



# FALL NEWSLETTER

October 2015

HERITAGE RANCH COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
4870 HERITAGE ROAD, PASO ROBLES, CA 93446

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## Wastewater Treatment Master Plan Recycled Water

The need for a Heritage Ranch Wastewater Treatment Master Plan has become evident over the last few years. Our current pond treatment system has had few system improvements or major upgrades since it was first operated by SLO County in the 1970s. Over the last twenty years, the District has focused on major upgrades to its water treatment system. The focus now must pivot to wastewater treatment. A master plan for the future of wastewater treatment has begun and will provide us with a road map on the improvements needed to meet future discharge requirements.

Pond systems are the oldest type of wastewater treatment, are very economically efficient to operate and can produce very good effluent. However, it has become increasingly more difficult to meet State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) effluent limits with the current pond system. Unlike large mechanical wastewater treatment systems, ponds have a much slower biological process that cannot respond quickly to changing influent quality and has limits on discharge quality. The District must maintain both a State and Federal permit to discharge treated effluent. The District has an Environmental Protection Agency National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for its discharge due to the historical definition of discharging to a surface water drainage way. NPDES permits have become more stringent every five years during the renewal process (next renewal June 1, 2016).

The District applied for and received a \$75,000 planning grant from the SWRCB to help fund the Master Plan effort. The focus of this grant is the study of the potential of reuse or recycling of treated effluent. The recycling of wastewater effluent has been a major focus of the State for many years and has always been a dream of the District. The emphasis of recycled water use is to reduce the water demands on ground and surface water sources. We currently produce an average of 180,000 gallons per day of effluent that could be treated and reused for irrigation purposes. However, unlike many wastewater agencies we have few big users of irrigation and instead have many small users. Nevertheless, by recycling our effluent we would reduce the need to build more water wells to supply water for irrigation purposes. Additionally, if we could eliminate the discharge of effluent to the ephemeral drainage way we would eliminate the requirements of the NPDES permit.

Technology and equipment exists to produce very high quality treated effluent for recycled water use but this generally comes with a high price. The financial aspects of the system must make sense to both the local agency and customer for a recycle water program. **A public meeting is scheduled for October 15 at 4:00 at the District office to discuss the planning aspects of the recycled water portion of the Master Plan.**

The goal of the Wastewater Treatment Master Plan is to make improvements to our current pond system to maximize its potential to meet future discharge quality limits. Any re use of effluent will assist this effort and provide a key water tool for us in the future to remain in compliance with discharge regulations. The Engineering Firm of Michael K Nunley & Associates has been hired to complete the Master Plan. They are scheduled to complete the Master Plan and Recycled Water Study by October 2016.

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## Water Conservation

On April 1, 2015, Governor Brown issued the fourth in a series of Executive Orders on actions necessary to address California's severe drought conditions, which directed the State Water Board to implement mandatory water reductions to reduce potable water usage by 25% statewide. On May 5, 2015, the State Water Board adopted an emergency conservation regulation in accordance with the Governor's directive. The provisions of the emergency regulation went into effect on May 18, 2015 and remain in effect for 270 days unless the State Water Board determines that it is no longer necessary due to changed conditions, or unless the State Water Board renews the regulation due to continued drought conditions as described in the Water Code.

Heritage Ranch is in compliance with the emergency regulations with the adoption of our maximum two day per week irrigation schedule. We have reduced our total water demand by 25% when compared to our 2013 demand.

It must be noted that if any measurable rain is received this winter, most outside irrigation can stop. If rain is in the weekly forecast identify your landscape's need for water, spot water if necessary, and turn your irrigation controller to the Rain Pause or System Off position. We will know around February 2016, if the State Board intends to continue the regulations.

## Water Restriction Schedule Time Change

In response to concerns of customers for winter season irrigation hours we have adjusted our water restriction schedule times to better suit fall and winter daylight times. Beginning October 1st the Water Restriction Schedule time will change from 8PM to 7AM to 6PM to 8AM.

**THANK YOU FOR CONSERVING WATER!**

### **WATERING DAYS SCHEDULE PER TRACT**

**Tracts: 0446, 0447, 0475, 0693, 1063, 1094, 1910**  
**Tuesday, Saturday**

**Tracts: 0050, 0424, 0452, 0474, 0720, 0721, 0999, 1990**  
**Wednesday, Sunday**

**ANY OUTSIDE WATER USE ON MONDAY**  
**IS PROHIBITED FOR ALL CUSTOMERS!**



**OUTSIDE WATER USE / IRRIGATION MAY ONLY**  
**OCCUR BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6 PM AND 8 AM**

## Customer Rebate Programs

HRCSD is continuing to offer toilet rebates up to \$120 per toilet that qualifies. Go to [www.heritageranchcsd.com](http://www.heritageranchcsd.com), customer service/forms/toilet retrofit rebate application. Read through the requirements, terms and conditions prior to submitting your application to the CSD or contact the CSD office for more information.

Although the HRCSD is not offering a turf removal rebate, the Department of Water Resources has a Turf Removal Rebate Program. The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has a rebate program for removing turf and replacing it with landscapes that require little water at California single-family residences to support the State's drought response.



Go To [www.saveourwaterrebates.com](http://www.saveourwaterrebates.com) and click claim your turf replacement rebate and follow the instructions. Should you need further instructions or information please contact the CSD office.