Sample Maintenance Information for Irrigation System Owners

During daylight hours, monthly (while the system is in operation) check each zone of your irrigation system to make sure the system is operating correctly to conserve water and to keep your plants healthy. You might wish to contact a licensed irrigator to perform these tasks for you.

**Irrigation System**
- Winterization—plan to perform this around: ____________________________
  (Drain the irrigation system, reprogram automatic controller)
- Return to normal service—plan to perform this around: ____________
  (Check to make sure there has been no damage to the system, reprogram automatic controller.)

**Sprinkler Heads**
- Missing or broken heads? (Replace heads with the same type of head.)
- Heads clogged? (Remove the head and clean the filter or replace with the same type of head.)
- Heads tilted, spraying in the wrong director, or too far in or above the ground? (Adjust or replace.)
- Leaking water? (Replace a leaky valve in the valve box or check for a drainage problem)
- Misdirected or blocked spray pattern? (Remove vegetation (trim grass, trees or shrubs) or other obstructions or consider raising the heads.)
- Spraying sidewalk, deck, building, driveway or street? (Adjust the heads to stay within the planting area.)

**Controller**
- Is the cabinet or space holding the controller clean? (Clean out cobwebs, dirt, debris, or ants.)
- Is a new battery needed? (Consider replacing seasonally.)
- Is time/day showing correctly? (Reprogram)
- Is the controller programmed for the appropriate season? (Generally, plants need less water in the winter and mature plants need less water than newly installed plants. Refer to the seasonal watering schedule provided by your irrigator.)
- Is the controller programmed for any water conservation measures that may be in effect from your water purveyor? (Adjust program if needed.)

The TCEQ recommends contacting a licensed irrigator to perform these tasks:

**Sprinkler Heads**
- Fine mist? (There may be excessive pressure on the spray zones. Possible fixes: install a pressure regulator after the water meter; install pressure regulating sprinkler heads or valves.)
- Is the area being irrigated covered uniformly? (Possible causes: low or high water pressure, poor design, scheduling, or poor installation techniques.)
Controller
- Wires loose or worn? (May be 110 volt.) (Tighten or replace.)
- Is rain or moisture sensor (or other technology) connected to the controller or ground wire?

Valves
- Replace broken or missing valve covers and valve boxes.
- Wire connections are intact and enclosed in appropriate moisture-resistant connectors.

Backflow Prevention Devices
(Note: you must be licensed to install, test or repair a backflow prevention device.)
Irrigation system owners should file a copy of any backflow test report with their irrigation system document. If you have a double check valve backflow prevention device, there is a “y” strainer in the water line. The strainer will need be checked periodically. Water discharged from a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly should be directed to sanitary or storm drains. The backflow prevention devices should be protected from freezing. Irrigation system owners should have the backflow prevention device retested if above-normal water velocities (such as a water system main break) occur. The backflow prevention device stops water from the irrigation system from entering into the drinking water system.

Drip or Micro Irrigation
- Emitters connected to flex line.
- Flex line connected to riser.
- Micro adjustment nozzle connected to flex line and nozzle intact.
- Service filter strainer periodically.
- Ensure proper operation of automatic flush valves.
- Confirm operational pressures.

Sample Sticker

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Your irrigation system was installed by:
  John Q. Irrigator, LI 98765
  John Q. Irrigator Company
  (123)456-7890
  Warranty Valid: 1/4/09 – 1/4/10
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- Information may be handwritten.
- Use waterproof ink.
- Attach to the controller.
- If there is no automatic controller, then attach the sticker to the maintenance checklist.
- The sticker may be attached by the irrigator or irrigation technician.
- May use the number of days the warranty is valid (180 days from January 27, 2009).