

City of Sierra Madre, California



Installation of QF Dripline Header and XFS Subsurface Dripline.



Completed garden with native drought-tolerant grasses.

PROPERTY

Sierra Madre City Hall

RAIN BIRD PRODUCTS

- XFS Subsurface Dripline
- QF Dripline Header
- Drip Control Zone Kit
- ESP-LXME Series Controller
- IQ Remote Water Management
- Rain Bird Flow Sensors

“XFS dripline and the QF dripline header helped the City achieve a beautiful looking and drought-tolerant new landscape.”

- Chris Cimino
City Landscape Maintenance Director

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The City of Sierra Madre set an example for its citizens by replacing City Hall’s irrigation system with a water-efficient drip irrigation system that uses weather-based irrigation control and drought-tolerant plants. To accentuate the overall design, the project also included building pathways, a picnic area with artistic rockwork, and a dry creek bed.

CHALLENGE:

Overcoming the perceived complexity of drip irrigation and the desert-like image of drought-tolerant landscapes were two challenges that the City faced. The City was also concerned about the look and longevity of on-surface dripline. Its goal was to create a water-efficient landscape that didn’t look like a desert to set an example to the wider community of a beautiful landscape that also saves water.

RESULTS:

After reviewing all of the irrigation options, Chris Cimino, City Landscape Maintenance Director, decided to use XFS Subsurface Dripline. XFS was installed below grade on a 12” grid pattern to ensure an even wetting pattern. To help with the installation, Miguel Cardenez, Lead Irrigation Technician, attended a Rain Bird XFS training class, where he learned installation and maintenance tips. Installing dripline below the surface helped solve two of the City’s challenges: visible dripline rows and the reduced longevity of dripline exposed to foot traffic and vandalism.

The installation crew also used QF Dripline Header, which is a flexible supply header with rotating elbows that allow for quick and easy attachment of dripline. “Using the QF Header made installation easier and faster. It replaced the labor intensive process of building a header with PVC with a simple three-step process. I simply had to uncoil the QF Header, cut it to length, and connect it to the supply line,” said Chris.

The City also upgraded the control system to the IQ Remote Water Management system with the ESP-LXME Controller and flow sensor. The flow sensor helps IQ learn the expected flow rates, and when there is a higher-than-expected flow, IQ can shut down the system to prevent water waste and damage to the landscape. The City will start to use the IQ Global Weather service once the plants are established. This service provides local weather data to manage irrigation according to calculated daily evapotranspiration (ET) values.

The City has reduced weekly irrigation days from seven to three while maintaining plant health. The project gives the citizens of Sierra Madre an excellent example of how plant selection and efficient irrigation can be combined to create a beautiful landscape.