



Water Reclamation Initiative Santa Rosa, CA

Program Coordinator

Rip Forrey, City of Santa Rosa

Farm Manager

Carlos Sorria, Rancho Laquna Dairy Farm



Standing at left, Rip Forrey, Santa Rosa Irrigation Project Coordinator with Carlos Soria, the farm manager at Rancho Laguna dairy farm. Soria has taken full advantage of the reclamation program.

Rain Bird® Rain Guns® Help the City of Santa Rosa Achieve Model Status for Use of Reclaimed Water in Farmlands.

As one of the world's most precious resources, water is becoming increasingly regulated. For those who depend on water to earn a living, the challenge is to continually find additional ways to use it wisely. One of the best uses of water is to reuse it, and Santa Rosa, California is a leader in this conservation initiative. In fact, the city is in the process of diverting even more reclaimed water for use by farmers throughout the area.

In 1986, the city of Santa Rosa launched a reclaimed water distribution system to local farmland to help offset excessive discharge of treated water into local rivers. Not only was recycling technology added to the processing plant but a direct distribution system was also incorporated to deliver the water to many of the local farms. This distribution initiative was undertaken without any prior commitments by farmers to use the reclaimed water. The challenge that confronted Santa Rosa was to convince farmers of the system's viability.

By the year 2000, the system was heralded by many as among the best in the United States. Today, 50% of the city's reclaimed water is delivered directly to



"I don't have any problems with the Rain Bird Rain Guns," says Carlos Soria.

farmers for beneficial use. Additional programs are now in place to divert the remaining 50% from the rivers to augment specific applications where fresh water is currently being used.

Rip Forrey, Santa Rosa's Irrigation Program Coordinator, was entrusted with the task of providing support to those farmers who take advantage of the program. The results can only be described as a win-win for all involved. According to Forrey, "Santa Rosa supplies everything—water, energy, equipment and service so the farmer can't lose." These incentives are provided by the city for the sole purpose of finding viable locations to use reclaimed water. Forrey continues, "As our ability to recycle water grows, it becomes a priority to find places where the water can be used wisely."

When tasked with choosing an irrigation system for Rancho Laguna dairy farm Rip Forrey and Carlos Soria chose Rain Bird® Rain Guns® because of the product and customer support, which is superior to other systems. Forrey likes that when

he needs something, a Rain Bird district manager won't hesitate to meet him on site to provide support. He also likes Rain Guns because they are economical and virtually maintenance free. Soria, who is the manager of the 210-acre corn field at Rancho Laguna Dairy Farm, has a variety of 2000 Series and 3000 Series Rain Guns, and says, "I never have to worry about them."

Today, many high volume irrigation products are being replaced by low-volume products and drip systems, but Rain Guns still have their place in managing water wisely. Corn is a crop that consumes a lot of water, and requires a system that can distribute large amounts of water evenly; Rain Bird Rain Guns quench this requirement. As a result, Soria is able to supply his cattle with corn-feed.

The Rancho Laguna cornfield is essentially a slow-rate wastewater spray field that is used for a beneficial purpose. The water supplied to Soria is nearly potable, it contains only a slightly higher nitrogen level when compared to city-supplied potable water. Since nitrogen uptake in corn is relatively high, fertilizer is added to the water for additional nutrients.

The three-way partnership between the city of Santa Rosa, Rancho Laguna dairy farm and Rain Bird has been mutually beneficial for everyone involved and reinforces an ongoing commitment to *The Intelligent Use of Water.*™

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