

WALNUT VALLEY WATER DISTRICT



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Walnut Valley Water District Unveils New Technology

Universal City - The Walnut Valley Water District unveiled its latest technological tool at the Water Reuse Annual Conference Thursday, Feb. 26, at the Universal Hilton Hotel. The District's new SWIFTS Water Demonstration Project in partnership with the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) and Cal Poly Pomona University will monitor the District's recycled water quality from March through August 2004.

"We are always seeking to use technology to better serve our consumers," said Denis Hernandez, WWD Director of Administrative Services, regarding the program which will launch in March. "The Walnut Valley Water District is an innovative District," said Stefanie Saccoman, PH. D., of the Cal Poly Pomona Department of Education.

The use of recycled water for irrigation purposes is a major part of the District's conservation program. With this technology developed by JPL's Dr. Kevin Delin, the District will be able to access data regarding water's salt measurements. It will also enhance the system already in place. The sensor pods will be placed in locations throughout the District, which will be hooked up to a sensor web where the information will be available 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

Knowing how much salt is in the water will help reduce the use of fertilizer, which will in turn reduce pollution, Saccoman said. Recycled water is used mainly to irrigate landscaped areas at industrial complexes, parks, schools and golf courses in the cities of Industry, Walnut, Diamond Bar, and the Rowland Heights area.

The technology used in the program, which has been backed financially by the City of Industry, has only been available for the last few years, Saccoman pointed out. "Industry with its mayor [David Perez] and the District under Board President Ed Layton have been very proactive in implementing the use of this evolving state-of-the-art technology," she

added. Saccoman said that with a finite source of water coupled with a growing population, the development of new technology in water distribution is vitally important.

Also important, Hernandez pointed out, is the educational element of the program. Students in upper elementary through high school will be able to conduct scientific research using the data gathered through the sensor website, said Saccoman. "Teachers can use the data to help understand the history and use of recycled water," said Saccoman, "and teach the next generation the importance of water conservation."

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