Irvine Campus Housing Authority

2015-06-16

Water conservation in University Hills

- Education
    - IRWD booth at large community events
    - E-mailing high water users with reminders
        - Based on monthly water meter readings, ICHA has identified leaks, faulty equipment after notifying residents.
    - HRB is beginning an education and information e-mail campaign
- Design
    - New homes have no grass. Using only low and some medium water plants.
    - Meet or exceed CBC
        - Low flow fixtures
        - Energy Star Dishwasher
    - Certified Green Point Rated (above and beyond CBC)
    - Reclaimed water in all common areas and in rental properties
    - Using San Diego Bent Grass for parkways and grassy fields in new neighborhoods
        - Local native grass. 80% ETO summer, 40% ETO winter
    - Solar radiation & rain sensors for all new homes connected to smart irrigation controller. Theoretically, it is a "set it once" device. Set by professionals based on Landscape Architect calculations and specifications for each yard.
- Operational
    - For remaining common area irrigation using domestic water, 20% reduction in usage from 2013 to 2015.
    - Already retrofitted Las Lomas Apartments to reclaimed water.
    - In process with contractor to retrofit remaining domestic water irrigation to reclaim by end of 2016.
    - Using its monthly water meter readings, ICHA looks for monthly variances in common area usage (both domestic and reclaimed areas) to identify leaks, faulty meters, "sticky" valves, etc.
- Collaboration
    - ICHA and HRB have negotiated a 50% discount for an internet-connected smart irrigation controller for existing residents. This rollout will happen in June & July.
    - ICHA and IRWD continue to look for opportunities to collaborate on getting rebates, information, and water-saving devices into the hand of University Hills residents.
        - Rebates for converting grass to low water using plants
        - Rebates or replacement fixtures and heads
        - Auto-off hose nozzles
        - Irrigation timing recommendation for seasons and plant materials
        - Free home water usage audits