

## Pacific Hills Neighborhood Saves Water and Money

Like so many neighborhood associations, one of the larger line items in Mission Viejo's Pacific Hills' annual budget is water for irrigation. "We are always looking for environmentally friendly ways to save money while we continue to maintain our beautiful community," said Pacific Hills Board President, Rick Fassel.

As customers of SMWD, Fassel and his fellow Pacific Hills Board members regularly receive water conservation tips and information from the District. One of the most common suggestions is to convert landscapes to drought tolerant or California native plants.

This suggestion was recently embraced by the Pacific Hills Board when their landscape contractor, Bemus Landscape, demonstrated how retro-fitting their landscape would actually save the association money. "Bemus suggested we remove the tropical plants and replace them with drought-tolerant plants," said Fassel. "We expect the retro-fit will pay for itself within two years."

Pacific Hills owns and maintains five monument planters at the community entrances located on Oso Parkway, La Paz Road and Marguerite Parkway. Each planter was filled with tropical plants that required frequent watering.

For more information on water conservation and drought-tolerant plants, please visit [www.smwd.com](http://www.smwd.com) or [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).



**Excerpted from the Santa Margarita Water District's March 2010 *On Tap* newsletter, which is included with their monthly invoices.**