

Talega Community Moves Toward a Chemical-Free Future: Vinegar Replaces Herbicides for Hardscape Weed Control

San Clemente, CA — In a significant step toward more sustainable landscape practices, the Talega community has officially launched its new partnership with Artistic Maintenance, Inc., a vendor selected through a comprehensive review process led by Mosaic Consulting and supported by the TMC management team, the Board, and a dedicated feasibility committee. Among the most notable changes in the new approach: the use of **vinegar as a natural alternative to chemical herbicides** for managing hardscape weeds.

This shift is part of a broader commitment by the Talega community to reduce chemical usage in its landscape maintenance. “No one wanted to use chemicals unnecessarily,” said Devin Sanders, Principal at Mosaic Consulting. “There were those who were concerned about costs and maintaining the aesthetics of the rich landscape that Talega is known for. The key was redefining how we would maintain the landscape—focusing on soil health, preventative care, and reserving chemical use for only the most severe situations.”

Under the new strategy, vinegar—a simple, eco-friendly substance—will be used to control weeds in hardscape areas such as center medians, sidewalks, and pavers. This method not only aligns with the community’s environmental goals but also supports the health and safety of residents, pets, and local wildlife.

Artistic Maintenance, Inc. officially began service on May 1, 2025, bringing a philosophy rooted in working with nature, not against it. “The crews are trained to observe, adapt, and support the natural environment,” said a spokesperson from Artistic. “We’re not here to eliminate every leaf or blade of grass that grows out of place. We’re here to maintain beauty in a way that’s healthier and more balanced—for people and the planet.”

The landscape management team emphasized that early detection, consistent monitoring, and a commitment to soil and plant health will serve as the foundation of Talega’s new approach. “There is now a structured process in place to evaluate any potential need for chemical intervention,” said Sanders. “But we’re confident that with our proactive practices, such instances will be rare.”

With this transition, Talega sets a powerful example of how communities can maintain vibrant, beautiful landscapes without compromising environmental integrity.

Brian S. Taylor, CACM®
Executive Director
Talega Maintenance Corporation
Talega Lifestyle Corporation