

Ceremony Marks Milestone in Camrosa's Recycled Water Project at Leisure Village

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Wednesday, April 2, 2008



With sprinklers in the background watering the Leisure Village golf course with recycled water, members of Leisure Village board of directors and representatives from local water districts celebrated the halfway point of retrofitting the community's piping and water system so it can use recycled water from Camrosa's Water Reclamation Facility on its landscaping. From left to right: Bob Scheaffer, general manager, Leisure Village, Don Kendall, general manager, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Luci McGovern, deputy public works director, City of Camarillo, Ted Grandsen, president, Calleguas Municipal Water District board of directors, Al Fox, president, Camrosa Water District board of directors, Frank Royer, general manager, Camrosa Water District, Andy Sienkiewich, resource implementation section manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Robert McQuivey, president, Leisure Village board of directors.

A ceremony was held March 28th at the first tee of the Leisure Village golf course in Camarillo to mark the completion of the second phase of a four-phase water conservation project that uses recycled water on the community's greenbelts and golf course.

In 2006, Camrosa Water District, a leader in supplying recycled water in Ventura County, Calleguas Municipal Water District and Leisure Village, an active senior community, began a joint venture to retrofit the community's piping and water system using recycled water supplied from Camrosa's Water Reclamation Facility. With the completion of Phase Two of the project, approximately 50 percent of Leisure Village's 186 acres of green belt is now using recycled water. The front nine holes of the community's 18-hole golf course are irrigated with recycled water. The completion of Phase Two will result in Leisure Village saving 238,060 gallons of potable water per day.

Upon the completion of phase three and four within the next year, the recycled water project will save Leisure Village approximately 180 million gallons of potable water per year.

"Leisure Village was compelled to look for ways to conserve water," says Bob Scheaffer, general manager of the Leisure Village Association. "Possible water shortages and rising water prices could make it prohibitive for us to keep our green belts and golf course lush. The process started 12 years ago with the water committee. Approximately 5 years ago, Bob Ellis became the chair of the water committee and began working in earnest with Camrosa.

We contacted Camrosa, which offered the perfect solution: use recycled water on landscaping instead of the much more expensive and possibly scarce potable water."

During Phase One, Camrosa installed 500 feet of recycled water pipeline to Leisure Village in order to connect it to its Water Reclamation Facility. An additional 8,000 feet of pipeline will be installed by the time the project is complete bringing it to a total of 15,500 feet of pipeline. "Leisure Village can expect to pay for the pipe retrofitting with water savings in as little as five to seven years," says Frank Royer, general manager, Camrosa Water District. "And with the cost of imported water increasing by as much as 50 percent over the next five years, the project could pay for itself even sooner.

Royer went on to explain, while we have made great strides in water conservation and efficiency programs, the collective impacts of drought, climate change, increased population demands, court-ordered supply reductions and potential natural disasters mean that conservation alone will not solve California's water crisis. Its simply not enough. Water reuse must become commonplace in Southern California if we are to keep our economy and standard of living viable. This recycling project is an example for others to follow.

About 50 people attended the ceremony including Scheaffer, Royer, Don Kendall, general manager, Calleguas Municipal Water District, Luci McGovern, deputy public works director, City of Camarillo, Ted Grandsen, president, Calleguas Municipal Water District board of directors, Al Fox, president, Camrosa Water District board of directors, Andy Sienkiewich, resource implementation section manager, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Robert McQuivey, president, Leisure Village board of directors and the Leisure Village water reclamation committee.

"I've always thought it silly that we import water from Northern California, process it until it qualifies as drinking water only to use it to water lawns," says McQuivey. "It feels good to see the project come to fruition because of its environmental and conservation benefits."

Camrosa Water District, formed in 1962, is among the largest water districts in Ventura County, serving more than 30,000 customers in Camarillo, Mission Oaks and Santa Rosa Valley. It delivers more than 14,000 acre-feet of water per year and provides sanitary services to the Mission Oaks area within the City of Camarillo. Camrosa is committed to conserving local water resources and providing reliability through continued expansion of recycled water services to their customers for outdoor irrigation. Their Water Reclamation Facility and the Conejo Creek Diversion serve much of the nearby agricultural and landscape irrigation demand in the district. For more information on Camrosa's diverse water resources, go to camrosa.com.