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Tom Mulvihill GM Column

The IWVWD is getting ready for summer ... Are you?

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, the Indian Wells Valley Water District crews have been busy preparing pumping and distribution systems for this annual surge.

As an example, each well currently online is subjected to a rigorous semi-annual 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 inspection of the chlorine analyzer. 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 calibrated if necessary. Think of it as spring cleaning on a grand scale.

And speaking of spring cleaning, this is also the perfect time to prepare your homes and businesses for the coming “dog days.”

- An evaporative cooler should be serviced annually. If you're a do-it-yourself type, remember to replace the pads, check for leaks and make sure the filter is clean and in good shape.
- Examine irrigation systems for damaged heads and always set automatic timers to water between 8 pm and 8 am – the coolest part of the day.
- Observe your irrigation system through a cycle. If you notice water runoff, it's a sure sign your sprinklers are running too often and/or for too long per cycle. Remember, runoff water is wasted water – and new ordinances passed by the Water District and the Ridgecrest City Council prohibit a “continuous flow” caused by over watering. Standing and running water can damage asphalt and pavement, resulting in more frequent patching or repaving – 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. To learn more about efficient irrigation and the amount of water plants REALLY need in summer, we invite you to stop by Water District offices for our *Landscape Watering by the Numbers* guide. It's FREE.
- 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 keeping spa water warmer – which will translate to lower electricity bills.

Conserved water is the cheapest water by far. By keeping our machinery, telemetry, tanks, valves and pipes in excellent operational order and replacing old main lines, we keep leakage to a minimum. This means that our pumping and distribution systems consistently run as efficiently as possible. We encourage you, our valued customers, to continue and even expand your water conservation both indoors and out and hope the above suggestions will be helpful as we all prepare for another hot, dry season.