Conejo Recreation & Park District

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Friedl

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DATE: November 5, 2026

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Jim Friedl, General Manager

SUBJECT: **Annual Update to Conejo Recreation and Park District's Water Conservation Plan**

RECOMMENDATION

Review and approve the annual update report on the District's Water Conservation Plan.

DISCUSSION

In recent years, the District has made significant strides in its water conservation efforts:

- 100% of approximately 10,000 irrigation heads are controlled by iCentral Irrigation Control System,
- Added Irrigation Technician to field staff,
- Added master flow valves at parks,
- Completed numerous waterwise Capital Projects totaling more than $5,500,000, including, but not limited to:
    - Conversion of over 75 acres of non-essential turf to native/drought-tolerant species and non-turf ground cover,
    - Irrigation conversions to reclaimed systems at North Ranch Neighborhood and Triunfo Community Parks,
    - Irrigation upgrades at Thousand Oaks Community Park,
    - Development and waterwise improvements at Banyan Neighborhood Park,
    - Development of 124-acre Sapwi Trails Community Park with no irrigated turf,
    - Development of 14.1-acre Paige Lane Neighborhood Park with waterwise improvements.
- Since Fiscal Year 2017-2018, with the intent to continue annually, the District committed at least $250,000 to drought response projects.

Long-range climate modeling strongly indicates a hotter and drier southern California in the future. Without a strong commitment by the District to water conservation, the water resources in the Conejo Valley are jeopardized. Thus, the District will build upon its past efforts, move forward, and continue to do its "fair share" and be a leader in the community with regard to water conservation.

Utilizing the District's Strategic Plan, historical usage, and the May 2016 Governor's Executive Order B-37-16 "Making Water Conservation a California Way of Life" recommendations (which provide the framework for outdoor irrigation standards utilizing evapotranspiration rates for the area, and irrigated and irrigable landscape areas), the District has set an annual water consumption target of 503 units of water per developed acre (1 unit of water equals 748 gallons).

In 2025/2026 (the most recently completed year), the District was 28.62% below its water target of 503 units per acre.

The District has decreased its water use by 42.83% when comparing water consumption in 2025/2026 (most recently completed year) to 2007/2008 units per acre.

The attached Water Conservation Plan discusses multiple issues related to water conservation. With each issue, the Water Conservation Plan will discuss the District's current practice, further District objectives, and challenges in accomplishing the objectives.

In order to monitor efforts, monthly reports of the District's water use, water-savings projects, and activities to date will be provided to the Board and published. The Water Conservation Plan will be updated and submitted to the Board annually. As part of the annual review, staff will consider and incorporate the latest information from the Executive Order Agencies (California Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Food and Agriculture, California Public Utilities Commission, and California Energy Commission) in order to keep the plan current and relevant.

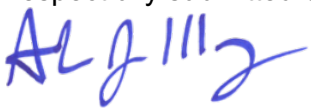
STRATEGIC PLAN COMPLIANCE

Meets 2026 Strategic Plan Goal 8.4 Conserve water and favor California natives as well as drought-tolerant landscaping through the board-approved landscape palette.

Meets 2026 Strategic Plan Goal 8.5 Continue to incorporate water-saving practices into standard operations. Continue the drought response related irrigation and landscape improvements and continue to seek opportunities to save water in the parks, expand and diversify the District's water supply portfolio, and consider and implement a variety of cost-effective water-saving solutions.

Meets 2026 Strategic Plan Goal 8.6 Evaluate enhanced recycling and energy conservation practices. Evaluate and enhance our recycling and energy conservation practices within the District and at District properties and events to assure that we continuously improve the District's recycling, energy conservation, resource utilization, and related practices.

Respectfully submitted by,



Andrew J. Mooney, Director
Parks and Planning

Attachment