

# Reflections

of the Vista Irrigation District

**VISTA IRRIGATION DISTRICT**  
Summer/Fall 2018

## Customers Show Off Their Water Wise Landscape

In San Diego County, over half of residential water use is attributable to outdoor irrigation; homeowners can significantly reduce their water use by replacing a thirsty lawn with water wise landscaping. There are many resources, including the Internet and local nurseries, that can be used to research the many varieties of water wise plants that are available and thrive in our region's semi-arid climate. However, seeing that plant in a residential garden setting may be the best way to judge if that plant will work in your landscape.



Back Yard - BEFORE

Water-wise gardens are located throughout local communities; the challenge is making people aware of them. Vista Irrigation District and eleven other local water districts held a WaterSmart Landscape Contest this year with the goal of showcasing outstanding water-wise residential landscapes throughout the region. Vista Irrigation District was fortunate to receive a large number of entries, and its contest winners, Bill and Rachel Williams, showed how functional water-wise landscaping can be when coupled with other landscape components.

During the height of the drought, the Williamses decided to replace their water intensive front and back lawn with a water efficient landscape. After hiring professionals to remove over 2,500 square feet of grass and install drip irrigation, the Williamses designed the layout and chose the water-wise plants themselves.

By adding fun elements, such as a horseshoe pit and outdoor seating area surrounding a fire pit, the Williamses transformed unused space into a backyard with utility; the result, an eye-catching design incorporating decomposed granite, cactus and splashes of vibrant color from the aloe and agave families, including Coral Aloe as well as Foxtail and Century Agaves; plant selection also included Aeonium, Rosemary, Senecio and Firestick.

The Williamses "couldn't be happier with the results" and their WaterSmart project turned their water thirsty lawn into a low maintenance, low cost and water efficient haven where they can relax and enjoy a game of horseshoes. By showcasing their water-wise landscape, the Williamses are providing other homeowners with great ideas about how to make their yards functional and use less water. For more information about the contest or to see more examples of beautiful water-wise landscapes, visit [www.landscapecontest.com](http://www.landscapecontest.com).



Back Yard - AFTER

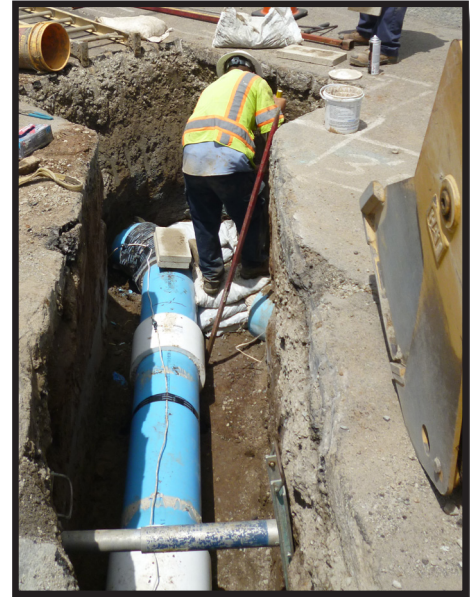
### Ready to transform your own landscape?

The District is hosting a free WaterSmart Design for Homeowners Workshop on October 27, 2018.  
Call (760) 597-3107 for more information.

# Pipeline Replacements and Upgrades Ensure Reliable Service

For over ninety years, Vista Irrigation District has provided a high-quality and reliable water supply by maximizing the life of District infrastructure and implementing programs aimed at preventing main breaks, and more importantly, service outages. The District's Main Replacement Program is one such program.

The District's Main Replacement Program started in 1995 with the aim of replacing aging pipelines before they reach the end of their useful life and become a maintenance liability. Replacement of aging infrastructure has always been a high priority for the District and formalizing the Main Replacement Program allowed the District to prioritize pipe replacements based on a variety of factors, including age of line, pipe material, leak history, and input from District crews who are continually evaluating every line's condition.



Since its inception, the District has invested \$24.2 million for the replacement of 30 miles of older pipe ranging in size from 4 to 20 inches. In 2017, over 11,200 feet of pipeline was installed or replaced (that's over 2 miles) throughout the District service area, including the replacement of 4,200 feet of 6" steel water main at Lobelia Drive and Primrose Avenue. Another \$4.5 million was approved for the Program in fiscal year 2018.



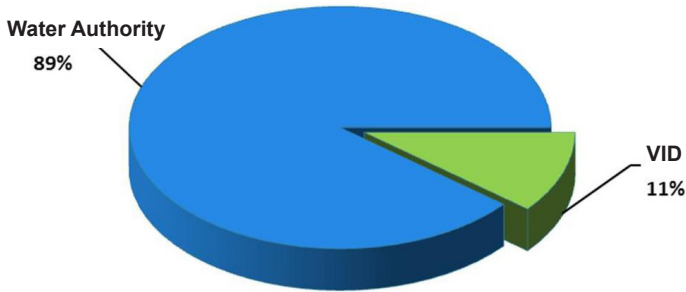
The District's continued investments in the Main Replacement Program as well as system upgrades and other infrastructure improvements help the District meet its goal of providing safe, reliable and high quality water supply to its customers.

*Pictured left and above: District crews installing new pipeline as part of the Main Replacement Program.*

# Explanation of Water Rates and Charges

Approximately 11% of the revenue generated by water usage charges is utilized by Vista Irrigation District (VID) to cover operating and maintenance expenses. The remaining 89% is used to pay the San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) for water purchases.

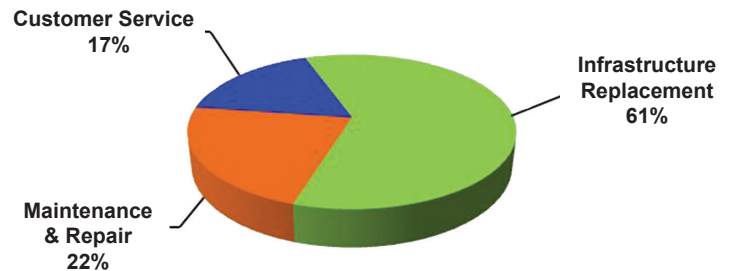
## Water Usage Charge Allocation



The Water Authority is responsible for supplying water to 24 member agencies within San Diego County. Not simply a water provider, the Water Authority is also responsible for the construction and maintenance of regional storage, delivery and treatment infrastructure necessary to ensure the reliable delivery of water to local water agencies like Vista Irrigation District.

Vista Irrigation District's service charge, which represents a small portion of a typical customer's bill, helps pay the District's fixed costs, which exist regardless of the amount of water pumped and delivered. Fixed costs continue without regard to the amount of water that a customer uses in a particular month, and are sometimes called "readiness-to-serve" charges because they are incurred as part of keeping the water system ready to deliver water to any customer at a moment's notice. The largest component of the service charge recovers the cost of replacing the District's aging water system infrastructure.

## Service Charge Components



## Outdoor Water Use Tips

Did you know that more than half of residential water use is for landscape irrigation? As temperatures rise, landscapes need more water. Here are some tips to remain water efficient during the hot, dry periods:



- Water trees a few days ahead of extreme heat.
- Water in early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation and wind interference.
- Consider installing a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers to get water to plant roots more efficiently.
- Add 3" to 4" of mulch around trees & plants to reduce evaporation.
- Take advantage of rebates on water efficient products. For more information visit [www.socalwatersmart.com/](http://www.socalwatersmart.com/)

To learn more about tree care, WaterSmart landscaping, rebates, resources and more, go to <https://www.vidwater.org/water-conservation>.



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District's office hours:  
 Monday through Friday  
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Vista Irrigation District  
Board of Directors:

- Div. 1 Marty Miller
- Div. 2 Richard L. Vásquez
- Div. 3 Paul E. Dorey
- Div. 4 Patrick H. Sanchez
- Div. 5 Jo MacKenzie

General Manager:  
 Eldon Boone

District board meetings are normally held the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 8:30 a.m. at VID's facilities located at 1391 Engineer Street in Vista.

Vista Irrigation District is a public agency, proudly serving the City of Vista and portions of San Marcos, Escondido, Oceanside and San Diego County

Reflections is published by Vista Irrigation District in the interest of keeping customers informed. We welcome your input.

Three simple numbers... *DIAL* **2-1-1**



**One helpful voice**

Serving the entire region, 2-1-1 SAN DIEGO connects people to community, health and disaster services through a free, 24/7 phone service and searchable online database.

Vista Irrigation District's customers can contact 2-1-1 seeking help in a multitude of areas including housing, transportation and assistance with paying their utility bills. To learn more about 2-1-1 San Diego, dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.211sandiego.org](http://www.211sandiego.org) today.

*The MISSION of 2-1-1 SAN DIEGO is to serve as a nexus to bring the community (organizations) together to help people efficiently access appropriate services, and provide vital data and trend information for proactive community planning.*



**Please Update Your**



***Emergency  
 Contact  
 Information***

**With Us**

Please take a moment and provide us with a telephone number (or telephone numbers) where you can be reached in case of an emergency. Having updated information allows us to contact you quicker during a situation that affects your water supply. You can update your emergency contact number(s) by calling Customer Service at (760) 597-3120 or by e-mailing [info@vidwater.org](mailto:info@vidwater.org). When providing updated telephone number(s) via e-mail, please include your name and address or account number. Feel free to give us your work, home and cell phone numbers. Thank you for helping us keep you informed.