

## **Water Conservation Update**

California has now experienced two back-to-back dry winters (2011-12 and 2012-13). The calendar year 2013 was the driest on record in more than a century of record keeping.

Our school district is one of the largest users of water in Placer County. In an effort to be proactive and reduce our water consumption, **Rocklin Unified School District has voluntarily begun a water conservation program to decrease our water usage**. Landscaping and field irrigation are the largest users of water. The following steps are being taken to minimize our water impact:

- 1) Reduce overall irrigation by another 20% by decreasing run times.
- 2) Continue systematic capping of irrigation heads that are not needed.
- 3) Add mulch as budget permits for greater moisture retention. A source has been located for free chips from tree trimmings to reduce costs.
- 4) Change spray heads to drips as budget and labor permit.
- 5) Cut back on fertilizer applications.
- 6) Possibly go to every other week mowing.
- 7) Continue seeking other water efficiencies.
- 8) Report any over spraying, broken or leaking sprinklers to site custodians so that work orders can be generated to get the problem remedied ASAP.

We all may notice a change in the grass and landscaped areas at our sites as a result of these measures. The school district is committed to doing the right thing during these severe drought conditions.

If you have any questions or suggestions for other water conservation efforts, please email them to Rene Caballero at [rccaballero@rocklin.k12.ca.us](mailto:rccaballero@rocklin.k12.ca.us) .