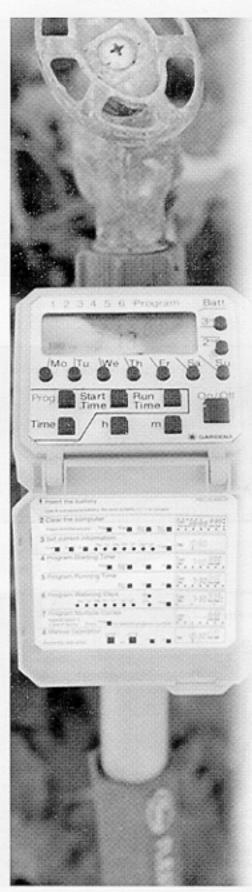
Water Conservation



While overall water use has been cut by about 30% since 1988, the State Board Order continues to put intense pressure on the community to conserve even more.

Expanded Conservation Plan Initiated

In March 1999, Stage 1 of an innovative water conservation plan was implemented within the District. The Expanded Water Conservation and Standby Rationing Plan is designed to:

- (a) keep Cal-Am water production within limits set by State Order 95-10;
- (b) establish mandatory water reductions for all water users when a physical water shortage such as a drought occurs; and
- (c) mandate procedures to be followed in the event of a water supply emergency caused by a natural disaster or breakdown in the water distribution system.

Community Moves to Stage 2

Total water use by Cal-Am customers in the October through November 1999 period was below the year-to-date target specified in the plan. However, by the end of December, water production had exceeded the year-to-date target by 140 acre-feet. Thus, the community moved into Stage 2 of the conservation plan beginning in January 2000.

New Cal-Am Rates

One important component of the conservation plan is implementation of a new conservation rate schedule proposed by Cal-Am. The rate schedule establishes a base water allowance for each Cal-Am household and business. Household allowances are based on the number of full and part-time

residents in a house as well as lot size. During Stage 3 of the plan, if a water customer exceeds its water allowance by 150 percent, water rates increase. Cal-Am applied to the PUC for approval of the per-capita based rate design in February 1999. The PUC should consider the request by December 1999.



Water use exceeded State year-to-date limits in November and December 1999.

Water Permits Issued

All new construction or remodel projects that include the installation of water-using fixtures must obtain a water permit from the District before construction. Water permit fees are based on the potential water use that each new fixture represents. The District maintains a record of the amount of water assigned to new uses and remodels, so that the total remains under the amount of water allocated to the jurisdictions for construction projects.