



News Release

CITY OF AUSTIN MANDATES TWO-DAY WATERING ORDINANCE

Acequia proposes a Performance-Based Variance

Austin, Texas - November 28, 2007 - Starting October 1, 2007, a new City of Austin ordinance restricts commercial landscape irrigation to two-days per week. The mandate was designed to reduce water consumption and greenhouse gasses created from the City Water Utility water pumping and treatment facilities that require high levels of electric consumption.

While the Water Utility projects a 10 percent landscape irrigation water savings from this ordinance, Acequia clients have documented sustainable savings of 54.3 percent for five-years prior to the ordinance implementation. In lieu of the two-day irrigation restriction, Acequia has gained approval for large property variance for all Austin clients.

Unfortunately, Austin properties typically have slope and extremely thin soils in their landscapes. Such conditions inhibit the ability to absorb and retain enough water to sustain landscapes during the summer months with supplemental watering only two-days per week. For this reason Acequia has proposed a performance-based operating variance to the City of Austin that would allow daily watering based on real-time environmental data, saving more water and preserving the landscape viability than the two-day per week restrictions will achieve under these conditions.

Acequia has met several times with City Council Members and Water Utility Conservation Managers to present this alternative compliance program that would allow property owners to manage their required irrigation water consumption reduction based on their individual landscape requirements. If approved by City Council, it is anticipated a performance-based variance will enhance the city's ultimate goals by providing financial motivation to incentivize private investment in water conservation.

The performance-based variance in discussion would allow property owners that are actively managing their water and can prove monthly savings of at least 30 percent to continue their daily irrigation management programs. Upon approval, property owners will need to agree to produce verification of water savings each month, and will be required to inspect their irrigation system's performance on monthly basis with timely repairs. Property owners would also be required to adjust daily irrigation schedules based on real-time environmental conditions and install a leak detection sensor that has reporting capabilities along with master valves at all points of connection.

Acequia clients now have all of the components necessary to meet the requirements based on the proposed variance, including the monthly reporting capability provided by Acequia. A meeting with City Council Members on November 28th has moved the proposal forward to the Water Conservation Task Force review in mid-December.

About Acequia, LP

Acequia has been providing water-saving irrigation-management solutions to commercial property owners since 2001. Acequia developed its advanced proprietary software to provide

irrigation scheduling based on real-time environmental data transmitted continuously across the Internet from every control unit to the company's central server for analysis and action.

The selection of our company name has tremendous meaning and history which we feel reflects who we are and how we want to be viewed by our partners. "Acequia" is a term brought to this country via old Spain derived from the formalization of irrigation practices prior to the conquest of the Americas. During this period, Acequia referred to water stewards or overseers assigned to assure that colonies were established in accordance with sound environmental principals. Additional information can be found at www.acequia.com or 512-637-5172.