

WATER SAVINGS PROGRESS REPORT DUE TO MODIFICATION OF
SPRINKLER HEADS WITH “LITTLE VALVES” IN MEDIAN STRIP
CANOGA PARK, (LOS ANGELES) CALIFORNIA

The subject median strip is located on Sherman Way running easterly from Variel Ave. Sherman Way runs parallel to the 101 Freeway and is located 2-3 miles north of the freeway. The median strip is close to the easterly terminus of what is considered downtown Canoga Park, a suburb and part of the City of Los Angeles.

The median island is approximately 300 feet long and 13½ feet wide – inside curb to inside curb. It is irrigated by five remote control valves (RCV.) The median is planted with shrubs and trees. The water is supplied by a dedicated meter, Meter No. 49413721.

The irrigation system is controlled and monitored by a DIG solar-powered controller. It operates with a static water pressure of 70 psi. Four of the valves irrigate with 12” Rain Bird pop-up sprinklers, 2 valves with 15 heads each, 2 valves with 14 heads. The heads are triangularly spaced and most carry 12’ Rain Bird nozzles. The system has been in operation for approximately one year. The fifth valve operates bubbler heads for 8 – 10 trees located down the middle of the median strip.

This project replaces the existing Rain Bird 12” pop-up riser stems with the Valvette Systems ‘LittleValve’ 12” replacement pop-up stems for the existing 58 Rain Bird 12” pop-up sprinklers. The LittleValve 12” replacement pop-up stem for Rain Bird, known as **POP1210**, is designed to be interchangeable with Rain Bird’s model 1812 pop-up sprinklers.

The change-out was completed on Wednesday, October 15, 2008. The replacement stems were equipped with Rain Bird 15 foot nozzles except in four locations at both ends of the median where Rain Bird’s 18’ VAN were used.

Prior to the change-out, the controller was set for 3 days weekly of watering – MWTh, 8 minutes for each spray valve and 2 minutes for the bubbler valve. After the change-out, the controller was kept at 3 days weekly – but changed to MWF – 7 minutes for each spray valve and 0 minutes for the bubbler valve.

This Trial No. 1 entails comparing the water usage after change-out to LittleValves with the usage expended during the past year prior to change-out. The future monthly post-changeout water bills will be compared to the prior year’s bills.

The meter read immediately after the change-out was fully completed was **013990.02**. Each unit left of the decimal equals ONE CUBIC FOOT (7.48 gallons.)

November 14th Update

On Friday, November 14, 2008, the meter was read – **014730.80**. Total water used from October 15th – November 14th was 740.78 cu. ft. (5,541 gallons.) This is rounded out to 7 HCF. Last year's usage for the same 30-day period was 9 HCF. This represents a water savings of **22%**. In gallons, the savings amounts to approximately 1,500 gallons of water saved.

December 11th Update

The weather in November continued to stay unseasonably warm. On November 10th, core tests showed that the south side of this median was a little on the dry side. On that same day, the 2 valves that water just the south side had one minute each added to their time. The meter reads on the 10th was 014609.65. Watering days were left at 3 days weekly.

On Thursday, December 11, 2008, the meter was read – **015397.74**. Total water used from November 10th – December 11th was 788 cu ft. Water used for the period ending December 11, 2007, was 9 HCF. Estimating the actual 12/11/07 figure to be 945 cu. ft. results in estimated water savings of 157 cu ft. or 1,174 gallons. Therefore, the estimated year/year water savings is **17%**. The reduction in water savings is entirely attributable to the unseasonably warm weather.

Soil probes throughout the entire length and width of the median showed the soil moisture to be more than adequate. Watering days were reduced on December 11th to 2 days weekly, (Monday & Thursday.) One minute was added to each station's watering time. Barring rain, soil probes will be conducted again on December 19th or 20th. It is anticipated that the extra minute on stations 1 and 3, (the south side valves,) will be deleted.