

## Summer Readiness

The Indian Wells Valley Water District is getting ready for summer ... are you?

Can summer really be just around the corner? Judging by recent thermometer readings here in the Indian Wells Valley, the hottest season of the year has already announced itself well ahead of June 21, which is the longest day of the year and often referred to as the summer solstice.

With the onset of high temperatures, the Indian Wells Valley Water District enters a time when demand for water increases significantly. Since evaporative coolers, outdoor irrigation and aboveground pools all require much more water when temperatures soar than during our fall and winter months, the District has been busy preparing our pumping and distribution systems for this annual surge.

As an example, each well currently online will be subjected to a rigorous inspection and maintenance program that includes an upper and lower bearing oil change or grease lubrication, service for each well house cooler and exhaust fan and replacement of the chlorine valve. Many of our wells have natural gas and/or diesel standby generators and they too are subjected to a meticulous going over.

All booster stations receive similar detailed examination and maintenance as do our 10 storage tanks. Automated valves are checked and serviced to ensure they are in proper operational order along with our remote telemetry units which are evaluated and adjusted if necessary.

And finally, our crews inspect mechanical and electronic tank level indicators and, when called for, recalibrate them.

Think of it as spring cleaning on a grand scale.

And speaking of spring cleaning – that rite of the season as American as apple pie - this is also the perfect time for our customers to prepare their homes and businesses for the coming dog days.

Before hooking up the evaporative cooler, have it serviced. If you're a do-it-yourself type, remember to check for leaks and make sure the filter is clean and in good shape. Examine sprinkler systems for damaged heads and always set automatic timers to water between dusk and dawn – the coolest part of the day. Different types of turf have different watering requirements as do other types of landscape. To make your irrigation system more efficient, you could check with an expert or stop by Water District offices for free watering guides.

You might consider observing your irrigation system through a cycle or two. If you notice water runoff, it's a sure sign your sprinklers are running too often and/or for too long per cycle. This is not water wise of course but you should also be aware that

standing and running water can damage asphalt and pavement, causing patching or repaving more frequently – a costly undertaking. Standing and running water can also damage your home’s foundation, contribute to root rot in nearby plants and make grass more susceptible to disease and pests.

And don’t forget that pool and spa covers reduce evaporation significantly. Investing in one might well prove to be cost effective over the long haul via less water usage not to mention helping to keep spa water warm – which will translate to lower electricity bills.

The IWWWD believes that conserved water is the cheapest water. By keeping our machinery, telemetry, tanks, valves and pipes in excellent operational order and replacing old main lines on a regular basis, we keep leakage to a minimum. This means that our pumping and distribution systems consistently run as efficiently as possible.

Our Board of Directors and staff appreciate the attention our customers pay to water conservation both indoors and out and we hope the suggestions for summer readiness outlined here will be helpful as we all prepare for another hot, dry season.