



El Toro Water District Water Views

El Toro Water District Receives District of Distinction Honor

For nearly 50 years, the El Toro Water District (ETWD) has been an anchor in the water-supply community thanks to its ability to exercise tremendous foresight and planning. Its accomplishments have not gone unnoticed, as evident May 4th when ETWD was awarded the District of Distinction accreditation by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF).

El Toro Water District – which supplies water to the city of Laguna Woods and portions of the cities of Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Mission Viejo and Aliso Viejo – is the first independent special district to receive this important accreditation by SDLF. There are 3,400 special districts in California.

The Special District Leadership Foundation – an affiliation of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) – is a collaborative effort of eight special district organizations dedicated to excellence in local government. The Foundation was formed to provide educational opportunities to special district officials and employees to enhance service to the public provided by special districts in California.

CSDA is a not-for-profit association with a membership of over 1,000 organizations throughout California, and the only statewide association representing all types of independent special districts including irrigation, water, park and recreation, cemetery, fire, police protection, library, utility, harbor, healthcare and community services districts.

"This is one of the most prestigious awards in local government in the State of California," said ETWD President Ted F. Martin. "This accreditation clearly validates El Toro Water District's commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices."

In meeting the accreditation criteria, ETWD submitted a detailed analysis of District records, policies and procedures, and a commitment by the board of directors and the executive staff to continued education. Current financial audits and evidence of training completed by each of the District's board members and executive staff in ethics, governance

and leadership were also included. El Toro Water District board members and executive staff take part in ethics, governance and leadership training workshops that are now required by the State legislature, according to ETWD General Manager Bob Hill.

"At a time when special districts are often criticized for how we act, how we conduct our finances, and how we relate to the public, it is greatly important that special districts, our boards, and our management perform all operations with the utmost moral integrity," said Hill. "As a result, ETWD seamlessly continues with its commitment in providing our 51,000 customers a safe, adequate and reliable supply of water and wastewater service in a most environmentally and economically responsible way."

"This accreditation is proof that the El Toro Water District understands and respects the responsibilities inherent to providing essential public services in a fiscally responsible manner."

**Darcel Harris
SDLF Administrator**

"This accreditation is proof that the El Toro Water District understands and respects the responsibilities inherent to providing essential public services in a fiscally responsible manner," added SDLF Administrator Darcel Harris. "It validates the District's commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices."

For more information about the El Toro Water District, please call 949.837.0660 or visit the District's Web site at www.etwd.com.