



Discussion Regarding  
Operating Policies and Rules and Regulations  
of the Water Feature at  
Rancho Tapo Community Park

Presented to the Board of Directors  
of the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District  
by the Planning, Maintenance and Operations Department  
March 21, 2013

### The Pond was Built in 2002

- Years 1-5
- Years 6-7
- Years 8-9
- Year 10

### Number of Waterfowl Sighted

- No ducks reported
- 2 ducks with ducklings
- Approximately 100 ducks
- In excess of 225 ducks and 2 Canadian geese

## **History of Waterfowl Sightings**

# WATERFOWL AT RANCHO TAPO COMMUNITY PARK

9:00 a.m., March 12, 2013:

223 ducks and 2 Canadian geese were counted in the pond and on the surrounding turf areas. By noon the number had increased to 246 ducks and 2 geese.



## West Side of Pond



## East Side of Pond



## Northwest of Pond



## Southwest of Pond



## Near Exercise Stations And Bocce Ball Courts





## Canadian Geese



# ALGAE HAS TURNED THE POND WATER GREEN











# WASTE IS STAINING THE HARDSCAPE



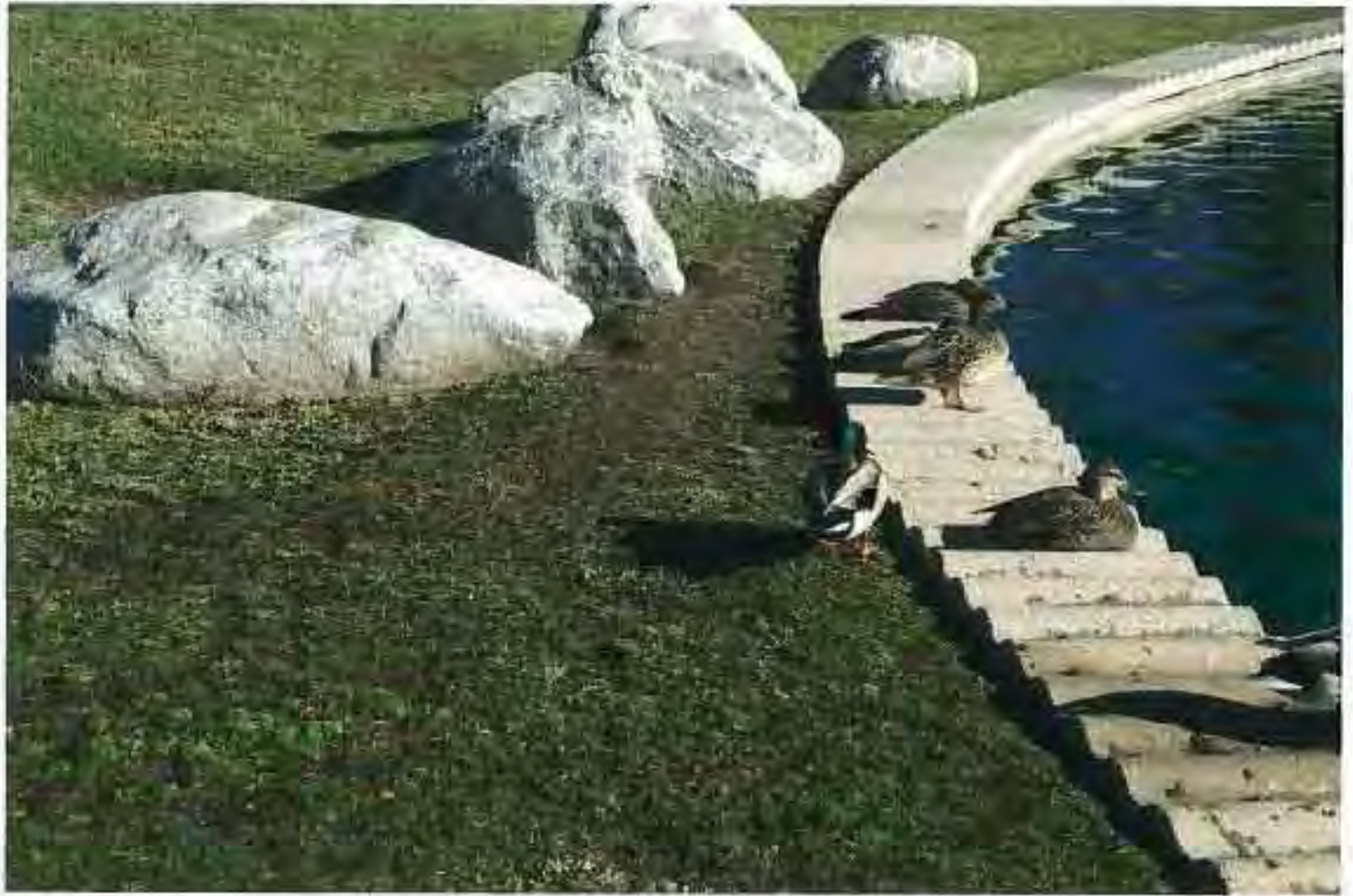
## Stains on the New Flagstone Platform





# THE DUCKS AND GEESE EAT THE TURF









# FEEDING DRAWS ADDITIONAL DUCKS AND GEESE TO THE POND













# CONSULTATION WITH DIVERSIFIED WATERSCAPES, INC.

Monday, March 11, 2013: Met with Steven Matthews, Lead Service Tech

Four-Day Treatment Plan				
Consultation Fee	\$500.00	Day 3 A.M.	4 gal. F-30	\$690.00
Day 1 A.M.	4 gal. F-30 (Algae Treatment)		2 gal. F-55	
	2 gal. F-55 (Odor Control)		2 gal. F-20	
	2 gal. F-20 (Enviro Clear)	P.M.	4 gal. F-30	
P.M.	4 gal. F-30		2 gal. F-55	
	2 gal. F-55	Day 4 A.M.	4 gal. F-30	\$590.00
	2 gal. F-20		2 gal. F-55	
Day 2 A.M.	4 gal. F-30		4 gal. F-40 (Blue Dye)	
	2 gal. F-55		2.5 gal. Blazon	
	2 gal. F-20	P.M.	4 gal. F-30	
P.M.	4 gal. F-30		2 gal. F-55	
	2 gal. F-55		7 gal. F-40	
	2 gal. F-20			
				Total Cost: \$3,350.00

## Application of Chemicals By District Staff








## Summary of Issues

- Hand-feeding of waterfowl by park patrons erodes their natural instinct to fear humans.
- Hand-feeding gradually transforms these independent migratory birds into lifetime residents and diminishes their value in the ecological balance.
- Animal populations are kept in check by the availability of food, water and shelter. Hand-feeding causes overcrowding.
- Rancho Tapo's design and landscaping does not provide nesting sites safe from human and animal intrusion.

## Summary of Issues

- The Veterans Plaza pond was not designed for use by wildlife.
  - The pond has a hard vertical edge.
  - Ducks have to take flight to get out of the pond, and ducklings end up getting trapped in the pond.
  - Every year the maintenance staff have to build a ramp to allow ducklings to exit the pond.





## Summary of Issues

- Waterfowl eat the turf down to the dirt, which causes bare areas.
- Waterfowl deposit large quantities of waste into the water. This increases nitrate levels, promotes algae growth, and pollutes the water quality.
- Waterfowl deposit large quantities of waste on the lake weir, walkways, and the hardscape in the Veterans Plaza.



## District Locations Where Waterfowl Have Historically Gathered

- The Arroyo Simi Greenway
- The two lakes at Simi Hills Golf Course
- The reservoir at Simi Hills Neighborhood Park
- Rancho Simi Community Park Pond
- Sinaloa Golf Course Pond
- Oak Canyon Community Park Pond



## PROPOSED ACTIONS

- Pass an ordinance stating, “No person will feed wildlife, including waterfowl, in violation of rules which are posted at specific District parks and facilities.” (To be scheduled.)
- Include a graduating fine:
  - \$25.00 - First Offense
  - \$25.00 plus an additional \$25.00 for each subsequent offense, not to exceed \$200 per offense. (\$25.00, \$50.00, \$75.00, \$100.00, \$125.00, \$150.00, \$175.00, \$200.00.)
- Post signage at Rancho Tapo Community Park to inform the public: “Don’t Feed the Waterfowl.”
- Utilize the District website and District publications to educate the public.

## **PROPOSED ACTIONS**

- Post notices of waterfowl relocation at the site.
- Submit an application for a migratory bird depredation/relocation permit from the Federal Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- Retain the services of a wildlife/pest control contractor to employ non-lethal measures to control or eliminate the problem. Relocate waterfowl offsite.

## PROPOSED SIGNAGE

Please . . . don't feed the wildlife.



Many people enjoy feeding ducks and geese, but the negative effects of this seemingly generous act include:

- Poor Nutrition
- Spread of Disease
- Pollution
- Overcrowding
- Unnatural Behavior
- Delayed Migration

Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District Ordinance "Rules and Regulations" ([www.rsimpd.org](http://www.rsimpd.org)) prohibits the feeding of wildlife at Rancho Tapo Community Park. (805) 584-4400

Violators are subject to fines.