

# City of Calistoga

## Staff Report

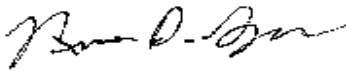
**TO:** Honorable Mayor and City Council  
**FROM:** Richard Spitler, City Manager  
**DATE:** June 3, 2014  
**SUBJECT:** Consideration of a Request to allow a Modified Irrigation Schedule for the New Lawn at Pioneer Park by Friends of Pioneer Park

---



---

**APPROVAL FOR FORWARDING:**




---

Richard D. Spitler, City Manager

---



---

1  
2 **ISSUE:** Consideration of a Request to allow a Modified Irrigation Schedule for the New Lawn at  
3 Pioneer Park by Friends of Pioneer Park.

4  
5 **RECOMMENDATION:** Approve, by motion.

6  
7 **BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:**

8  
9 On February 4, 2014 the City Council adopted Resolution No. 2014-013 declaring a Stage II  
10 water emergency (in accordance with CMC 13.04.340) and implementing Stage II water  
11 conservation, which would require mandatory water conservation through best management  
12 practices (“BMP”). The overall conservation goal is a 20% reduction from the prior year’s  
13 usage. On May 20<sup>th</sup> this resolution was amended to change the watering dates for all users to:

14  
15 **All Water Customers:**

- 16  
17 • Outdoor irrigation with potable water only during the early morning hours to reduce  
18 evaporation loss with an odd/even address watering schedule (odd addresses water  
19 Tuesday and Friday and even water Monday and Thursday). No outdoor irrigation on  
20 Saturday or Sunday with potable water.

21  
22  
23 The Friends of Pioneer Park has completed most of the renovation of Pioneer Park. In doing so,  
24 they tore up much of the turf in the park. Since this park is not served by City recycled water,  
25 they were required to place mulch down as ground cover for most of the park until the drought is  
26 over. Subsequently an email was received by Bob Fiddaman representing the Friends of Pioneer  
27 Park requesting that they be allowed to reseed the front portion of the lawn facing Cedar Street

28 (see attached email). They would like permission to water a newly seeded lawn twice daily for 2-  
29 3 times daily for at least two weeks, possibly longer. The following is the rationale for why they  
30 feel the Council should approve a modified watering plan for this property:

- 31
- 32 1. This is a public area used and enjoyed by all.
  - 33
  - 34 2. The area we would be irrigating is only about 20-25% of the lawn area, so the overall  
35 water use should still be less than if the entire park was being irrigated on the currently  
36 allowed schedule.
  - 37
  - 38 3. We are further reducing water use by installing bricks in the parking strip that was  
39 irrigated in the past.
  - 40
  - 41 4. The Friends of Pioneer Park would be providing the labor (volunteers) and materials to  
42 do the reseeded.
  - 43

44 The original lawn had 21,778 square feet. This required 670,934 gallons of water on an annual  
45 basis. It was watered three times a week. With the water conservation reduction of 20%, the  
46 annual use allowance has dropped to 536,747 gallons of water per year. However the area that  
47 the Friends of Pioneer Park now wants to irrigate is only 5,600 square feet. This will have an  
48 annual water demand for irrigation of 172,524 gallons. Accordingly, allowance of a modified  
49 water schedule will not have an adverse impact on the City's water conservation Program  
50 because the square footage of irrigated lawn has been greatly reduced until the drought is over.

51

52 Staff recommends that the City Council approve a modified irrigation schedule for the portion of  
53 Pioneer Park next to Cedar Street to allow 2-3 waterings per day until the turf is established.

54

55 **FISCAL IMPACT:**

56

57 Irrigation of city parks is already addressed in the adopted city budget.

58

59 **CEQA COMPLIANCE:**

60

61 In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 153304 (Minor Alterations of Land) the proposed  
62 change in irrigation has a Categorical Exemption.

63

64 **ATTACHMENT**

65

66 Attachment 1- Email from Bob Fiddaman dated May 30, 2014

**Richard Spitler**

---

**From:** Bob Fiddaman <fidd@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 30, 2014 10:02 AM  
**To:** Richard Spitler  
**Subject:** Pioneer Park Lawn Seeding

Dear City Council-

As I mentioned at the budget meeting last Tuesday, we would like permission from the council to use water for the reseeded of a small portion of the Pioneer Park turf to make the park more presentable this summer. As you may have seen, the large area of former lawn in the center of the park has been mulched to make it usable for events until drought conditions allow new grass. At this point we are anticipating we will not be installing new turf or plantings until the spring of 2015.

In the meantime, the small area at the front of the park where we have existing turf (in poor condition) could be reseeded (including the area disturbed by the replaced sewer line) which would make the park considerably more attractive this summer and fall. In order to reseed we would need to water for a short time 2-3 times daily for about two weeks, and possibly daily for a few weeks after that. We think an exemption from the drought watering rules makes sense for the following reasons:

1. This is a public area used and enjoyed by all.
2. The area we would be irrigating is only about 20-25% of the lawn area, so the overall water use should still be less than if the entire park was being irrigated on the currently allowed schedule.
3. We are further reducing water use by installing bricks in the parking strip that was irrigated in the past.
4. The Friends of Pioneer Park would be providing the labor (volunteers) and materials to do the reseeded.

We would appreciate your approval of a modified watering plan for Pioneer Park as outlined above.

Sincerely,

**Bob Fiddaman**  
**President**  
**Friends of Pioneer Park**

Bob Fiddaman  
1300 Cedar St.  
Calistoga, CA 94515  
707-942-1555 Home  
707-249-1661 Mobile