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ROBINSON RANCH SERVICE LATERAL PROJECT

For approximately three weeks in the month of March, the District will be replacing residential service lines in Tract No. 11403, one of the first or original tracts in Robinson Ranch. This project has been coordinated with the City of Rancho Santa Margarita, who will be contracting for asphalt repaving of the streets in this area of the Robinson Ranch community. This project is important because following this asphalt overlay project, the City will issue a three to five year moratorium to prevent any work that would impact the asphalt overlay, with the exception of emergency repairs.

The water and wastewater infrastructure of the affected area of Robinson Ranch was originally constructed on or about 1981. The original installation of the residential service laterals was constructed using 1-inch plastic pipe instead of copper piping as specified in the District's standards. Over the course of the past 30 years, whenever there has been a leak or failure of a plastic service lateral, the District has replaced the plastic service lateral with new copper piping, per District standard specifications. To date, approximately ninety percent of the approximately 270 plastic service laterals in Tract 11403 have been replaced.

Historically, the failure of these plastic service laterals in Tract 11403 occurs on an annual basis, and in variable amounts and locations. Most recently, District Water Department staff worked to replace two failed service laterals during an emergency repair in December, 2012. Subsequently, District staff has

conducted a field survey to document the location and length of remaining plastic service laterals. At the February 20, 2013, Regular Board Meeting, the Board of Directors approved the replacement of the remaining plastic service laterals as their reliability is in question.

The customers affected by this project will receive advance notification prior to the scheduled replacement of the service lateral pipeline to their respective residence. If you are affected by this project, and have any questions about the planned replacement of the service lateral pipeline to your home, please feel free to contact Customer Service at (949) 858-0277.

DISTRICT FACILITY TOUR

On Thursday, February 14th, TCWD hosted a tour of the Robinson Ranch Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) for local Daisy Troop No. 2706. The primary focus of the visit was the practice of recycling on a local level, and what the Troop members could do individually to reduce, reuse and recycle. Some of the additional topics which were discussed included the protection of our natural resources and how to decrease our impact on the environment.

TCWD's Wastewater Chief Plant Operator Travis Jones demonstrated how the WWTP receives and treats one hundred percent of the sewage from residents and businesses on the upper Plano, explained the different treatment methods which are used at the WWTP to create recycled water, and ended with a brief walkthrough of the facility.

One of the key messages of the tour is that the WWTP takes something that nobody wants, such as raw sewage, and makes something that everybody needs: a safe alternative source of water for irrigation. This is an important message because the use of recycled water for irrigation offsets the District's purchase of imported potable water, which in turn, decreases the overall demand on our natural resources.

All of us at TCWD had a wonderful time sharing the afternoon with the Troop No. 2706, and hope the experience is a lasting one. If you are interested in scheduling a District facility tour for your youth group, please contact Michael Perea, Administrative Services Manager at (949) 858-0277.

IRRIGATION TIMER SCHEDULES

During the winter months of January through March, there is a decreased need for the irrigation of grasses and plants. This is typically due to the winter season's characteristically increased amount of rain. Now is an excellent time to review irrigation timer schedules and adjust the duration and frequency of usage, if necessary.

It is important to remember that most of the soil in District's service area is heavily clay-based, which makes for a dense ground which can be adverse to percolation. Unchecked long irrigation run times can result in increased runoff and wasted water. The best solution to this problem is to utilize multiple start times and shorter run times to allow effective percolation and reduce unnecessary water waste. If you have any questions concerning irrigation timer schedules, please feel free to contact Customer Service at (949) 858-0277.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS

TCWD would like to thank all of our customers who have participated in the available water use efficiency programs. These programs are designed to provide customers an opportunity to conserve water, help protect our natural resources, and decrease local demand on the purchase of imported water.

Through partnerships with both Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET), TCWD has offered the SmarTimer Giveaway Program and the Turf Removal Program to customers in our service area. There has been a great response from customers to these programs and the water conservation opportunities they offer.

If you are interested in participating in these water use efficiency programs, please visit MWDOC's website at www.mwdoc.com to learn more.

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 January was held on February 20, 2013, and the following items are highlights from the meeting:

- Discussion of the upgrade of the District Website.
- Status update on the Baker Regional Water Treatment Facility.
- Status update on the Alternate Raw Water Transmission Line – PW79.
- Status update on the Shadow Rock Detention Basin Facility.
- Approval of the Robinson Ranch Tract 11403 Service Lateral Replacement and Valve and Manhole Cover Adjustments Project.