



Recap of Meeting September 15, 2011

HOA Members Represented

Aldea – The Vistas

Candelwood Villas II

Canyon Shores

Cathedral Canyon #5

Cathedral Canyon #17

Cathedral Canyon #18

Montage at Mission Hills

Rio del Sol – Las Casitas

Verano/Rio Vista Village

Legal Counsel: Jennifer James, Attorney at Law – Epstein, Grinnell & Howell

Speakers Present

Ted Pritchett – Water Management Specialist, Coachella Valley Water District

Maureen Perry – Education Specialist, Coachella Valley Water District

Nina McCullough – Regional Manager Public Affairs, Southern California Edison

Robert Haines – Field Supervisor, Southern California Edison

Welcome: Al Hallinan, Co-Chair

Treasurer's Report – To be distributed

Guest Speaker – Ted Pritchett – Water Management Specialist, Coachella Valley Water District & Maureen Perry – Education Specialist, Coachella Valley Water District

Ted began with the definition of “over seeding” – putting seed over grass. A goal of the CVWD is to provide an environment that is healthy for both people and plants.

Green is a color and also has become an industry unto itself. Companies and units of government publish Green Reports – describing what they are doing to protect and enhance the environment.

The largest crop in the Coachella Valley is grass.

The Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) was formed in 1973 to address significant items of common interest within the valley. CVAG and EPA have a goal to reduce man made emissions

CVWD has condensed their 2 hour class on over seeding to 30 minutes. The class is available online at the library, the College of the Desert website and the CVWD website. When you view the online class you are offered short test at the end. If you pass the test you can print out a certification of completion. Take the certification to your City and you can obtain an Over Seeding License. All people doing over seeding are required to obtain an Over Seeding License annually.



For a number of years the University of Riverside at Palm Desert has maintained 24 test plots for studying over seeding. On the plots they test different mowing techniques, watering options and seeding options.

Among their results has been the finding that over seeding is very temperature dependent. For best results the daytime temperatures should be less than 100 and the nighttime temperature should be less than 60.

This year CVWD has decided to allow users 150% of their water budget for a 21 day over seeding period – October 3rd to November 13th. During that period users should water for short periods 4 to 5 times a day to keep the soil and seeds moist, but not wash the seeds away.

Users should reduce run times on their controllers as the weather gets cooler. Controllers should be constantly adjusted to optimized water use efficiency.

The best times to water are early morning – 5 to 6 AM and early evening – 5 to 6 PM.

CVWD still has their nozzle exchange program for \$1 per nozzle. Also, the turf buy back program for \$1/SF.

User's water budgets were determined by measuring landscape areas from aerial photos. They are working with customers to make adjustments where they determine errors in interpretation have been made.

There currently are 15 golf courses in the valley that irrigate with recycled water. Those are all located within a 5 mile radius of the CVWD recycle plant in Palm Desert. Some day they hope to have 50 golf courses participating as recycle water lines are extended.

Maureen distributed handouts published by CVWD:

- "Overseed Grass Without Wasting Water"
- "Promoting Healthier Grass Re-seeding"
- "Water Wise at Home – A Guide to Finding leaks, Conserving Water and Making every Drop Count in Your Coachella Valley Home"
- Their Newsletter "Water Wise" for Fall 2009, Summer 2010, Fall 2010 and Summer 2011
- A Flyer for "Water Wise Landscape Workshop for Home Gardeners" – three 4 hour classes offered Friday, November 18th and Saturday, November 19th.

Guest Speaker – Nina McCullough – Regional Manager Public Affairs, Southern California Edison & Robert Haines – Field Supervisor, Southern California Edison



Nina introduced Robert who had been a meter reader for 17 years.

Robert provided a handout that he spoke from.

- A typical 5 ton air conditioner in the desert set at 75 will cost about \$714.24 a month to run
- A typical 1 hp pool pump will cost about \$76.80 a month to run
- A typical refrigerator in your house will cost about \$67.20 a month
- A typical refrigerator in your garage will cost about \$144 a month

All these figures are based on an average cost of \$0.32 per kilowatt.

He said that energy diversion is a growing problem in the valley. With the installation of the new smart meters the SCE meter reader field staff has been reduced from 45 to 9 people. That staff was their eyes in the field for discovering energy diversion. Now the staff only makes random inspections and responds to customer requests for investigation of problems.

He described several photos of examples of energy diversion were people had connected wires and jumpers to bypass the meter or connect to their neighbors power supply. He cautioned that these connections are very dangerous to make and present a serious fire hazard.

Smart meters: Top 5 things you should know about Radio Frequency (RF) emissions.

1. Smart meters are low power devices. Weaker in strength than cell phones, baby monitors and cordless phones.
2. RF signals diminish rapidly with distance. Exposure is greatly minimized at a distance just a few feet from the meter.
3. RF signals from smart meters mostly point away from homes. Signal strength is greatly reduced behind the meter.
4. Building materials greatly shield against RF signals. Walls and building materials block or greatly reduce signal strength.
5. SCE's smart meters only transmit during short periods of time. 99% of SCE's smart meters communicate an average of 95 seconds a day.

Opt Out of Smart Meters:

There is not an opt out program in SCE. All SCE customer meters are scheduled to be replaced. We are prepared to work with customers on any questions or concerns they may have. Our commitment is to provide reliable service to our customers and our meter upgrade program is part of our process. We expect to replace 5 million meters by the end of 2012, to comply with state regulatory mandates. Any more information needed you can call Edison Smart Connect at 1.800.810.2369

SCE is the largest power company in the US. They have roughly 7,000,000 customers.



He provided a slide on understanding tiered rates. The slide is available on the SCE website at <http://www.sce.com/CustomerService/billing/tiered-rates/baseline-chart-map.htm>

He provided a slide showing a form with examples for domestic-5 tiered usage calculations. Also several slides discussing the benefits of smart meters; and facts about electric and magnetic fields (EMF) and radio frequency (RF) signals.

He discussed the California Solar Initiative (CSI) and showed a slide addressing: What size solar do I need?

- It is not necessary to install a system that will offset 100% of your load
 - A smaller system that keeps you out of the more expensive Tiers 3, 4 and 5 on your electric bill will cost you less
 - The CSI program does not pay incentives for systems that generate more electricity than your total load
- In general, it is estimated that a 1 kilowatt (kW) system will generate 1,500 kWh per year (depending on geographic location, weather conditions and design of system)
 - Since the average home uses 6,600 kWh to 7,200 kWh per year, it is estimated that a 4 kW to 6 kW system would be required to cover 100% of your load
- Another rough calculation is 2 Watts-per-square-foot
 - A 2,000 square foot house would theoretically require a 4 kW system

CSI Support & Addresses:

- Email: CSIGroup@sce.com
- Web site: www.sce.com/solarleadership
- Phone: 866.584.7436 (Hotline: 8 AM – 5 PM)

Community Forum

Al Hallinan asked the group for subjects they would like to hear about.

Handouts – in addition to those mentioned above:

Flyer “A new State Law Has Passed! Use of Carbon Monoxide Alarms Will Be Required” The Gas Company

Flyer” 6th Annual Healing Field November 6th – 13th Patriot Park Cathedral City”
www.healingfield.org

Website – <http://hoapresidentscouncil.com> , Click on “Cathedral City”

Next Meeting – Thursday, October 20, 2011 at the Cathedral City – City Hall

Tom Tousignant, Recorder