



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 2, 2012

TO: All Park and Recreation Department Staff

FROM: Stacey LoMedico, Park and Recreation Director

SUBJECT: Automated Irrigation System Functionality

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The Park and Recreation Department utilizes a variety of automated irrigation systems throughout the park system. The purpose of this correspondence is to remind on-site staff they are responsible for the systems and to ensure they are functional after interruptions of electrical power.

Most automated irrigation controllers in use across the City rely on a nine (9) volt battery back-up to reset the irrigation controller schedule after a power outage has occurred. These controllers must be checked by appropriate grounds maintenance staff within forty-eight (48) hours of the power outage to verify that the program has reset and that the controller has not gone to the default program. It is critical that the nine (9) volt batteries are changed regularly in this type of controller to ensure their proper operation.

Some systems such as Calsense will send a computer alert notifying staff that monitors the system that an interruption in power has occurred. The staff person is then able to remotely reset the computer to the correct program and continue the established irrigation schedule. Field staff are notified and reminded to check the battery back-ups. If necessary, new batteries are installed to ensure functionality.

Other systems send an e-mail every twenty-four (24) hours detailing the activity of the pervious twenty-four (24) hours. This detail includes power failures, over currents and output faults. Smart clocks, such as Sentinel Toro, communicate via radio transmission with a centrally based computer system. This system automatically resynchronizes all controllers daily and staff is sent an e-mail notification.

Staff should ensure back-up batteries are checked at a minimum of two (2) to three (3) times a year. Scheduling the checks when the seasonal time change occurs in the spring and fall are ideal dates for this review.

Preventative irrigation system maintenance checks should be conducted monthly.