



## News from Garden Grove Unified School District

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 5, 2015

Contact:

Alan Trudell

Public Information Officer (acting)

[714-663-6503](tel:714-663-6503)

### **Garden Grove Unified School District Launches “Water Wise Telephone Hotline” to Support Water Conservation Efforts**

Garden Grove Unified School District (GGUSD) has established a “Water Wise Telephone Hotline” to support local and statewide water conservation efforts.

Members of the public are encouraged to call or text [714-263-5353](tel:714-263-5353) to report any water leaks, broken sprinkler heads, ruptured water lines, and excessive water runoff at district schools. Text messages are accepted with or without photos.

“Having a dedicated number to call or text will allow our maintenance crews to respond more quickly and make necessary repairs,” said Jeff Rosell, GGUSD director of Maintenance, Operations, and Transportation. “There is a huge opportunity to save water at our 72 sites covering nearly 1,000 acres. With the community’s help we can conserve water and save money.”

The telephone hotline is part of an ambitious conservation strategy to reduce districtwide water consumption by 25 percent by 2016, which includes decreasing the watering of landscaping and fields by 33 percent. To support this initiative, the district is replacing select decorative lawns with drought-tolerant landscaping, applying for grants to install “smart” sprinklers to control watering of athletic and play fields, and implementing new measures to protect sprinkler heads and irrigation lines from damage. Also, all district high school pools will be immediately covered after use to limit evaporation and curb heating costs.

Modernization projects financed through the Measure A school bond are helping reduce water use through the replacement of old water mains, backflows, drinking fountains, and sinks, and by installing ultra-low flush toilets throughout district schools.

The district’s water conservation program will be enhanced by stormwater capture projects at Bolsa Grande, Los Amigos, and Santiago high schools combined with education and outreach opportunities for students, teachers, and community members. Funding for these projects is made possible through a \$1.99 million Drought Response Outreach Program for Schools (DROPS) grant from the state Water Resources Control Board. GGUSD is developing its DROPS projects in partnership with the Climate Smart Schools program by Climate Resolve, a Los Angeles climate-change organization; with technical assistance by EcoMotion, a sustainability consultancy; and Orange County Coastkeeper, the county’s leading watershed health organization.

For additional information, contact the district Maintenance Operations, and Transportation department at [714- 663-6185](tel:714-663-6185).