



Water Sustainability – An Overview of Our Current Usage

The Las Campanas Water & Sewer Cooperative (“Cooperative”), of which you are a member, encourages an ethic of water sustainability within the community. Per the bylaws, “Every residential property served by the Cooperative is allocated an amount of water for domestic consumption and landscape irrigation needs”.

A formal audit of water consumption shows that approximately two-thirds of the potable water the Cooperative delivers to residences annually is used for landscape irrigation (as illustrated in Figure 1) and only about one-third of our water consumption is used for indoor usage. The landscape irrigation portion of our usage has been essentially constant since at least 2013. It should be noted that single family residents in Santa Fe are using as little as 32% of their water for landscape irrigation (versus ~66% for Las Campanas). While there are understandable reasons for higher irrigation usage within our community, we believe there are opportunities to reduce our consumption while maintaining the beauty of the outdoor living spaces that we enjoy. page 1

Water Sustainability - Our Goals - What We Want to Achieve

As we look to the future our goal of achieving water sustainability is possible even with a modest reduction in irrigation water usage. How can we achieve our goal? The core elements of the Cooperative’s water sustainability program will be to educate our residents and ratepayers about the incredible value of water and to achieve a reduction in our outdoor water usage. Water conservation is the easiest and most direct way to achieve and maintain its sustainability.

We cannot build a successful water conservation and sustainability program overnight. The Cooperative is committed to starting with small steps and working with you to ensure our precious water resource is sustainable over time.

Lastly, as part of our goal, we are committed to working more closely with our friends in the City and the County to do our fair share in reducing overall water consumption for our region. In the City of Santa Fe, for example, the gallons per capita per day (“gpcd”) water usage has dropped from 168 gpcd in 1995 to 87 gpcd today for all water use (not just residential), despite persistent drought conditions, low-to-average rainfall conditions, and increasing population growth. This represents tremendous progress and a commitment by the City residents to a sustainable water future. page 2



Water Sustainability – The Plan for Achieving Our Goals

Our plan to achieve and maintain water sustainability (and to reduce your water bill) will focus on outdoor usage. The primary purpose of the new Water Sustainability Quarterly Newsletter is to provide our members with information and helpful suggestions about ways to reduce irrigation water consumption. As part of our program we would also like to solicit your suggestions on ways our community can reduce water usage. The newsletter will offer advice on:

- (1) irrigation system maintenance;
- (2) the selection and care of high desert plants;
- (3) an educational program that will offer seminars on landscaping which will include guest speakers who are experts on the subject matter;
- (4) the opportunity to participate in an optional water usage audit program of your property for very little cost.

In addition, the Coop is currently operating a pilot program testing new technology that will enable property owners with smart phones to track water usage on a daily basis. If the pilot program is successful, we anticipate implementing this technology throughout the community. This would allow home owners to monitor usage and detect leaks before there is a significant amount of water loss. As we roll out the water sustainability page 3



program in 2018 our quarterly newsletters and educational programs will include topics which are focused on seasonal challenges. As an example, our second newsletter in the spring of 2018 will discuss bringing your irrigation system back up for the coming year. The advice and guidance offered can either be used directly by a home owner or passed on to a landscaper. We will also offer education programs on the selection and maintenance of water-wise plants to support your spring planting programs.

A commitment to the goal of responsible water usage and a program which will support water sustainability is vital in our high desert community.

If you have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact the Water Sustainability Committee. We look forward to working with you to achieve our goals.

LCWSC Contact:

General Manager- Kim Visser-Weinmann
505.204.7824
kvisser@lcwatersewer.coop

Executive Administrator- Heather Roybal
505.204.7835
hroybal@lcwatersewer.coop

The Committee Members

Gene Mroz, Chair, Estates II

Ken Kirk, Las Melodias

Stephen Raab, Estates VII.2

Dennis Johnson, Estates III.2

Figure 1. Outdoor and indoor water use.

