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Harvest Landscape Enterprises, Inc.

Newsletter

July 2011

AB 1061: Does water conservation really trump landscape design?



Some of you may remember 2010 as the year that AB 1061 took effect.

Most people probably don't remember it at all. And that's good. The law, which prohibits community associations from banning drought-tolerant plants from the landscape, was approved in 2009 with very little fanfare. Some worried that it would lead to an invasion of cactus and rock gardens in communities where tropicals and annuals rule. Would HOA boards have no recourse if Mrs. Smith wants



Community Gets 'Smart' with Irrigation Inspection

San Juan Hills Estates made every effort to conserve water by installing smart irrigation technology and a drought-tolerant landscape. Problem was, the company hired to do the job didn't get it right. Controllers for the slopes were set for turf. Turf was set for the wrong season. Drought-tolerant plants started to die off... from *over-watering*.

They turned to Harvest for help.

We did an audit of the system, reprogrammed the controllers and activated those that were never turned on -- a simple fix that should cut the San Juan Capistrano community's irrigation costs in half. Saving money? Now, that's smart.

Harvest Supports CACM Statewide Conference & Expo

Join us July 28 and 29 as we take part in the California Association of Community Managers' Statewide Conference & Expo being held at the Disneyland Hotel.

For 20 years, CACM has served the industry through its educational programming and advocacy. The theme for this year's event is, "Explore the Future." A fitting topic.

There are many facets to running a community. Landscape maintenance is just one... but it's significant, particularly here in Southern California where water regulation, rate hikes and restrictions are a growing part of the political landscape.

We'll be at the conference both days to do our part in educating community managers about just how much money can be saved through water-efficient irrigation alone. If you go, be sure to drop by to say hello.



MWD Extends Water Rebates into 2012

Still thinking about retrofitting your irrigation system with smart technology? This is a good time to do it. The success of Metropolitan Water District's Save A Buck water rebate program has prompted the agency to do a repeat performance for 2011-12. Commercial, industrial and institutional water customers have until April 30 2012 to apply for rebates on equipment they purchase to save water. Contact us for details, or visit www.mwdsaveabuck.com.

Oh, and don't be discouraged by the name of the program. Harvest has saved many of its customers in the tens or even hundreds of thousands of bucks, not just one.

to plant yuccas in her front yard? The law does put water conservation first, but with this caveat: It must be done "while maintaining the inherent powers of a common interest development to establish uniform architectural and landscaping standards."

In other words, the plants have to blend with their surroundings.

We have helped many clients develop a plant palette that is pleasing to both the eye and pocketbook.

Steven Schinhofen is President and CEO of Harvest Landscape Enterprises, Inc.

Harvest Welcomes New Account Manager

Nate Bonghanoy joined the Harvest team this month as account manger for north Orange County, where he will put his water conservation expertise and commitment to quality to work. Nate has more than 20 years of experience in landscaping, most recently as general manager of Dan's Landscape. "I am proud to be with Harvest," Nate said. "Their reputation for sustainable and resource-efficient landscaping is well respected within our industry." Nate is a dedicated family man who gives a lot of himself to help others. He and his wife, Holly, have been married for 18 years and are raising five children.



HARVEST TIP: Unwanted visitors in your pool? Try floating a large inflatable beach ball in the water. Ducks don't like it. Kids do.

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