

JANUARY 2022

# PINERY PIPELINE



*From your board of directors*

## Winter Watering

### How it may affect your wastewater rates

Yes, we are in another winter drought scenario. Many of you may be watering your grass and landscaping. Let me offer some insight (from my professional landscape viewpoint) that will hopefully help you to decide how much water and when to water. Why does this even matter?

If you are watering during the months November through February, when the wastewater rates are calculated based upon average usage, then you could possibly go over the 5000-gallon threshold, pushing your monthly wastewater rate into the next tier. Currently the 0-5000 gallons per month rate is \$36.75; and over 5000 gallons per month is \$53.99. **I would like to help you with some suggestions to keep your usage down and still protect your landscape.**

**For your grass.** Grasses, like all other plants go dormant in the winter season. Bluegrass is the most water demanding grass we have in our landscapes. However, it is still dormant typically should not need to be watered during dry winter periods. However, if your grass is newly planted and not well rooted, it “may” need some water. IF YOU MUST WATER, only do so to keep the soil/roots from drying out. Of course, watering with an above ground sprinkler is the way to do this. You don’t want to charge up your underground lines again, as that will likely lead to freezing of vacuum breakers, and other lines. With this in mind, we may have some dead grass next spring if this very dry winter continues. I would encourage all of you to consider converting your turf to more drought tolerant grasses (i.e., buffalo grass or tall fescue). If you want to convert, do this in March to take advantage of the (hopefully) spring snows and rains to come. This will also allow for earlier seed establishment and rooting as the growing season starts. *I am converting a large section of my front yard of sorry looking grass to xeriscape. In other areas I will be converting other bluegrass sections to Tall Fescue in March.*

**Trees and shrubs** that have been planted within the last 3-4 years, these are the more vulnerable woody plants (the younger ones) that should be watered during the dry winter periods. As with the grass, water (by hand/hose) just enough to “moisten” the soil so as to prevent drying out of the root system. It is critical to have woodchip mulch around your new trees/shrubs to help retain any moisture and keep the soil from drying out. Speaking of mulch. Apply the woodchip mulch to other trees/shrubs that are not mature. Apply the mulch around the base outward about 2’-3’. My trees/shrubs take priority over the rest of the landscape.

Water in the morning hours (say around 10 to 11) so the water can soak into the soil. Watering later in the day will likely result in freezing, that could damage more vulnerable woody plant roots. Watering much beyond the above-mentioned may not be very productive. This recommendation will hopefully help you decide what the minimum landscape watering priorities should be. **The point of this message is, do not overdo it!** Water in the winter months to protect more vulnerable plants that “may be” susceptible to roots drying out. I would be glad to answer any questions for you on this. You can contact me through the office email if you would like to discuss this further.

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly held Board Meetings at 6:00pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming Board Meetings will still be held digitally at 6:00pm on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022

*(\*please see meeting notice for information on joining the meeting by internet.)*

Wednesday, February 16, 2022



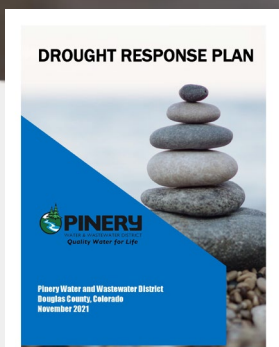
**Jim McGannon, Director**  
**Pinery Water and Wastewater**  
**District**  
**Board of Directors**

## CODERED EMERGENCY ALERTS

Pinery Water District has partnered with CodeRED to make sure that our customers are informed in the event of any emergency. Alerts are sent out electronically via telephone, text message, and email to customers that are enrolled in the CodeRED system. The enrollment process is very easy and no cost at all. If you have not registered with CodeRED, please look at the information below to sign up.



# Keeping Our Citizens Informed.



The District is seeking comments about the Plan until January 10, 2022 and there will be a Public Hearing to discuss the Plan at 6:00 PM January 19, 2022. To view the plan please visit the District's website at <https://pinerywater.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/RPT-DROUGHT-RESPONSE-PLAN-2021.pdf>

## **REGISTER FOR CODERED ALERTS!**

Sign up for the CodeRED notification system to receive alerts and updates during emergency events.

*All citizens and businesses are encouraged to register.*

### **REGISTER ONLINE:**

<https://public.coderedweb.com/CNE/BFF5150547F3>

### **REGISTER ON YOUR SMARTPHONE:**

Text "PINERYWATER" to 99411

### **Pinery Water and Wastewater District Contact Information:**

5242 Old Schoolhouse Road  
Parker, Colorado 80134  
(303) 841-2797

[www.pinerywater.com](http://www.pinerywater.com)  
[information@pinerywater.com](mailto:information@pinerywater.com)

For after-hours emergencies,  
(303) 841-2797 EXT 9