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Irrigation Retrofits Save Thousands of Dollars, Millions of Gallons of Water

13 Additional Parks will be Upgraded this Fiscal Year

San Diego, CA – August 20, 2015: County Parks and Recreation is on the move to save even more water and taxpayer dollars following a successful program to retrofit its irrigation systems. In 2009, the department launched a plan to upgrade the irrigation systems at 20 County parks, replacing outdated, conventional systems with new and improved sprinkler technology. Within 6 years, reliance on irrigated water dropped 30 percent, saving the department thousands of dollars in water fees and conserving more than 180 million gallons of water. A resounding success, the plan is now being extended to an additional 13 park locations.

High-efficiency smart controllers use advanced flow management and radio remote capabilities to allow park staff to remotely track, manage and report water use through advanced flow management.

“Resource limitations have made it hard to track water use until now,” said Brad Roberts, Project Manager for County Parks. “Now, thanks to the work the controller does for us, we can approach watering and water conservation in a much more efficient and effective manner.”

Before retrofits, some of the irrigation systems were not only labor-intensive but also unreliable; they had to be operated manually, and valves offered varying levels of spray making it tough to measure water use. It was also difficult to detect underground waterline breaks and other issues before they caused considerable damage to infrastructure.



Watering schedules and run times can be customized to meet specific park needs, and issues like line breaks can be detected and located, early on. The system also has a built-in sensor that connects to local weather in real-time, prompting it to conserve water by shutting off during periods of rain and high humidity.

Thirteen parks are slated to receive updated irrigation systems by the end of Fiscal Year 2015/16. They include Dos Picos, El Monte, Fallbrook, Felicita, Flinn Springs, Lamar, Live Oak, Otay Lakes, Pine Valley, Rainbow, Sweetwater Lane, and Tijuana River Valley. A total of \$2M has been secured to complete these projects.

Updates like these are just one part of a larger [Water Conservation Plan](#) aimed at decreasing water consumption and related costs at County parks and facilities. Evolving every day, the plan will continue to hone in on smart technologies and practices that maximize water savings potential.

For more information on sustainability and water conservation, visit our [website](#).

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