

## *What is Rocklin Unified School District Doing to Help with the Current Drought Conditions?*

### **Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Q: What is Rocklin Unified School District doing to reduce water usage?**

A: The District has taken an aggressive approach to reduce water usage by doing the following:

1. Reduced overall irrigation by another 20% by decreasing run times.
2. Systematically capped over 1,695 irrigation heads that are no longer being used.
3. Added over 2,000 cubic yards of mulch in all landscaped areas at all sites to retain moisture.
4. Changing spray heads to drips as budget and labor permits.

**According to Placer County Water Agency, these efforts have reduced our overall water usage by nearly 50% for the first six months of the 2014-15 school year when compared to the first six months of the 2013-14 school year.**

**Q: What do I do if I see a broken sprinkler or running water on sidewalks?**

A: If between the hours of 6:00 am – 2:30 pm Monday through Friday, please notify the Maintenance Department at 916.624.5771. If after these hours, please call the Grounds Supervisor at 916.759.9651. The Grounds Supervisor has the ability to shut off valves remotely. If you are unable to reach anyone, please leave a message on our emergency phone (916.257.1345) that is manned 24/7.

**Q: What steps is the school district taking to minimize water usage?**

A: Over the past two years the District has taken aggressive steps to do the following:

- 1) Reduced overall irrigation run times by another 20%.
- 2) Capped (eliminated) over 1,695 sprinkler heads that were no longer needed.
- 3) Added cedar mulch for maximum water retention at all sites in all planter locations.
- 4) Changed out spray heads to drip line irrigation at three sites, with the rest coming on line as budget and labor permits.

**Q: What results have been achieved by undertaking these steps?**

A: By September 2014 of this school year (2014-15) we had achieved nearly 50% reduction in our overall water usage when compared to the first six months of the 2013-14 school year according to Placer County Water Agency.

**Q: Why does the district water some turf areas that the school or community does not use?**

A: Our facilities are neighborhood and community safe havens. We strive to provide a clean and welcoming environment by keeping the frontage areas of our schools attractive and clean. As the drought continues, the District will be forced to minimize watering in some of these areas while still doing whatever we can to ensure a welcoming environment at all of our campuses.

**Q: Why do the district's fields look good when California is in a drought?**

A: District staff has worked diligently to provide priorities for keeping our fields safe and playable. Because PE and athletics are such an important part of our mission and the health of the whole child, we have made our fields our top priority and they shall be kept as good as possible even though we are reducing irrigation run times. They will not be as lush as in the past, but still will be safe and playable.

**Q: What is the priority for watering?**

- a. Play fields
- b. Trees
- c. Landscaping plants and shrubs
- d. Interior grass

**Q: Why isn't the District removing more turf areas at our schools?**

A: The District has identified areas for discontinuing water or possible removal of turf in unnecessary or less visible areas on our campuses. The first step in this will be the elimination of water to these areas. They will continue to be kept mowed and trimmed.