



October 2006

Carpinteria Valley Water District

H₂KNOW

Ortega Reservoir Covering Update

During the next few months, Cushman Construction will be installing trusses needed to hold the cover for the Ortega Reservoir, pictured at right. This drinking water quality improvement project is a response to the California Department of Health Services 1995 policy addressing open reservoirs. The cover will dramatically reduce evaporation and eliminate contamination from outside sources such as birds. This will greatly assist both Montecito and Carpinteria Valley Water Districts in continuing to meet drinking water quality standards as well as security concerns.



WaterSense Labeling

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced a new labeling system that will help consumers make smart decisions when buying water using fixtures and appliances. Similar to the EnergyStar label, the WaterSense label will designate energy efficient fixtures, will be listed on products that are proven to be water efficient. For more information, go to the EPA WaterSense webpage at www.epa.gov/watersense. Watch for WaterSense labels in early 2007.



Lyon's Well Rehabilitation Project

As many of you may have seen at the intersection of Shemara Road and Casitas Pass Road, work on the Lyons Well continues. The original estimated time of completion for this well rehabilitation project, which includes cleaning the well surface and disinfection, was the end of September. Unfortunately, the project contractor ran into some technical difficulties that caused a three week delay in the work. They are now back on track and should finish by the end of October. We are optimistic about the completion of this project and look forward to the improvements in water supply reliability that all the hard work will yield.

If you have any questions or concerns about the project please contact Bob McDonald, District Engineer or Charles Hamilton, General Manager at the District Offices.

El Distrito es bilingue. Favor de llamar (805) 684-2816 con cualquier pregunta sobre su cuenta o el uso de agua, estamos aqui para asistirlos.

California Friendly / Water Wise Landscaping

The California Friendly Garden combines the beauty of native and California-friendly plants with efficient water use outdoors. Below are suggestions of water wise landscaping in your garden.

- **Use less-than-thirsty plants in your garden.** Keep turf grass (the thirstiest plant of all!) to a minimum. Look for plants that are well-suited to regional and local conditions.
- **Group plants thoughtfully.** When selecting trees, shrubs, ground covers, perennials and annuals for your garden, look for those that naturally grow together and use about the same amount of water.
- **Use water wisely.** Water plants only when needed, not by the clock or calendar. Water in the early morning hours, when evaporation is much lower and air is calmer. Avoid runoff and overspray.
- **Improve your soil.** Routinely cultivate your soil, incorporating organic matter such as compost. Doing so improves the soil's ability to resist evaporation and retain moisture. Aerate heavy or compacted soil around trees.
- **Mulch.** A two- to four-inch layer of mulch also evens out temperature extremes, keep soil cool on hot days and warm on cool days. It also prevents soil from crusting, allowing better water penetration. Take a cue from nature and choose one of many organic mulches that add great visual texture to your landscape, such as shredded bark or chips, wood grindings, compost, aged sawdust or even low-growing ground cover. Inorganic mulches, such as gravel or rock, let the most water in and are frequently used with plants susceptible to crown rot.
- **Plant trees.** Trees help to lower air and soil temperatures, reducing plant and soil moisture loss.
- **Group container plants.** Arrange containers so they shade one another. During droughts or periods of drying winds, place them in the deepest shade they can tolerate. Wet the entire rootball; double pot by setting small pots inside larger ones with a layer of sand or gravel between. Top-dress pots with a layer of mulch over the soil.

Ask Us!

Q. When is the best time to plant a California-friendly garden?

A. The best time to plant is when temperatures cool and after the first rain, generally in late fall from late October to early November. Soils are still warm but are not too hot for tender roots. The cooler, moister weather is less stressful for new plants and less favorable for soil pathogens that can infect them. You can plant through the winter as long as you give your new plants time to develop enough of a root system to carry them through the long hot summer.

Please submit questions you would like answered via our newsletter by mail at P.O. Box 578, Carpinteria, CA 93014, fax (805) 684-3170 or email info@cvwd.net.



Have you visited our web site lately?

New information is added and updated frequently.
Be sure to visit the website at www.cvwd.net

Carpinteria Valley Water District Board of Directors

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Board Meetings

CVWD's Board of Directors meets on the 3rd and 4th Wednesdays of each month. Regular meetings begin at 4 p.m., are open to the public, and are held at 1301 Santa Ynez Ave., Carpinteria. For more information, phone (805) 684-2816

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