



Look Outside for Water Savings



A year without rain results in a lot of headlines about drought. The truth is that dry conditions are normal for our small corner of the world. As stewards of Ventura's 100 percent local water sources, we can find solutions by adapting our water use in small ways that can really add up to a big difference. It's no harder than taking action to curb our outside water use because mismanaged sprinkler systems are the No. 1 water wasters.

So to shine the spotlight outside, here are some cool sites only a click away to help you spruce up your sprinklers and landscaping as the days heat up:

[Save Our Water's Sprinklers 101:](#) Visit this one-stop site for homeowners and professionals looking for information and online resources on water-efficient irrigation. Homeowners will find easy-to-understand information about how residential sprinkler systems work, information on drip irrigation and other smart ways to reduce landscape water use, as well as loads of online resources. Professional landscapers will find online resources, links to manufacturers and manuals, education and licensing information, and much more.

[EPA's WaterSense Sprinkler Spruce Up:](#) Timing is everything at this site. Homes with automatically timed irrigation systems use about 50 percent more water outdoors than those without. Your system can waste even more if it's programmed incorrectly, a sprinkler head is pointed in the wrong direction, or you have a leak. Make a few simple adjustments and your system can be a water-wise performer.

[Sustainable Ventura TV Show and YouTube:](#) The June Sustainable Ventura TV show - airing on **CAPS-TV, Channel 15** on Thursdays at 8:30 p.m. starting June 6 - will focus on local, hands-on tips for outdoor watering and landscaping. For 24/7 viewing, you can also watch the show and individual videos on Ventura Water's YouTube channel starting in early June. And while you are there, check out the videos on Sustainable Landscaping and Ocean Friendly Gardens if you are ready to transform your lawn into something truly amazing.



Dear Customers:

Have you ever thought, "I could do a better job in setting the rates for water and wastewater services?" Have you wondered why rates are structured the way they are? Or, have you just thought to yourself, "What does all this money pay for?"

Well, here is your chance to get involved. The City of Ventura is seeking volunteers to apply for the Ventura Rate Advisory Committee to evaluate the revenues required for four fiscal years beginning in July 2014. Unlike other Council-appointed committees or commissions, this committee has a limited time schedule so you can contribute and learn about Ventura Water, with only a six-month time commitment.

The City Council has asked the 2012 Rate Advisory Committee members to reapply, but there are sure to be openings. This committee is nine members strong to ensure a diverse body from our community.

If you are interested, applications are available at

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Tell a Water Story This Summer



Teens ages 12-16 are invited to make this summer memorable and sign-up for the **CAPS-TV** Digital Storytelling classes that begin July 20 and run through August 16.

Ventura Water will partner with CAPS during Documentary Week (August 5-9) to help students create a story about water that could be entered into the Water: Take 1 On-line Short Film Contest. Student submissions filmed in Ventura will be eligible for all award categories – Best Student Short Film, Ventura Vision, Audience Choice and the \$1,500 Grand Jury prize.

The CAPS-TV introductory classes will provide a hands-on experience where teens learn to script, film and edit their own digital stories by working together in teams of 4-5 with an instructor. For more information and an application, visit CAPSTV.org.

Is Your Water Smelling Different?

Ventura customers on the Westside of town who receive water from the Casitas Municipal Water District may be noticing an earthy smell or taste to their water. This is caused by seasonal algae blooms in Lake Casitas and does not impact the safety of the drinking water. To minimize the taste and odor during this temporary situation, try refrigerating or adding lemon to the water.



Montalvo Waterline Replacements

Construction will soon be underway for the first phase of waterline replacements for the Montalvo area.

Construction for the first phase is scheduled to start this Fall and should be completed before the end of the calendar year. The work will consist of replacing nearly 2 miles of old cast iron pipe that is badly corroded and prone to breaks and major leaks that are disruptive to area residences and

businesses. Affected residents will be notified in advance of the work.

New 8-inch and 12-inch diameter plastic pipe will be installed that is expected to last for 100 years or more! Fire hydrant types and locations will be upgraded to conform to the new Fire Code.

The first phase of work will take place on Sherwin Avenue, Grand Avenue, Nightingale Street, Katherine Avenue and a few other residential streets in that area. The construction cost is estimated at \$1.5 million.

A second phase of pipeline replacements for Montalvo is scheduled to occur in Spring/Summer 2014 and will mostly occur on the north side of Bristol Road and the west side of Johnson Drive.

Ventura Water has a waterline replacement program that calls for the replacement of 2-3 miles of waterlines every year. A large percentage of Ventura's pipe network consists of 50-plus year old cast iron, which is susceptible to corrosion and a main cause for waterline breaks in Ventura.

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www.cityofventura.net/water/committee or from the City Clerk's Office, Room 204 at City Hall. Completed applications may be emailed to cityclerk@cityofventura.net, submitted in person or mailed to:

City Clerk's Office
501 Poli Street, Room 204
PO Box 99
Ventura, California 93002-0099

Applications must be received, either in written form or electronically, by the City Clerk's office by Thursday, June 13, 2013 by 5:30 p.m. (postmarks will not be accepted). Applications will be reviewed and the Council Appointments Recommendation Committee will recommend potential Advisory Committee members to the full Council in July.

I found that working with the previous Advisory Committee allowed us to create a strong financial plan that reflected Ventura's perspectives: How the community wanted to invest its dollars and how people valued water and wastewater services.

Ventura Water is your local utility to maintain and sustain. We look forward to your involvement either as a committee member or an active participant in the upcoming community meetings this Fall.

Sincerely,

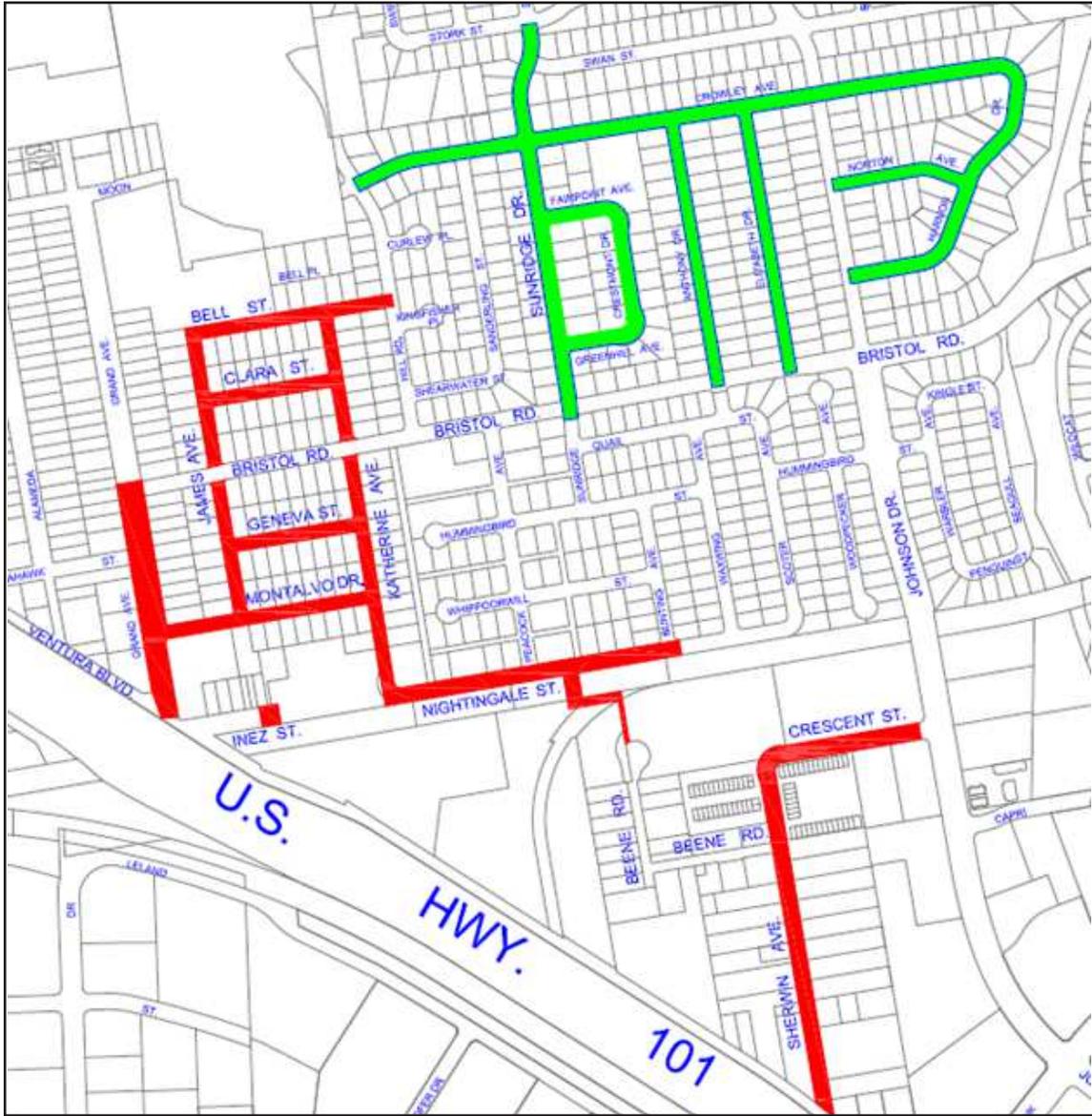
Shana Epstein, General Manager



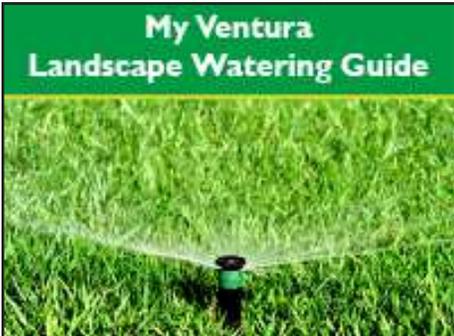
www.saveourh2o.org



www.home-water-works.org/calculator



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June

Depending on wind, soil conditions and your yard's unique design, your watering times may vary from the guide. Begin with the recommended times, then decrease by one or two minutes every few days until the plants begin to show stress. Remember to adjust each month!

Warm season turf	32 min. per week
Cool season turf	40 min. per week
Shrubs & perennials	16 min. per week
Drip irrigation system	50 min. per week

ventura.watersavingplants.com



**VENTURA
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