

# PINERY PIPELINE NOVEMBER 2024

Please join us at our District Office for our monthly Board Meetings typically held at 6:00pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month. Our Upcoming Board Meetings will be held at 6:00pm on Wednesday, November 20th and Wednesday, December 18th.



The Board will hold a Public Hearing to consider fixing or increasing fees, rates, penalties or charges for Commercial, Irrigator, and Domestic Water and Sanitary Sewer Services for 2025 at the Regular public meeting on November 20, 2024, at 6:00 P.M. at the District Office.

## From your Board of Directors

This year marks 45 years of enjoying the Pinery for me and my family. Many things have changed over those years. Wildlife has changed. Surrounding areas have been developed. The weather has become warmer and drier. While the wildlife changes are merely interesting, the other two items I listed are of ongoing concern to the District. With increasing demand and varying renewable water supplies, how do we continue to guarantee the same reliable supply of quality water to which we have all become very accustomed?

Working together, the Board and the District Staff determine an annual budget that includes the projects needed in the District to meet anticipated demand and to keep the district facilities in excellent working order. Dedicated staff monitors and reacts to any needed repairs or operating issues. Rehabilitation and/or replacement projects target potential trouble spots in hopes of preventing outages. Potential new sources of water are examined where possible. For example, as mentioned in last month's newsletter, the Walker Reservoir was recently dedicated and will be an important contributor to the District's available water supply during peak demands.

How can users help guarantee future water availability? An important contributor to guaranteeing an available water supply is to reduce the demands on the available supply through water conservation. This opportunity both *depends on* and *benefits* us. The good news is that it benefits us in two ways - greater peace of mind about our water supply, and lower water bills.

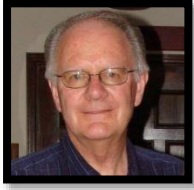
I'm sure each of us would appreciate lower water bills. One way to achieve that is through the District's Turf Removal Program. Trading water-guzzling Kentucky bluegrass for native or waterwise plants not only reduces water use but also supports pollinators. Waterwise yards are beautiful and can be even lower maintenance than traditional lawns. Although the 2024 season for lawn replacement has ended, if you are interested, you can start preparing for participation in the 2025 program by taking photos of the spaces you are interested in converting – before the grass is covered in snow! You can also join the Resource Central Interest List by visiting [Resource Central's Website](#). Resource Central is a local non-profit that partners with Pinery and other water utilities to offer turf removal, Garden In A Box, Slow the Flow, and other conservation programs.

Here are the basic requirements for participating in the Turf Replacement Program:

- You *must receive approval* prior to removing (or killing) any turf.
- The turf to be removed must be well-kept and alive.
- You need not remove your entire lawn – it's okay to start small!
- The program requires that you update your existing irrigation system to match the needs of the replacement plant material. In many cases, this means swapping overhead sprinklers for drip irrigation.
- At least 50% of the turf area removed must be replaced with waterwise plant material.
  - You can take advantage of Garden In A Box discounts to order pre-selected waterwise garden kits! Multiple sizes are available and Pinery customers can receive a \$25 discount per garden (while discounts and supplies last).
  - The remaining area can include mulch, pathways, dry streambeds, etc.
  - Approval will not be given for grass that is replaced with artificial turf, decks, pools, concrete, or other impermeable materials.

There are two options for Pinery customers to accomplish the work, and both can be combined with Garden In A Box. You may participate in one, but not both, of the following two options.

- 1) Participate in Resource Central's Lawn Replacement Program, which gives you a direct discount on lawn removal service performed by Resource Central. With this program, you pay only \$1.00/square foot for Resource Central to come out and remove at least 200 square feet of lawn. You can remove up to 450 square feet at the discounted price. Additional lawn removal can be done at the full price, which looks to be \$2.65/sf in 2025.
- 2) Apply for a dollar-amount-per-square-foot rebate directly through Pinery. In this scenario, you perform (or contract out) the lawn removal, sprinkler conversion, and new material placement. After the project is complete, you receive a check from Pinery for the rebate amount. We have not finalized the dollar amount per square foot that will be offered in 2025;



however, in 2023 we gave a rebate of \$2.00/sf and it likely will be higher in 2025. We don't want any customers to miss out on the financial incentives, so it's important to remember that in either program, *you must apply and receive approval prior to performing any of the work.*

**Rod Bergholm, Director, Pinery Water and Wastewater District**

## **It's time to blow out those sprinklers!!**

Do not let these warm fall days fool you. Our first frost is right around the corner. As you are doing your last lawn maintenance for the year and putting all your gardening tools away, it is time to think about winterizing your sprinkler system. When the frost level reaches below the depth of the irrigation system, winterizing your system can help prevent damage from freezing and ward off costly repairs in the spring. Below are some tips from Rain Bird Irrigation Manufacturing Company to help you winterize your system.

1. Insulate your assets:
  - Shut off the water that supplies your irrigation system. You need to protect your main shut off valve for your irrigation system from freezing temperatures. You can protect it from freezing by wrapping it with insulation (insulation can be found at any home supply store). If you do not have a main shut off valve for your irrigation system, you may want to consider installing one as a preventative measure. You also want to make sure any above ground pipes are insulated as well.
2. Stay in control:
  - If you have an automatic irrigation system you will need to shut down the controller (timer). Most controllers have a rain mode which will shut off the signals to the valves and keep all your programmed information. If your controller also activates a pump for your system, make sure you disconnect those wires so that you don't cause overheating damage. An alternative to the rain mode is to shut off the power to the controller. If you do this, you will have to reprogram all settings in the spring.
3. Drain the pipes:
  - Now you need to remove all the water from your pipes so that it won't freeze, expand, and break your pipes. There are a couple of different ways that this can be done. However, since there could be a safety risk, we recommend you contact a local irrigation specialist.
4. Protect your valves and backflow preventers:
  - If you have any valves or a backflow preventer that is above ground, make sure that you insulate them just like the pipes and main shut off. Be sure not to block the air vents and drain the outlets on the backflow preventer.



For more information please visit the [Rainbird Website](#) and [Hunter Industries Website](#).

## **Office Closure**

Our office will be closed November 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> for Thanksgiving. Please call our after-hours line for emergencies, (303)841-2797 ext. 9.

**From all of us at Pinery Water and Wastewater District, Have a Happy Thanksgiving!**

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

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For after-hours emergencies,  
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