Announcing New General Manager

Ron and Sherry Hill, owners of Environmental Concepts, are pleased to announce that Any Ferrell has joined our team as General Manager of Operations. Any comes to our company with extensive property management experience; having served in several positions including community manager, executive director and Vice President for two nationally based management firms. Continued education and focus on the industry has led her to achieve the following designations from the Community Associations Institute (CAI), including the highest designation of Professional Community Association Manager (PCAM), Association Management Specialist (AMS) and Certified Manager of Community Associations (CMCA).

Our goal as a company is to provide the highest level of landscape maintenance, together with exceptional customer service. We feel that Any's unique experience will be an asset to our customers and help to strengthen our goal as your valued landscape partner. You can reach Any at any.ferrell@eclmi.com.

Landscape and Water Management under Drought Conditions

Local water districts have imposed significant water allocation reductions and watering restrictions due to California's current drought situation. These restrictions have severely impacted homeowner association water budgets, resulting in an increase in water costs and a decrease in landscape quality, with turfgrass areas being the most impacted.

The new restrictions went into effect immediately before summer in May of 2015, leaving little time to prepare and make adjustments for the oncoming seasonal high temperatures.

Environmental Concepts Landscape Management is applying the skills and expertise of our highly experienced staff to minimize the impacts of watering restrictions on turf and plant materials, and to ensure the highest level of landscape maintenance possible. In a master planned community located in Temecula, our efforts saved 21 million gallons of water over August through October, as compared to the same period in 2014.

Environmental Concepts has been an industry leader in water conservation and water management. Our Water Management Division monitors irrigation consumption levels in order to stay within reduced water allocation budgets.

We recognize that exceeding water allocations can result in significant cost increases to a Homeowner Association's water budget, and potentially on homeowner assessments.

Moving forward into the winter months, we will be taking advantage of the cooler temperatures and potential precipitation to focus on reestablishing the health of plant materials and turfgrass areas, through the implementation of proven practices for landscape maintenance. These methods include pruning, fertilization, soil amendment, and turf aerification. These approaches will not only restore plant and turf vitality, but will also double as a defense mechanism against another hot and dry summer in 2016.

Feel free to contact us should you have any questions or comments.

- Turn off irrigation controllers prior to rain forecast.
- Clear all drain grates of debris throughout your property.
- If possible, clear rain gutters of debris. And if this is not possible, inspect outlets after it rains as all of the debris from the gutters will now be deposited into the catch basin or drain lines.
- Back yard grading should always flow towards the front of all houses, if blocked a pathway should be cleared to allow water to flow into the streets.
- If you have a slope with thin or bare spots on it, expect to see some debris in your planter bed or turf areas as a lot of the silt will wash down off of the slope. Sand bags, straw waddle, straw blanket, and/or netting could be placed on the slope and at the bottom or toe of the slope.
- Sand bags should be overlapped, and depending on how much debris is present, you should stack them at least 2 rows high.
- If you are using straw waddle, we recommend that you use stakes approximately six to eight feet apart. This will help keep the straw waddle in place during the rains or storms.

Water Conservation Tips
From the Rancho California Water District

There are amazing resources available on how to best conserve water. Below are several tips from the Rancho California Water District to consider for your personal property:

- Consider installing an automatic rain shutoff device on your sprinkler system.
- Install drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs, and flowers.
- Check your sprinkler valves for leaks when checking all your heads.
- Avoid watering your lawn on windy days.
- Try to add more days between watering. Allowing your lawn to dry out between watering creates deeper roots and allows you to water deeper and less often.
- Place a rain gauge in your backyard to monitor rainfall and irrigation.
- Set the kitchen timer when you water by hose.
- Test soil moisture with a soil probe or screwdriver before you water. If the soil is moist, don't water!
- Watch out for broken sprinklers, open hydrants, broken pipes, and any other significant water losses in your community. Be sure to notify the property manager of the problem.
- Make sure the water coming out of your sprinklers is not misting and drifting away in the wind. This is usually caused by too high of pressure - if necessary, install a pressure reducer on your sprinkler line.
- Turn back your automatic timers in the spring and fall. Water only once or twice a week during the spring and fall.

Rancho California Water District.
Visit their website at www.ranchowater.com

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From our family to yours We wish you a Joyous Holiday Season!!

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