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### IRRIGATION AUDITING CONSERVES WATER AND SAVES YOU MONEY!

Does your lawn have dry spots or puddles? Do you ever wonder if you are watering for too long, or too little? Does water run off your landscape areas onto your walkways, driveways, or down your drains? Problems such as these can affect the health and vitality of your planting areas, and can cost you money.

Irrigation efficiency is achieved when most of the water that is applied to landscapes by irrigation systems is used by the plants being irrigated. Landscape audits should be performed periodically to evaluate system performance, allow you to correct any problem areas, and adjust your irrigation timing for seasonal and/or planting changes.

Landscape Irrigation Auditors collect site data, make maintenance recommendations and perform water audits. Through their analytical work at the site, these irrigation professionals develop irrigation base schedules from which users may adjust their watering times for efficiency, plant health and cost savings. A typical irrigation audit consists

of a series of field procedures for collecting and compiling irrigation system data, then using this data to evaluate system performance characteristics such as distribution uniformity and precipitation rates. Other information important to creating the irrigation base schedule includes soil intake rate, plant type, existing root zone depth, and soil water holding characteristics.

Proper maintenance and scheduling are an important part of an efficient system. Thus, it is imperative that you understand the maintenance and scheduling requirements for your system.



Irrigation auditing "catch can" measures precipitation rates of sprinkler systems

# BENEFITS OF IMPROVED IRRIGATION EFFICIENCIES

- Improved system performance;
- Proper scheduling based on local weather patterns;
- Reduced water use and fewer dollars spent on water;
- Improved landscape appearance;
- Reduction of runoff;
- Reduction of water lost below the root zone; and
- Reduced fertilizer and chemical requirements.



Field auditor checking sprinkler PSI for proper operating pressure

#### LANDSCAPE IRRIGATION AUDITING CONT...

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Irrigation Association, http://www.irrigation.org.

Irrigation Training & Research Center, California Polytechnic State University - San Luis Obispo. <a href="http://www.itrc.org/">http://www.itrc.org/</a>.



Bryan E. Balling, CLIA #8118







## OASIS ASSOCIATES

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE + PLANNING

OASIS ASSOCIATES, INC. is a landscape architecture and strategic land planning organization based in San Luis Obispo, serving the Central Coast, southern and northern California. For the past three decades, we have provided our clients with a full service firm with a diverse and complimentary background of experience.

A focus on our client's objectives and the synergy between our land use planning and landscape architecture disciplines has resulted in the success of our endeavors. Our commitment to thoroughly analyze a project and our ability to solve complex problems require innovative and thoughtful planning and design skills. With this expertise, we continually strive to create the best possible project.

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