

SmarTimer/Edgescape Evaluation Program (SEEP) project will help improve city's park and environment



A two-year project to help improve the environment and the city-owned park for the community at Iglesia Park (2006-2008).

Aliso Viejo is one of less than a dozen south county cities taking part in a state proposition grant program administered by the Municipal Water District of Orange County.

The city's roughly 7-acre Iglesia Park on the northeast side of town was identified by city staffers and selected as the best public test site for the Prop 40 SmarTimer/Edgescape Evaluation Program (SEEP). The park is located within the Aliso Creek Watershed drainage area and is home to the Aliso Viejo Family Resource Center. The center at 24671 Via Iglesia provides a host of essential and beneficial services to low-income families and others throughout town.

The program is just another notch on the city's environmental belt. Aliso Viejo has been on the forefront in Orange County by implementing programs and educational tools for the public about ways to preserve and protect the environment.



The city will receive \$65,400 in Prop 40 grant funds for the roughly \$70,000 project. Embracing the need and benefit of such, the City Council in November agreed to fund about 10 percent in matching funds for the environmental project. The project includes monitoring water quality and flow and comparing the cost effectiveness of improved irrigation methods to ultimately help improve the environment. The selected test sites will also provide scientific information that will help local municipalities in implementing local and watershed-wide practices that will help reduce or eliminate pollution from entering the waterways and such.

City officials say participating in such a project is a “win-win” for the community and environment as a whole. Improving the irrigation systems will also reduce dry-weather runoff into the storm drains and may reduce the cost of slope repairs and maintenance. For further information on this project, please contact *Moy Yahya*, Department of Public Works - Storm Water Program, @ 949 273-0272

