

water sense



WATER MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

WINTER 2014

Paradise Valley USD Manages Resources by Implementing a Plan

How does a school district with limited budgets, implement new technology to manage resources long term? Case in point is the Paradise Valley Unified School District located in the northeast part of the Phoenix Valley, comprised of thirty elementary schools, eight middle schools and six high schools.

Cole Morris joined the District as the Director of Facilities and Construction in August of 2011; one of his first agenda items was to look at new technology for managing campus irrigation. The district is spread over 98 square miles and faces increasing water and labor costs. Intuitive software, global rain shut off, flow monitoring, and factory service were all a must, but where to get the money?

Cole enlisted Gary Roller, Grounds Lead to evaluate central control systems. Gary met with Calsense Sales Rep, Erin Hagen, and arranged a test drive of their system at a nearby elementary school. Calsense would loan the district Command Center software and the ET2000e field controller. The District would purchase and install a flow sensor and master valve. This demo program, with minimum-out-of-pocket expense would be run by lead irrigation specialist, John Lonati. John brought a lot of irrigation experience and enthusiasm to the process. He wanted to know how the system worked, and what



Gary Roller, PVUSD Grounds Lead, Don Keeton, Calsense, & John Lonati, PVUSD Irrigation Specialist

the philosophy was behind why it worked the way it did, that fueled his interest in learning how technology can be utilized to save time and money.

Quail Run Elementary School was selected as the site with a single controller, master valve, flow meter and a VFD pump. The Calsense ET2000e was installed on a wall, wired to the pump, field wires, flow meter and master valve. The controller communicated via GPRS radio or cell modem with a computer in Gary's office. Gary and John monitored the controller, viewing alert reports, and weather sharing via Calsense WeatherSense, a no charge internet ET service. Both learned and experienced the Calsense central software.

A Calsense radio remote was loaned to the district and working with Don Keeton, the Calsense Area Field Service Rep, John performed the first step in the demo program: the wellness check. Together they found some common irrigation problems as they tested the system with the controller and radio remote. They created a list of problems to fix, and set up the system's automated tasks such as report gathering

and weather sharing. Scheduled training sessions were provided, a pump issue was rectified, and John was given a laptop from the District providing him the flexibility to view daily alerts, and adjust ET by station.

At the end of the demo period a 17% percent water savings was achieved. The various water and labor management reports generated by the Calense software were reviewed with Gary and John. These reports demonstrated that the troubleshooting capabilities of the controller, radio remote and software, the automatic ET weather adjusting, and the shutting off of valves with breaks through flow monitoring, saved time, water and money. The potential for savings at all school campuses became apparent. Gary and John experienced the hands on Calsense field service difference, and have gone on to implement the Calsense Resource Management System at North Canyon High School and Vista Verde Middle School!

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800.572.8608

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760.438.2619

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