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Hector Ruiz

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NEW YEAR CHECKLIST FOR 2013

The start of the New Year is a time for renewal and re-evaluation. TCWD encourages our customers to use this time of the year as an opportunity to review some key water-related items at your homes.

• Irrigation Timer Batteries

Irrigation timers are helpful tools for homeowners and commercial landscapes. Usually, these devices are designed with two power sources: electrical power and a backup battery. It is a good practice to change out the batteries at the beginning of the year. That way, if there is a power outage for an extended period at your residence, you can be confident that your landscape irrigation will continue to function during and after the power outage.

However, these small batteries can pose a problem because when power is restored, these devices are designed to implement their default settings. The default settings for many timers currently available on the market are typically ten minutes per station, and may cause excessive watering in some areas. Usually, your residential irrigation timer is not high on the concern list during a power outage and this often happens without the homeowner's knowledge.

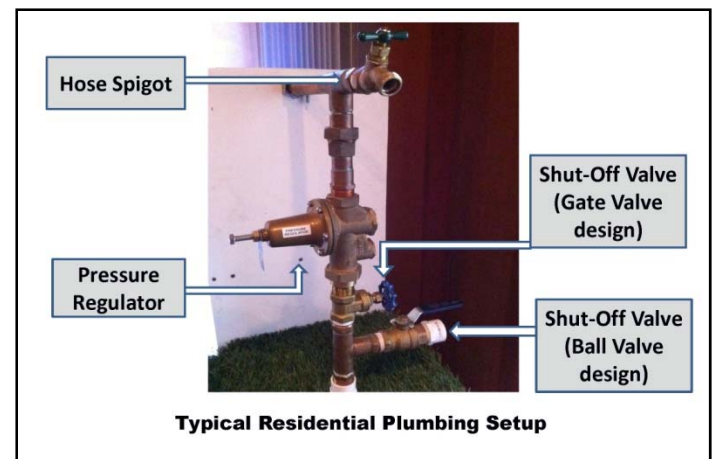
• Irrigation Schedules

The New Year is also a good time to review your irrigation schedule. It is important to adjust irrigation schedules throughout the year as the seasons change from one to the next. During the winter season (if it is not raining), it is recommended that sprinkler run times be reduced. It is important to always inspect your gardens and lawns for stress or over or under-watering,

as well as watching for runoff which is an indicator of over-watering.

• Exercise valves

At your home, there is a water service valve which is indispensable in the event of a plumbing system water leak. This valve is typically in line with a hose spigot and is designed to isolate the home plumbing system from both the meter and the residential irrigation system. Usually, this valve is located in the garage or close to the front door.



This should be the valve customers use first when turning off water to their house. This valve can come in two designs: Gate Valve or Ball Valve. A word of caution, if this valve is not exercised (closed and opened slowly) at least once a year, it may not work correctly at a time of great need. If there is a problem with this valve, it is important to have a plumber make the repairs.

• Pressure Regulator Check

Another device which is important to check is the pressure regulator. This device is very important to the homeowner because it is designed to maintain an optimal water pressure in the home plumbing system. Typical water pressures in the District's distribution system can be as high as 125 pounds per square inch (PSI). This amount of pressure is not ideal for the plumbing inside your home; therefore a pressure regulator may be installed. This device can lower the pressure to the recommended levels of 60 to 80 PSI. A pressure regulator's effectiveness can be checked by connecting a pressure gauge the hose spigot and turning on the water slowly. This test measures the PSI in your home plumbing. The District recommends that homeowners contact a plumber for the adjustment or replacement of this device.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these water-related items at your home, please feel free to contact TCWD's Customer Service or stop by the Main Office.

BEST RETIREMENT WISHES TO DON CHADD

The Board of Directors and TCWD staff extends our gratitude to General Manager Don Chadd for all of his hard work and efforts over the years, and wish him a healthy future and rewarding retirement. General Manager Don Chadd retired from his position on December 31, 2012.

At the December 19, 2012 Regular Board Meeting, Board President Ed Mandich presented Mr. Chadd with a token of appreciation and a commendation in the form of a proclamation which listed his many accomplishments as the General Manager of TCWD. This list included the implementation of projects such as the Trabuco Creek Wells Facility and the Dry Season and Urban Water Recovery projects.

Also, a separate proclamation was presented by El Toro Water District (ETWD) General Manager Mr. Bob Hill on behalf of the South Orange County Water Agency General Managers for Mr. Chadd's hard work protecting local resources and serving as a local leader during his tenure at TCWD.



Retiring General Manager Don Chadd with ETWD General Manager Bob Hill and TCWD Board of Directors

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the District's office located at 32003 Dove Canyon Drive, Trabuco Canyon. The public is encouraged to attend.

REGULAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Regular Board Meeting for December was held on December 19, 2012, and the following items are highlights from the meeting:

- Election of Board Officers for 2013.
- Committee Member and Agency Representative Appointments for 2013.
- Discussion Regarding District Banking Services.
- Status Update on Baker Regional Water Treatment Plant.
- Status Update on the Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line – PW79.
- Status Update on Shadow Rock Detention Basin Facility Project.
- Approval of General Manager Services Agreement for General Manager Hector Ruiz.