IRRIGATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE TIPS

PRE-SEASON

RUN SYSTEM, INSPECT FOR PRESSURE VARIABILITY & LEAKS
• Inspect vineyard drip systems in the winter when it is easier to see because the vines do not have leaves leaves.
• Replace any hose damaged by animals or freezing events.

INSPECT & REPAIR PUMPING STATION COMPONENTS DURING PRE-SEASON STARTUP
• Inspect, clean and/or replace filter station media. Clean and replace sand materials more frequently.

REVIEW IRRIGATION PLAN
Make sure all parties understand their roles and responsibilities.

VINEYARD MANAGER
• Gives irrigation schedule to irrigation manager.
• Reviews water use records.
• Prepares budget for major repairs.

IRRIGATION MANAGER
• Provides irrigation schedule to irrigator.
• Reports irrigation system problems to vineyard manager.
• Verifies that irrigator has all training and equipment needed to make repairs.
• Responsible for major repairs.

IRRIGATOR
• Runs the system.
• Maintains and performs minor repairs of pumping stations and irrigation system components.
• Records water use records.

DURING SEASON

INSPECT IRRIGATION SET EVERY EVENT
• Have all materials (emitters, couplers, drip hose) to repair materials without going back to shop.

FLUSH DRIP LINES MONTHLY & AFTER EVERY FERTIGATION
• Flushing prevents plugging.

EVALUATE PRESSURES & FLOWS ON A REGULAR BASIS
• Check pressures at the pump frequently. Record the pressures.
• Set automated flushing filters so that backflushing is minimized.
• Check drip hose pressures frequently. Record pressures.
• Monitor drip emitter flow rates. Replace plugged emitters.
• Evaluate DU with evaluation by qualified individual every 3-5 years.

AFTER SEASON

IRRIGATION MAINTENANCE PLAN
• Review system performance and water use to update irrigation maintenance plan every year.
• Make a plan to repair and/or replace any damaged or old pumping station equipment or irrigation system components.
• Make a plan to replace infield hoses, emitters and filter screens.

PERFORM ANY LARGE IRRIGATION OR PUMPING SYSTEM REPAIRS/REPLACEMENTS
• Replace drip hose and/or emitters
• Upgrade to more efficient pumping stations