



Indian Ridge Country Club HOA wins conservation award

CVWD Board of Directors recently honored Indian Ridge Country Club HOA in Palm Desert with its Outstanding Commercial Water Saver Award.

The water district’s conservation contests are aimed at recognizing and celebrating extraordinary water savers in the community. Divided into two categories, one honors homeowners who have transformed their yards into water-saving landscapes. The second category recognizes commercial properties that have implemented effective water conservation practices.

Indian Ridge Country Club HOA partnered with RGA Landscape Architects, in a year-long project, removed 6.5 acres of turf, replaced the irrigation system from the controllers to the underground irrigation lines to the emitters and removed nearly all plant material and replaced it with desert-friendly plants in all common areas. Each of the 467 homes in the HOA has a new front yard landscaped with water efficient plants. The design allowed homeowners to keep grass inside courtyards and backyards.

Water savings have hit the 40% mark,



said Joe Rice, HOA community services and facilities manager. The HOA also received rebates for removing the turf and installing smart controllers through CVWD’s rebate programs.

“These projects are excellent examples of the significant water savings that can be achieved by making changes to outdoor

landscaping,” said Katie Evans, CVWD conservation manager. “These changes show that our community is embracing long-term water conservation as the new California lifestyle.”

For more information about CVWD’s conservation contests, visit www.cvwd.org/contests.

Sewer service rate restructure proposal coming soon

CVWD is proposing to restructure sewer service rates to reflect water use and how much wastewater is sent into the sewer by each individual customer.

CVWD has not raised its rates for sewer service since 2010 and is not proposing to increase the revenue it receives from sewer charges at this time. Rather, CVWD is proposing to restructure how the rates are calculated and to simplify the rates to reflect current customer demand.

Currently, sewer rates are overly complex,



varying by geography and with different formulas for different types of customers. The proposed restructure would eliminate the disparity and charge all businesses the same rate per Equivalent Sewer Unit (ESU) with an assigned number of ESUs based on a customer's average water use over a three-year period. Customers can reduce sewer bill costs by reducing their water use.

The proposed sewer rate restructure would create one rate for all non-residential sewer customers eliminating the complex formulas used in the current rate structure.

Approximately 40% of businesses would receive a small decrease in their monthly sewer charge. Approximately 60% would see an increase ranging from minimal to significant. If approved, rate changes would be effective January 1, 2018. Look for estimated charges on your bill starting in October, to understand how your business will be affected.

An official notice is being mailed to all sewer customers with more detailed information.

These changes are being done as a result of a third-party rate study. The study revealed that current rates no longer reflect what it costs to provide sewer services.

CVWD Board of Directors will vote on whether to approve the proposed rate structure changes at

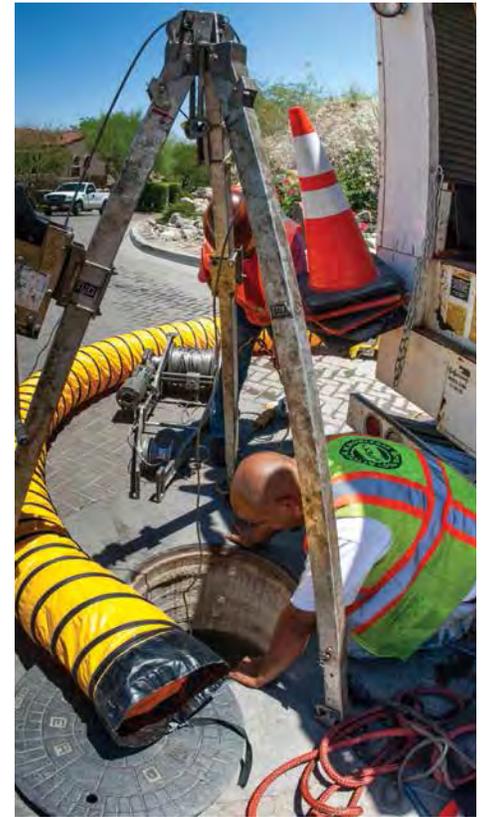
the public meeting listed below.

Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2017

Time: 8 a.m.

Location: 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert

Visit www.cvwd.org/ratechanges for more information.



Irrigation Guide

This irrigation guide offers suggested watering times for lawns. Individual watering times vary based on sprinkler efficiency, soil and weather conditions. Start with this guide and try reducing the number of minutes of watering per day.

	Water-efficient shrubs	Water-efficient trees	Non-desert trees	Grass on spray or rotary system
May	0.9 gal./day 6 days/week	18 gal./day 6 days/week	60 gal./day 6 days/week	Spray system: 12 min./day; 7 days/week Rotor system: 27 min./day; 7 days/week
June	0.9 gal./day 7 days/week	18 gal./day 7 days/week	59 gal./day 7 days/week	Spray system: 14 min./day; 7 days/week Rotor system: 30 min./day; 7 days/week
July	0.9 gal./day 7 days/week	17 gal./day 5 days/week	59 gal./day 7 days/week	Spray system: 13 min./day; 7 days/week Rotor system: 30 min./day; 7 days/week

CVWD supports governor's decision to end the drought emergency

CVWD supports actions taken recently to lift the state's drought emergency while shifting focus to long-term conservation efforts and improved planning for future droughts.

"CVWD has been among several water agencies lobbying the state to lift the emergency in light of the wet winter and heavy snow pack throughout the state," said CVWD General Manager Jim Barrett. "We have always been committed to promoting conservation and managing the water supplies in a long-term, sustainable manner."

During the drought emergency months, CVWD customers reduced their water use by an average of 23% compared to the state's base year of 2013. Water agencies will be required to continue to record and submit monthly conservation information to the State Water Resources Control Board.

"Our customers have worked hard, many at great cost, to continue to reduce their water use even after the state conservation mandates were eliminated," Barrett said. "They should be commended for that effort and for continuing to show a commitment to making conservation a way of life."

For smarter drought planning, the state is looking to make water-use restrictions permanent. The following state and local restrictions remain in effect until further notice:

- ✓ No irrigation during or within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.
- ✓ Broken sprinklers must be repaired within 24 hours of notification.



- ✓ Eating establishments may only serve drinking water upon request.
- ✓ Hotels and motels must provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily.
- ✓ Applying water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff to adjacent property, roadways, parking lots, etc. is prohibited.
- ✓ Using a hose to wash an automobile, windows, solar panels, and tennis courts, except where the hose is equipped with a shut-off nozzle, is prohibited.
- ✓ Applying any water to any hard surface including, but not limited to, driveways, sidewalks, and asphalt is prohibited.
- ✓ Using non-recirculated water in a fountain or other decorative water feature is prohibited.
- ✓ Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.

Many of the restrictions listed above are common sense actions to help eliminate water waste. Since the drought emergency, California communities have become more water efficient and conscious of their water use.

For a complete list of conservation

programs, tips for reducing water use and existing water-use restrictions, visit www.cvwd.org/conservation.

4 Simple ways to reduce water use this summer

- 1 Your landscaping does need more water during the warmer months. Check CVWD's irrigation guide on page two.
- 2 Apply water in the early morning or evening hours to minimize loss through evaporation.
- 3 Mix organic mulches thoroughly into the soil over the root area of the plant. Mulch and composts help insulate the soil, improves soil structure, curtails weed growth and prevents soil crusting.
- 4 Check irrigation system for clogs and broken sprinklers. Run the system while you are watching to catch problem areas.

Visit www.cvwd.org/conservation for more conservation tips.



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Landscaper Certification Class now available online

CVWD is now offering an online Landscaper Certification Class through College of the Desert aimed at helping professional landscapers and anyone interested in landscaping in the Coachella Valley be more efficient water users.

The new online program focuses on



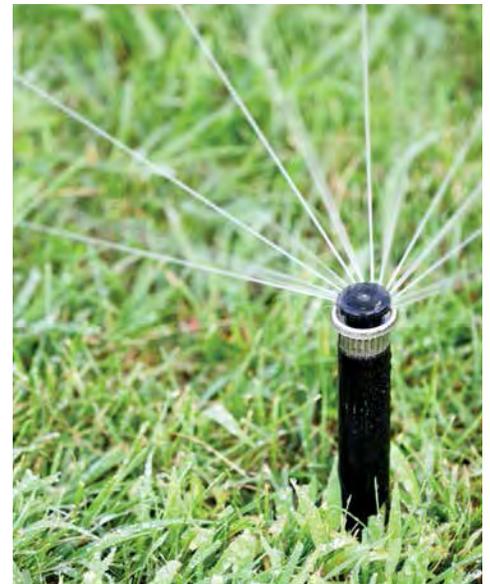
teaching participants the best practices for achieving water efficiency when creating outdoor environments. This certification course may be required for any new or existing professionals seeking a landscaping business license in any city or county in the Coachella Valley.

This free course is available in English and Spanish. Through the course, participants learn about topics such as soil types, irrigation system efficiency, and evapotranspiration.

Program curriculum was developed in collaboration with CVWD, Coachella Valley Association of Governments and College of the Desert.

"These projects demonstrate the significant water savings that can be achieved by making changes to outdoor landscaping," said Katie Evans, CVWD conservation manager. "The beautiful re-design at Indian Ridge Country Club shows that our community is embracing long-term water conservation as the new California lifestyle."

CVWD encourages landscape businesses



to have as many employees as possible participate in this free, local training, even if business license applications only require one person from a company to be certified.

This class is excellent tool that can help reinforce and improve long-term water conservation efforts in the Coachella Valley.

Visit www.cvwd.org/landscaper for more information about the program.