

water sense



WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Winter 2007

Calsense Meets World Class Challenge

Mission Bay Park is considered to be one of San Diego's most beautiful recreational areas and a unique aquatic facility. It is the largest man-made aquatic park in the country, consisting of 4,235 acres, approximately 46% land and 54% water. It is one of San Diego's most popular locations to have a picnic, walk or jog, take children to playgrounds, fly a kite, sail a model yacht or simply relax and enjoy the sun! Annual attendance in this world class park is estimated at 15 million.

Mission Bay Park's old irrigation system consisted of 107 individual controllers from four different manufacturers. One can imagine the time it took to drive around the Bay and individually shut off or adjust each of these controllers every time there was the threat of rain, a special event or turf maintenance was scheduled. The City realized that retrofitting the controllers in an old system as large as Mission Bay's would be a challenge, but the savings in personnel time and more efficient water management would be a needed improvement.

In August 2004, the City of San Diego began the process of replacing the irrigation controllers throughout Mission Bay Park to ensure that water was being used as efficiently and effectively as possible and to prevent irrigation runoff so that pollutants were not carried into Mission Bay.



Left to right: Patricia O'Hara, Grounds Supervisor, Neal Abrehtsen, Grounds Supervisor, Richard Trisby, Grounds Supervisor, Janine Anderson, Grounds Manager

The City decided to install a central control irrigation system and a weather station to provide actual evapo-transpiration (ET) data. City staff examined and analyzed the different features offered by numerous controller manufacturers. Specification requirements and a competitive bid process resulted in the Calsense system being selected and installed throughout Mission Bay Park.

From December 2005 to May 2006, the 107 old irrigation clocks were removed and replaced with 55 Calsense ET 2000 irrigation controllers. The COMM-1 Water Management Software was installed on the central control computer that is connected directly to a weather station. Using Local Radio and Spread Spectrum Radio communications along with 54 dome and 2 Yagi antennas, all controllers communicate to each other or the central control computer. Calsense service and radio technicians were extremely knowledgeable and helpful in ensuring that effective radio communications were achieved.

The Calsense COMM-1 Water Management

Software and ET 2000 controllers definitely met the needs of the Park & Recreation Department. By having station run times calculated automatically using daily ET data from the weather station, using the Cycle and Soak feature, and monitoring all automatic and manual irrigation activity from the central computer park staff has improved irrigation efficiency and minimized irrigation water runoff into Mission Bay.

Thanks to the knowledgeable and proactive Calsense team, a good working relationship with the installation contractor and the hard work of dedicated City of San Diego employees, the timeline to complete the project was met. The City of San Diego looks forward to our continued working relationship with Calsense at Mission Bay Park.

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