

## Fowler Unified Implements Water Conservation Efforts

The current severe drought across the state of California has caused citizens, businesses, and public agencies, including Fowler Unified, to look for ways to reduce/ conserve water as much as possible. Fowler Unified School District takes tremendous pride in safe, clean, and well-maintained grounds throughout the district. However, we also recognize the need to be responsible citizens in the communities of Fowler and Malaga.

To that end, the goal for Fowler Unified will be to reduce/ conserve water use as much as possible without making District/ Community play surfaces unsafe. Throughout the spring and summer, Fowler Unified School District will be implementing the following steps to increase water conservation and improve efficiency:

- Review locations to determine appropriate levels of water coverage on functional, play surfaces is sustained, while *significantly reducing* watering in ornamental, non-play areas at all sites throughout the district
- Water only at night – unless absolutely needed for major event preparation OR because of the need to cover all areas on FUSD campuses with enough water to maintain/ develop new turf or restore functional play surfaces during summer/ off-season to a safe, appropriate level
- Because of the large acreage of play surfaces and community youth recreational facilities on Fowler Unified campuses, watering takes significantly longer than many residential or commercial properties, which may sometimes require watering in early morning or early evening hours
- Modernize/ replace existing pumps, valves, and sprinklers across the District to improve coverage and reduce watering time to conserve water

As a result of the steps above, Fowler Unified School District campuses may have some brown areas in certain spots, while other, functional, play surfaces and community youth recreational facilities will continue to be irrigated as needed to maintain a safe play surface. Fowler Unified supports the efforts being made by Fresno County, the Malaga Water District, and the City of Fowler to reduce and conserve water in the midst of a devastating drought. Fowler Unified School District has significant acreage of play surfaces and community youth recreational facilities that are used throughout the year – but the efforts listed above will minimize water use as much as reasonably possible.