2011. However, if we experience another rainfall year as we did in 2011/12 the reservoir will have very little water in capacity at the start of next summer.

MCWRA reduced the water flow from Nacimiento to the minimum of 60 cfs on October 18. This flow should remain constant for the entire winter unless flood control releases are needed. Current reservoir water storage is 24% of capacity. Next summer's actual water elevation will depend on MCWRA Salinas River Water Diversion project. San Luis County takes control of Nacimiento water at elevation 687 feet, minimum pool.

Emergency Water Connection Nacimiento Water Project

The Heritage Ranch CSD Emergency Water Connection Project is moving along San Luis Obispo County's approval process. This project will provide for an emergency temporary connection to the Nacimiento Water Project (NWP) across the river from the current gallery well system. The County required an engineering review and environmental determination before the project could proceed to the construction stage. These steps are complete. The District is in negotiations with the adjacent property owner to allow us to place our temporary water pipe on their property. The County must still provide us with an agreement for use of the NWP on an emergency basis under the Nacimiento Water Agreement.

The Emergency Water Connection NWP project is only intended to be used if the Nacimiento River is dry. 670 feet (dead pool) is the minimum elevation water can be released from the low level outlet works; lowest possible reservoir elevation water can flow from the outlet works by gravity. The reservoir has never gotten to this level since the dam was built. But it has gotten to one foot of this elevation. This project is critical to insure some level of insurance if the reservoir lowers to dead pool or if there is ever a period that water cannot be released to the Nacimiento River.

The construction cost to connect to the NWP will not be expensive for the HRCSD. However, all participants that use water from the NWP must pay their proportionate share of the cost of the entire project. Thus, NWP water is relatively expensive raw water at a cost of approximately \$1,100 per acre foot. If connected to the NWP we would use one acre foot per day.

Emergency Water Shortage Regulations

The Board of Directors adopted into its Water Code in June 2009 Emergency Water Shortage Regulations and Staged Water Use Reduction Plan. The purpose and intent of this Ordinance is to provide water shortage response procedures to minimize the effect of any existing or threatened water shortage conditions on customers of the District. The rules, regulations and

procedures of the Ordinance are intended to significantly reduce the consumption of water over an extended period of time and, thus extend the availability of water for District customers. The provisions of the Ordinance are implemented upon a determination by the Board that there exists, or there is a threat of, a water shortage that affects the District's ability to supply its customers with potable water. This Ordinance adopts regulations, restrictions, and penalties concerning water delivery, consumption, and conservation in accordance with Water Code Section 375 et seq. For a complete review of the ordinance please contact the District office or view it at www.heritageranchcsd.com/Files/OrdinanceEmergencyWaterShortageRegs.pdf

The staged conditions and general regulations of the Ordinance 5.900 are summarized below:

- A. Stage I - Education, reservoir level between 730' - 720'. District encourages customers to start conserving water, but no enforcement actions will occur.
- B. Stage II - Awareness, reservoir level between 720' - 700'. Goal is to reduce all water consumption by 15%. A 50% surcharge is implemented for water consumption in excess of the established allotments. Outside irrigation may only occur between the hours of 8:00 pm and 7:00 am.
- C. Stage III - Drought, reservoir level between 700' - 680'. Goal is to reduce all water consumption by 30%. A 100% surcharge is implemented for water consumption in excess of the established allotments. The use of potable water for washing vehicles, sidewalks, driveways, etc, will be prohibited. Will Serve Letters shall not be issued.
- D. Stage IV - Extreme Drought, reservoir level between 680' - 670'. Goal is to reduce all water consumption by 50%. A 200% surcharge is implemented for water consumption in excess of the established allotments. No outside water use.

The goal of the Ordinance is to reduce water demand to allow sufficient water during drought conditions to maintain the health and welfare of the community. Based on the current projection the reservoir surface water elevation should reduce to 725 feet around the end of December. So we should at least enter Stage I that provides for the drought education phase. If normal rainfall does not occur, the reservoir will continue to lower and we will enter Stage II before the peak water demand of summer.

We're on the Web!

Visit us at:

www.heritageranchcsd.com
