

# El Toro Water District

“Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment”

## WaterViews

### LOCAL ETWD HEROES COMMENDED

#### Two employees save man and family

Two ETWD employees recently received heroic commendation for assisting in a car accident and medical emergency.

Steve Sanchez and Brandon Joseph were on regular assignment when they saw a car rolling into the intersection on Moulton Parkway from Via Iglesia against the stoplight. Joseph and Sanchez realized the driver of the vehicle was in medical distress and three children with him were in a state of panic at what was happening.

They chocked the wheel to immobilize the vehicle, hustled the children out of the car and provided assistance to the driver. They flagged down



From left, Brandon Joseph and Steve Sanchez on work assignment.

an ambulance and got a paramedic to help the distressed man.

In commendation, Ted Martin, ETWD Board President, noted, “It is with great

pleasure that we acknowledge and commend the brave actions of Steve Sanchez and Brandon Joseph. They are to be applauded for their personal courage and civic responsibility. Their actions that day have made the El Toro Water District proud and exemplify the finest character the District’s staff has to offer. ♣

### Investment & Conservation = Water Reliability

The much needed recent rain and snow in Southern California, and the Eastern and Northern Sierras provides some welcome relief after eight years of drought on the Colorado River and the driest year on record in Southern California. However, a single good hydrology year does not by itself solve the crisis that exists with California’s Statewide water system, particularly with the unsustainable environmental, water quality and structural conditions that exists within the Sacramento – San Joaquin Bay Delta (Delta).

Southern California remains dependent upon 50% of its water supply being imported through the Delta and from the Colorado River, travelling hundreds of miles to reach our area. Population growth, climate change, regulatory/ environmental constraints to protect aquatic species and lack of investment in conveyance and storage infrastructure at the state level represent some of the challenges that face our statewide water system.

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In late summer, a federal court ordered the state's largest water systems to cut deliveries by one-third to protect an endangered fish species, the Delta Smelt. This unanticipated single largest court ordered reduction in California history, will be experienced in the Bay area, Central and Southern California. This regulatory "drought" (reduction) not only reduces the amount of water that can be conveyed from Northern California through the Delta to Southern California, but it drastically impacts the way water purveyors have historically managed available water supply.



Snow pack in the Sierras has and remains one of the State's largest reservoirs naturally storing water during the winter and releasing it in spring and summer. In wet years we have been able to transport excess water from north to south, filling surface and groundwater reservoirs for use during dry years. Regulatory court ordered water supply restrictions will limit and interrupt our ability take advantage of our historical wet and dry year management programs. While local agencies have been investing heavily over the past decade in programs such as



water recycling, water use efficiency and regional storage projects, they do not by themselves negate the need for much needed investment in our statewide water system.

In response to the challenges, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MET), the largest wholesale water agency in the State, has cut back deliveries to agricultural customers by 30%, is drawing water from storage reservoirs and requesting customers in their six county service areas to voluntarily reduce consumption by 10%. Further, MET, recently adopted a Water Supply Shortage Allocation Plan that could be implemented if hydrology changes and/or further regulatory restrictions in the Delta are implemented. MET will consider whether a reduction in supply to its customers is necessary in April of 2008. A reduction in supply will ultimately trickle down to the end user. ETWD is working with MET and its wholesale water agency to ascertain just exactly what that will mean to ETWD and our customers.

**In the meantime, it is imperative that we continue to use water efficiently. Every drop saved today leaves more in reserve for tomorrow. For more tips on easy and practical ways to use water more wisely, visit our website at [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com). Stay tuned.💧**

## Update from the General Manager

### 2008/09 ETWD Budget Process

Our budget process utilizes historical operating experience, long-range asset restoration and replacement planning to determine the Cost-of-Service, which relates directly to our rates. Cost-of-Service is the term used to describe the necessary costs associated with providing your water and wastewater service.

In addition to normal inflation, ETWD and the water industry in general continue to be faced with increased business costs, many of which are beyond our control. Some of the financial challenges that influence our budget include rising import water supply, conveyance and treatment costs, regional wastewater biosolids disposal costs, and local/regional investment in new sources of local water supply, improved system reliability and facility restoration and replacement.

Additionally, a probable diversion of property tax revenues from local agencies like ETWD to Sacramento to put a dent in the State's current budget crisis is under consideration by the legislature. ETWD, like cities and other public agencies in Orange County, rely upon their proportionate share of local County collected tax revenue to fund and support ongoing investment in our local resources and infrastructure.

In spite of all these outside pressures, by partnering with neighboring water agencies and cities, employing long-range operations and financial planning, using innovation and internal restructuring to keep our operating expenses lean and with prudent reserve management, we have experienced a good track record of holding the line on rates or to minimize the impact of rate adjustments to our customers.

The Cost-of-Service has and will continue to be only whatever is necessary to economically and reliably ensure a safe and adequate supply of water and wastewater services. It is our priority to continually keep you informed about our financial requirements and to solicit input. In the event that the Board of Directors concludes that a moderate rate adjustment is necessary for fiscal year 2008/09, all customers will receive formal notice, describing the basis for and amount of the adjustment along with the date, time and location of a public hearing to receive and hear public input.💧

# WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

### Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems

	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
March	3 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
April	3 days 2 cycles of 4 minutes	2 days 2 cycles of 4 minutes
May	3 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes

## Rotating Nozzle Rebate Program

The latest innovation in sprinkler technology are nozzles that turn a standard sprinkler head into a precision device that can water your landscape better using 20% less water.

The nozzles shoot a multi-trajectory, rotating stream that applies water more slowly and uniformly than the conventional sprays and rotors.

Orange County single family residences are eligible to receive a rebate for the purchase of select rotating nozzles on or after July 10, 2007.

For an a list of approved products, application and additional information, please visit [www.mwdoc.com/wue](http://www.mwdoc.com/wue).



Rotating nozzle sprinkler head.



### LIMITED TIME OFFER

Homeowners can get up to a \$540 rebate when you upgrade your outdoor sprinkler system with a qualifying “smart” controller.

For more information, including a program description, your potential rebate amount, restrictions and eligibility requirements, download an application, please visit

[www.mwdoc.com/SmarTimer/](http://www.mwdoc.com/SmarTimer/). You may also call **1-866-846-3725**.

## SYNTHETIC TURF REBATE PROGRAM

Did you know that 50 - 60% of Orange County's water is used outdoors?



Photo courtesy of Your Turf, Inc.

You can dramatically decrease your water usage and receive a rebate by installing synthetic turf.

Synthetic turf is friendly to both kids and pets. It is low maintenance - you will never have to mow or edge it - and it looks great year-round!

Orange County residents are eligible to receive a rebate toward the purchase and installation of synthetic turf. For a list of rebate-eligible synthetic turf brands, a rebate application, program guidelines, and all other program information, please visit [www.mwdoc.com/wue](http://www.mwdoc.com/wue).

Please check with your city planning department and HOA (if applicable) for information regarding synthetic turf restrictions in your area. ♦



# Water Education Corner



## BE AN O.C. WATER HERO

Attention all kids!

Water is a precious and limited resource. You can help to protect water by becoming an O.C. Water Hero. It's easy, just promise to save 20 gallons of water each day and complete a pledge form at [www.ocwaterhero.com](http://www.ocwaterhero.com). Heroes receive an official O.C. Water Hero Kit with:

- ◆ water hero badge ◆ water waster fix-it ticket pad ◆ shower timer
- ◆ water hero flying disc ◆ water activity sheets ◆ water conservation tip stickers
- ◆ parent pledge form to become a water SUPERHERO!

### Ways to Save Water:

- Wash full loads of laundry
- Turn off water while brushing teeth
- Clean the driveway with a broom, not a hose
- Water the yard late evening or early morning
- Take a 5 minute (or less) shower

Kids! Find out how to become a water SUPERHERO and get more cool prizes, including a t-shirt at [www.ocwaterhero.com](http://www.ocwaterhero.com).

*This program is brought to you by the Orange County Water District, Municipal Water District of Orange County and the family of Orange County Water Agencies.◆*



## EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

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The Mission of the El Toro Water District is to plan and invest appropriately to provide its customers a safe, adequate and reliable supply of water, wastewater and recycled water service in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

Water Views is published quarterly to keep water users in the El Toro Water District informed about water and wastewater related issues and events. It is prepared by District staff. [Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.](#) Please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or visit our website at [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com). The El Toro Water District is a California Water District governed by an elected Board of Directors.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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