

# water sense



WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS  
SPRING 2008

## Water Management and Accountability

In 2001, the City of La Cañada Flintridge had many choices for water management systems. After considering several vendors, the City chose Calsense due to its reputation in the landscaping industry and because of past experience working with their system. Another factor in the City's selection was the opportunity to test Calsense's Water Management System in La Cañada Flintridge. This "demonstration" program allowed the City to see the Calsense system in action and determine how much it could realize in water and personnel savings.

Getting started and learning how to operate the system was relatively easy as Calsense understood how to implement its system with a small contract city without large staffing or budget resources. The City's only investment was the installation of a flow meter and a master valve. The ease and success of this demonstration resulted in the City's decision to install additional Calsense controllers at three public elementary schools.

After three years using the Calsense system, the recommendation was made to add another controller at La Cañada High School as well as install the Command CENTER central software. Due to the efficiency of the stand-alone controllers, the City was able to apply its water savings toward the purchase of the central control



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system, allowing for even greater management control and overall maintenance of the City's athletic fields and parks. This is crucially important in La Cañada Flintridge as there is a high demand for field and park use throughout the year, and therefore a high expectation of maintenance by community user groups.

One week after the central system was installed, there was a water line break at La Cañada High School. In the past such breaks could not be immediately detected and resulted in extensive slope failures, water loss, and significant labor expenditures to repair water damage. The central control system reported the water line break at the high school detected by the controller. It was then repaired which resulted in minimal damage, manpower effort and water loss. Aside from these benefits, since 2001 the City has experienced a water usage savings of 40%.

The central control system also serves as a tool for the City's landscape maintenance contractor who is responsible for water management at all City facilities, including baseball diamonds, soccer and football fields, parks, and

street medians. The Calsense system helps keep the contractor within budget by avoiding unnecessary work related to water mishaps. Also, the Calsense Field Service Support staff certifies all product installations within the City to ensure that their system will operate and benefit the community as anticipated.

The La Cañada Flintridge City Council is rightfully demanding of quality work from its staff. Likewise as part of management, an expectation of excellence with all maintenance operations is the standard. Calsense has proven itself as a partner in delivering high quality service for the City's existing facilities and future projects. As a product vendor, Calsense has gone above and beyond to make sure the City is always satisfied.

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