

MINUTES OF THE
WATER SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE OF
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT

June 11, 2020

A meeting of the Water Sustainability Committee of Vista Irrigation District was held on Thursday, June 11, 2020, at the offices of the District, 1391 Engineer Street, Vista, California.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee members present: Sanchez and Vásquez

Committee members absent: None.

Staff present: Marlene Kelleher, Director of Administration and Brent Reyes, Water Conservation Specialist.

Other attendees: None.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

No public comments were presented on items not appearing on the agenda.

5. 2020 WATERSMART LANDSCAPE CONTEST

See application packages attached hereto.

Mr. Reyes provided the Committee with an overview of the landscape contest. He explained that the contest is jointly coordinated and promoted, but individually judged, by the participating agencies. Mr. Reyes went on to say that he was impressed with the quality of the entries this year.

After discussion and careful consideration of all the applications, the Committee selected Robin Ziegler as the winner of the 2020 WaterSmart Landscape Contest. As the winner of the landscape contest, Ms. Ziegler will receive a plaque and a \$250 gift certificate. The Committee also awarded Beverley Woodworth with an honorable mention; she will receive a framed certificate from the District.


The Committee suggested that Ms. Ziegler be invited to call into the Board meeting scheduled for July 15, 2020 (at a set time) so the Board could thank and congratulate her.

6. COMMENTS BY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

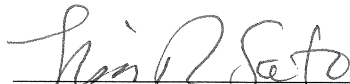
Director Vásquez commented that he was impressed by the applications from the people who had attended the landscape training workshops offered by the District, and it appears the District's commitment to landscape education is paying dividends in the quality of the applications.

7. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, at 10:10 a.m. Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting.


Patrick Sanchez, Chair

ATTEST:



Lisa R. Soto, Secretary
Board of Directors
VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT



**WATER SUSTAINABILITY
COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Item: 5

Meeting Date: June 11, 2020
Prepared By: Brent Reyes
Reviewed By: Breona Paz
Approved By: Brett Hodgkiss

SUBJECT: 2020 WATERSMART LANDSCAPE CONTEST

RECOMMENDATION: Review submittals and select a winner of Vista Irrigation District's 2020 WaterSmart Landscape Contest.

PRIOR BOARD ACTION: At its June 5, 2019 meeting, the Board awarded a gift certificate and plaque to the winner of Vista Irrigation District's 2019 WaterSmart Landscape Contest.

FISCAL IMPACT: \$300.

SUMMARY: The District participated in 2020 WaterSmart Landscape Contest jointly coordinated and promoted, but individually judged, by the participating agencies. The District participated along with thirteen other local agencies (Helix Water District, Olivenhain Municipal Water District, Otay Water District, Padre Dam Municipal Water District, San Dieguito Water District, Sweetwater Authority, Vallecitos Water District, California American Water, Rincon Del Diablo Water District, Fallbrook Public Utilities District, and the cities of Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego) in this year's contest. The landscape contest winner for each agency receives a \$250 gift certificate from their participating agency.

DETAILED REPORT: This is the eighth straight year the District has participated in the landscape contest. Promotional materials were emailed to customers who participated in regional turf removal rebate programs and/or attended recent landscape training workshops hosted by the District. Additional landscape contest promotional efforts included promotional articles in the City of Vista's Vista News Center email newsletter, social media promotion by the San Diego County Water Authority, direct marketing to homes with attractive water-wise landscaping, advertising the contest in the 2020 Water Awareness Calendar, placing promotional materials in the lobby and announcing the contest on the District's website. The District received six applications by the May 29, 2020 deadline.

Water Conservation and Sustainability Committee members Vásquez and Sanchez are the judges for the contest. A \$250 gift certificate and plaque will be provided to the landscape contest winner. The District's winner will have their landscape featured at www.landscapecontest.com as well as on the District's website.

ATTACHMENTS: Contest Judging Matrix/Criteria
WaterSmart Landscape Contest Applications

JUDGING CRITERIA

Overall Attractiveness:

- Curb appeal
- Pleasing color, form, texture and contour
- Plants are well maintained
- Weeds kept to a minimum

Appropriate Plant Selection:

- Climate-appropriate plant palette
- Minimal or functional turf
- Functional landscape
- Plants meet needs of owners

Design:

- Landscape is able to thrive with less water
- Adequate plant coverage and permeable soils
- Takes advantage of site features like shade, micro-climates, or low-lying flood areas
- Landscape also meets needs of owners

Appropriate Maintenance:

- Mulch
- Weeds kept to a minimum
- Plants are neat, tidy and attractive

Efficient Methods of Irrigation:

- Uses appropriate irrigation equipment for plant material such as drip irrigation or efficient rotating spray nozzles
- Water consumption is appropriate to area
- Uses smart controllers or irrigation sensors
- Irrigation is supplemented with rainwater capture or other water

2020 WaterSmart Landscape Contest

Applicant Name	Attractiveness/ Appeal	Plant selection	Design	Maintenance	Irrigation/Water Use	Total
Arangure						
Chapman						
Hershon						
Lindley						
Woodworth						
Ziegler						

Please rate the landscape contest applicants on the basis of the following five (5) areas. Please rate from 1-5 (5 being high).

Overall attractiveness:

Curb appeal; pleasing color, form, texture, contour; plants are well maintained; weeds kept to a minimum

Appropriate plant selection:

Climate-appropriate plant palette; minimal or functional turf; functional landscape, meets needs of owners

Design:

Landscaping is able to thrive with less water, has adequate plant coverage, permeable soils, and takes advantage of site features like shade, micro-climates, or low-lying flood areas; landscaping also meets needs of owners

Appropriate maintenance:

Mulch; weeds kept to a minimum; plants neat, tidy and attractive

Efficient methods of irrigation:

Uses appropriate irrigation equipment for plant material, such as drip irrigation or efficient rotating spray nozzles

Owner's Name

Dominique Arangure

Landscape Installation Date

05/05/2019

How did you hear about the contest?

Instagram

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

When we purchased the property it was over grown and had broken irrigation throughout the yard. I spent a summer tearing out all the plants that were over grown and required lots of water. I not only wanted to save us money on our water bill but keep our yard looking green with the plants that were more drought tolerant.

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

Succulents
Sunflowers
Lavender
Bird of paradise

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

Luckily we were left with an old rain barrel and we have relocated it to be right next to the greenhouse. Within a few rain storms we can store enough water to last us through the summer







Owner's Name

Carolyn Chapman

Landscape Installation Date

02/10/2017

How did you hear about the contest?

Received email from Brent Reyes, Vista Irrigation District

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

After attending a one day class sponsored by the San Diego Water Authority for Water Smart Landscape, I became interested in a make over for my Front Yard. I was really tired of grass and of making sure my dog was inside on the day my gardener came to mow. Tired of watering a lawn that had to be kept up for my HOA and for other dogs to visit. (At the time I was a 69 year old grandmother, living by myself but I was determined to complete such a Big Project before I turned 70).

Next step was to attend the 4-class Workshop by the San Diego Water Authority where I learned how to design my landscape. My goals were to make my driveway wider as well as the cement pathway to my front door. I also wanted a rock river bed winding through my yard for beauty, but by making it a swale, I was able to save all the rain water runoff on my own property and still have a beautiful rock river bed.

I had chosen all the low maintenance plants for my yard; however, Sharon Lowe, my superstar landscape designer, tweaked it just enough by clustering the plants instead of planting them at random, making the whole project really come to life.

The most challenging part of this Project was working 2 months by myself with only my pickup truck and wheel barrel. I did hire 2 guys for 3 days to dig out all the dead grass, make the cement driveway wider and lay a brick border on both sides of the driveway. Also while one was doing the brick laying, the other started digging the swale.

I was responsible for all the loading, hauling out and unloading of dead grass, extra dirt and clay, plus hauling in and unloading new top soil, mulch, river rock, and unloading by wheel barrel the 2" gravel cement pieces (8 yards) to fill the swale.

My neighbors were in awe as they drove by. My home is located at the top of a hill and I live at the entrance of my street which makes a big circle, there is only one way in and out. The husbands, coming home from work, would drive by slowly...watching my progress every day. (I worked from 8am-12, 1-6pm, sometimes until dark) It was back breaking work but I had 2 deadlines: 1) from the San Diego Water Authority and 2) from my HOA.

The best benefit besides utilizing all the rain water on my own property, not having to weekly water the plants throughout the summer and not relying on gardening services, is continually having people throughout my neighborhood taking walks and stopping to let me know how much they really enjoy admiring my Front Yard Landscape !!! This makes me so proud and accomplished that I finished this project by myself !!

Now, 3 years later, I'm sharing my plants that need thinning to my neighbors and friends. I continue to add and switch plants just to keep the front yard looking fantastic!.

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

Blue Chalk sticks
Silver Carpet groundcover
Red Yucca Brake lights
Rosemary
Pink Muhly Grass
Society Garlic
Cape Rush

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

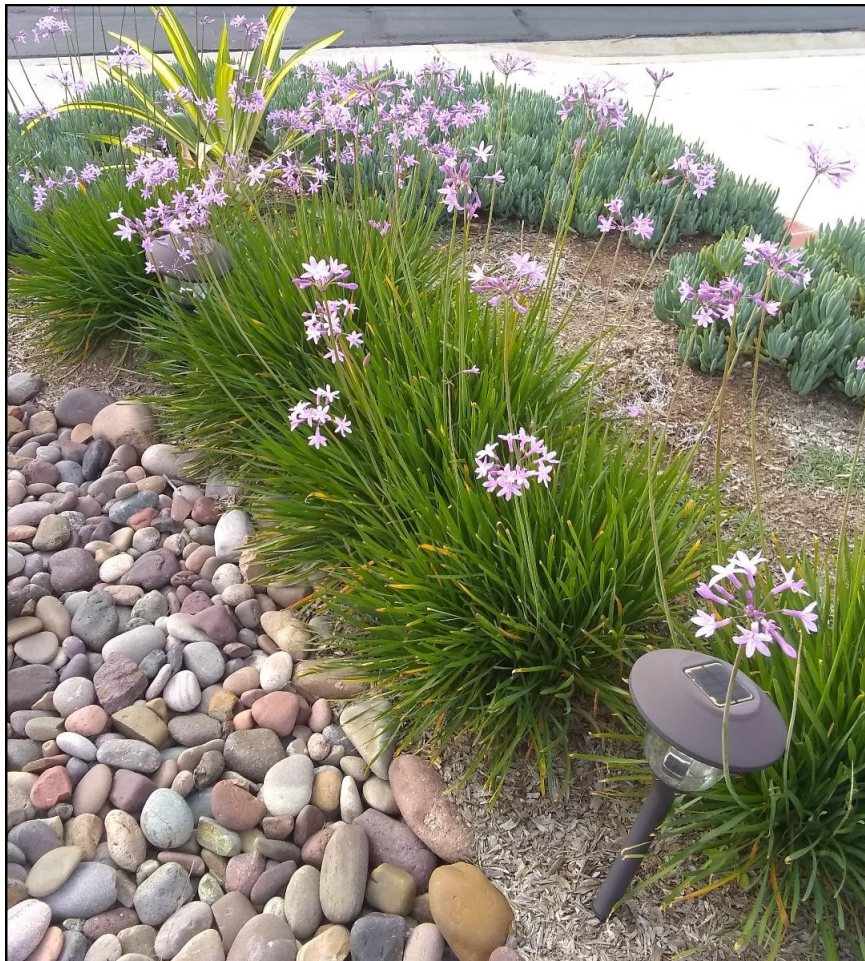
After testing my water pressure, I installed a pressure regulator to lower my pressure from 99 psi to 30 psi allowing me to use Rain Bird efficient low flow spray nozzles.

After re-routing and shortening some of the irrigation pipe lines, I measured between each sprinkler to install the correct sprinkler head for length & directional flow, making sure no water was being wasted on the driveway and walkways. I was really pleased that I could use my original irrigation system along with my Toro Smart Controller.

I redirected both the downspout from the roof and the backyard drainage pipe into the swale.











Owner's Name

Joshua Hershon

Landscape Installation Date

11/01/2019

How did you hear about the contest?

Received an email

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

We wanted a landscape that would trap runoff to preserve fresh water, while hosting native wildlife and to have an orchard and garden. We put down over 20 yards of forest fines mulch and the bugs changed from ants and pests such as white fly and aphids, to bees and earth worms and other beneficial critters. To save on the number of fruit trees, some were selected because they have several different fruit varieties grafted to one tree. This helps with cross-pollination and gives a variety of fruit and harvest times while conserving water.

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

Hot lips little leaf sage, Lion's tail, Russian sage, Mexican Sage, Butterfly bush, Milkweed, Sky flower, Bougainvillea, Humming-bird Bush

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

We put in three channels of irrigation; drip feeders to the native shrubs, bubblers to the fruit trees for deep root watering, and micro-sprayers in the raised beds to keep the veggies fresh.

Before











Owner's Name

Suzanne Lindley

Landscape Installation Date

08/15/2019

How did you hear about the contest?

I attended a water wise class at Vista Irrigation District.

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

I wanted to cut back on my water usage to help the environment and reduce my water bill. I had a large grassy area that was difficult to maintain so I was also looking to reduce maintenance time and cost. When I attended the Water Wise class at Vista Irrigation District I was amazed to learn that there were so many plants that make a beautiful landscape design and require little water. With the knowledge that I gained from this class I was able to do my own design with the help of my roommate, Jonathan Merry. We were also able to do some of the work ourselves which worked out well with my small budget. It was an enjoyable project and I've had many compliments from my neighbors!

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

Rock Purslane, Foxtail Agave, Mexican Sage, Yellow, Orange, and Purple Lantana, Bougainvillea, Purple Verbena.

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

I use a programmed controller with drip irrigation and a rainwater catchment feature - dry creek bed. I haven't had to water much with all of the rain that we have had but during the warmer months I have the drip programmed to 4 minutes, 2 times per week.











Owner's Name

BEVERLEY WOODWORTH

Landscape Installation Date

10/18/2018

How did you hear about the contest?

Invitation in email from Brent Reyes, ID

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

We wanted to get rid of our front lawn which took too much time, effort and expense to water and which was mostly crabgrass anyway. We heard about the Waterwise Xeriscaping Class being given at San Diego Botanic garden and decided to start learning. We like to hike in the southern California back country and thought we would enjoy a landscape that looked similar to the areas in which we hiked. The fact that there were rebates from the Water Authority made it financially feasible for us. The help we received in the class in setting up the basic design elements of what we wanted was wonderful. That plus learning the components of a waterwise watering system helped give us the confidence to follow through on the makeover.

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

California Wild Rose
Sky Blue Sage
Big Pink Sage
Cleveland Sage
White Trailing Lantana
Matilija Poppy
Purple and Powder Kalanchoe
Swizzle Sticks
Tall Slipper Plant
Compact Yarrow
Pink Kangaroo Paw
Dwarf Mat Rush

Jade
Toyon
Agave
Gravilla
Duranta
Bougainvillea
Chondropetalum

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

We had 5 different watering zones established on a smart watering system. We customize the amount of water and the delivery schedule based on the needs of the plants in that area. We use Netafim and some specific drip emitters, rainwater catchment and gray water from our laundry room. For another area of our property (not part of the landscape makeover submission) we use overhead spray watering to water large swaths of ice plant we maintain on a hillside as a fire barrier.

Before











Owner's Name

Robin Ziegler

Landscape Installation Date

10/01/2019

How did you hear about the contest?

Email

Tell us why you decided to install a WaterSmart landscape (300 - 500 words):

Took the WaterSmart classes last Spring (2019) and installed the yard by the first of October. I've posted a picture of the front yard with the grass, the weeds that came in when we were taking out the grass and how things look now, 8 months later, along with a copy of my planting plan.

We bought a 30 year old house that had been a rental with no upgrades or maintenance. We needed to install irrigation (existing did not work) and wanted to be water smart with our selections.

We love the European gardens with lots of color & variety and were able to select drought tolerant plants that will give us year round color and is butterfly, bee and bird friendly. I have people knock on my door several times a month and want to know who did my landscaping and my neighbors are thrilled with how good things look.

A great big thank you to everyone at WaterSmart San Diego. I learned so much and couldn't be happier with our yard. I'm working on the backyard now. Wish me luck!

List the water-wise plants you used in the design:

3-Trunk Pygmy Date Palm	Star Jasmin
Aeonium-"Kiwi"	New Zealand Flax-Jester
Aeonium-"Sunburst"	Pedstemon-"Margarita"
Assorted Succulents	Pink Breath of Heaven
Assorted Succulents	Blue Jean Baby Russian Sage
Blue Glow Agave	Sedium-"WhiteTrailing"
Furman's Red Sage	Tecoma-"Orangs Jubilee"
Butterfly Bush-"Hot Raspberry"	Tecoma "Orange Bells"
Salvia Gregii-Desert Blaze	Eremophila
Scabiosa-"Butterfly Blue"	Agastache
Blue Fescue-"Eliyah Blue"	Ruellia
Dwarf Olive-"Little Ollie" Montra	Vigoro Achillea Yarrow
Elephant's Food	Polygala
Geranium-"Violet"	Vigoro Evolvulus Blue Daze
Geranium-Dark Salmon"	Lantana
Geranium-"Red Ice"	Kalanchoe Blossfe
Gardenia-Monrovia Grafted	Alyssum
Grivella-mix	Lobelia
Kangaroo Paw-"Bush Tango" (Orange)	Dusty Miller
Kangaroo Paws-Pink Kanga (Burgundy)	Alyssum
Woolly Lambs Ear	Monrovia Grafted Gardenias
Lantana-"Citrus Blend" or "Radiation"	ROSE GARDEN
Lantana-"Sherbert"	R South Africa
Leucodendron	Rosa Celestial Night
Lions tail-"Wild Dagger" Butterfly Orange	R Olympiad
R Voluptuous	R Gemini
	R DA Darcy Bussell

Describe how you water your landscape (50 - 100 words):

Our entire system is drip with an irrigation clock that we can adjust according to the weather.







