



Community Lutheran Church (CLC) & Saddleback Children's Center, Rancho Santa Margarita, CA

Rain Bird Donates Resources to Charitable Landscape Renovation Project

Community Lutheran is known for being a warm and friendly church where all are welcome. Saddleback Children's Center, a Christian preschool and ministry of Community Lutheran Church, was established in 1983 to provide an early educational experience for children 2.5 to 5 years of age.

THE CHALLENGE:

Both locations were struggling with 30-year-old, inefficient irrigation systems. Water bills were climbing due to outdated products and overwhelming maintenance issues. Overspray and runoff regularly damaged the parking lot and walkways and annual water usage averaged 1.2 million gallons per year. New California water restrictions were only adding stress to the situation.



THE SOLUTION:

Accept assistance from the local community. Metropolitan District of Southern California and partners like George Alonzo's crew at Advanced Patio & Landscape graciously offered to analyze and upgrade the outdated system free of charge. Rain Bird offered to donate the irrigation products necessary to transform the 30-year-old campus into a model of water efficiency and sustainable landscaping.

Core Products Used:

- [Rain Bird Central Control](#)
- [ESP-LXMEF Modular Controllers](#)
- [Rain Bird Controller Expansion Modules](#)
- [WR2 Wireless Rain Sensor](#)
- [XFD Dripline & 1800 Spray-to-Drip Retrofit Kits](#)
- [FS Series Flow Sensor](#)

KEY OBJECTIVES

- ✓ **Minimal Maintenance**
- ✓ **Water Efficiency**
- ✓ **Cost Savings**
- ✓ **Sustainability**



“ We in Rancho Santa Margarita are committed to water conservation and the City commends Community Lutheran Church and its partners in the CLC Landscape Renovation Project for their efforts to make our community more water-wise,”

TONY BEALL
MAYOR OF RANCHO SANTA MARGARITA



RESULTS:

Water Savings of Over 500k Gallons Per Year

The new landscape is a showcase of Rain Bird water efficiency solutions. By incorporating the latest irrigation products and smart watering practices from Rain Bird's 25 Ways to Save initiative, the property will enjoy a vibrant landscape with projected water savings of **more than 500,000 gallons of water annually**. The new landscape not only looks good, but it will also save the church and preschool valuable natural and financial resources.

APPROACH:

Come Together as a Team

- Rain Bird Corporation donated all of the water-saving irrigation products needed to transform the old sprinkler system.
- Advanced Patio & Landscape chased down leaks, capped off unused heads, repaired and moved existing valves, fixed broken pipes, rerouted control wires.
- Together, they set the stage for the extensive conversion to new, water-efficient irrigation throughout the property.

Use the Right Tools

- XFD dripline and QF dripline header were used to convert much of the site to water-saving drip.
- Rain Bird 1800 Spray-to-Drip Retrofit Kits were used throughout to create connection points for drip tubing, especially on difficult areas like the parking lot medians.
- An existing Rain Bird 1.5 inch brass valve was adapted to control the new drip zone thanks to the addition of a PRS-Dial pressure regulator and Quick Check basket filter.
- Rain Bird RWS root watering systems are helping the new trees flourish and Rain Bird VB series valve boxes were used throughout the site to keep the valves protected.

Work Smarter Not Harder

- The new system will automatically adjust the irrigation schedule using weather data and can be stopped and started via a smartphone or tablet from anywhere in the world with Internet access.
- The two old controllers were replaced with a brand new Rain Bird ESP-LXMEF modular controller, complete with a new PESB master valve and FS100B flow sensor, WR2 wireless rain sensor, and Rain Bird IQ-Cloud remote management.