

water sense



WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS
FALL 2013

“Support”

Environmental terms such as ‘eco-friendly’, ‘green technology’, ‘sustainability’, ‘energy and water conservation’ are used every day by environmentalists and those trying to keep up with the latest green buzz. What do these very important environmental concepts mean for public agencies who are often dealing with the challenges of running maintenance and operations with fewer and fewer dollars – it means having support from leadership to invest and find creative ways to transition towards long-term conservation programs.

In 2007 the Torrance Unified School District Board of Education passed an energy management, conservation policy. The purpose of this policy has been to help ensure taxpayer dollars are used wisely by implementing and promoting conservation measures. Since then the district has saved over five million dollars through reductions and credits of electricity, natural gas, and water. These saved funds have been used to offset funding shortfalls and greatly contribute towards the District’s general fund. All of these reductions have had a very positive effect on the environment.

Conserving water is a high priority and a vital part of the TUSD conservation program. The District spends about \$780,000 a year on this precious natural resource. Additionally, with the ever increasing cost of water in the state of California, it was imperative to look for options that would help reduce water



Torrance Unified School District

consumption used for landscape irrigation at school campuses.

The District started by monitoring irrigation usage and attempting to repair any broken irrigation equipment. Finding the usual missing or smashed sprinkler heads, cracked and leaking irrigation pipes, valves that would stick open and other random situations and resolving these problems quickly and efficiently became essential. The next goal was the attempt to adjust the time on all irrigation controllers ensuring that only the water that was needed was being delivered. The programming of these controllers needed to be reviewed and/or corrected regularly for all sites.

Newer technology was the way to get additional water savings and the need for a smarter irrigation control system that would fit the concerns and needs of the District was apparent. The search began for a reputable company with a good product and good customer support. Calsense was the obvious choice and was selected to help fulfill these requirements. Calsense has been instrumental in helping us install fourteen new controllers. Currently, additional controllers are being planned for installation, which will

add up to even more savings. Calsense has a superior understanding of what school districts need and how to bring them into the 21st century for water conservation and labor management. Communication has been key in this process and they have done that well.

The District is very pleased with the product and support received from Calsense team. Calsense has gone above and beyond in helping the District transition with newer technology. They have assisted us with the coordination of landscape architects, engineers, contractors and project managers who do not always understand or install systems correctly. Their willingness to assist, their knowledge and expertise, is a valuable tool in resolving issues. We look forward to a long and productive future with them as we continue in our water conservation and efficiency efforts.

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