



# Water Views

September 2008

*"A District of Distinction"*

Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment

## California's Water Supply Has Been Cut Back!

### ***Current Conditions and How You Can Do Your Part***

After a bountiful January and February, precipitation in the state came to a virtual stop in March through June, making the four-month period the driest on record, and the sixth driest April-May-June in 114 years of record keeping.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought on June 4. He also declared a local drought emergency in nine California Central Valley counties due to water shortages.

The low rainfall and reduced runoff have caused water levels in key statewide reservoirs to drop to critically low levels. In normal years, storage levels increase in spring months as snowmelt runs off from the Sierra. This year, melting snow evaporated at a faster pace than usual, and watersheds were so dry from 2007 levels that snowmelt quickly soaked into the ground before making its way into streams and reservoirs.

Some of the state's key reservoirs, such as Lake Oroville and the federal San Luis Reservoir, are at 49% and 40% of their average capacities, respectively – and they continue to drop.

Making matters even worse, a federal judge has restricted pumping in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect a threatened fish species, the Delta smelt. The restrictions are reducing water deliveries by as much as 30% this year to 25 million Californians. Several more upcoming court decisions may further restrict pumping in the Delta.

The state's drought conditions mean there is much less water available for California's residents and businesses. In response to the water supply challenges, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWDSC), 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 area to heighten their water-conservation effort. Further, MWDSC recently adopted a Water Supply Allocation Plan that will be



*Lake Oroville Reservoir is down 49% of its normal capacity.*

## IN THIS ISSUE

California's Water Supply	1
EOC Improvements/Dedication	2
Conservation Corner	3
Water Education Corner	4

*Continued on Page 2*

implemented if the drought persists and/or further regulatory restrictions in the Delta are implemented.

**A mandatory supply allocation will ultimately trickle down to the end user. ETWD is working with MWDSC to ascertain just exactly what that will mean to 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.** Fortunately, there are some things that consumers can do to help conserve the limited resources available and ensure a future supply. Go to our "Water Conservation Corner" and our "Water Education Corner" to learn more about how you and your family can easily use water more efficiently and check out [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com) and [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) for more information. ♡

## New Emergency Operations Center to Serve South Orange County

### El Toro Water District dedicates new facility

El Toro Water District (ETWD) dedicated their new Education, Training and Operations Center in August. Lake Forest Mayor Mark Tettemer, ETWD Board President Ted Martin, and members of the South Orange County Regional Chamber of Commerce took part in the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at District headquarters.

District General Manager Bob Hill said, "The Board has made a sound investment in this new structure and, along with the advanced technology contained within, it will adequately serve the District and its customers for many years to come."

The new education and training facility houses a new Emergency Operations Center equipped with state-of-the-art communications technology. This will allow ETWD to better monitor remote facilities and respond to any service disruptions during an emergency. Director of Operations, Dennis Cafferty, said, "ETWD's mission in an emergency is to preserve infrastructure to maintain a quality water supply to all our customers under any circumstances."

The new EOC demonstrates the District's commitment to ensure their customers continue to receive the best possible service in time of a disaster. In light of the July 29<sup>th</sup> earthquake, had there had been a problem with water delivery anywhere in the District's service area, the EOC would have been activated until all water and sewer service issues were resolved.

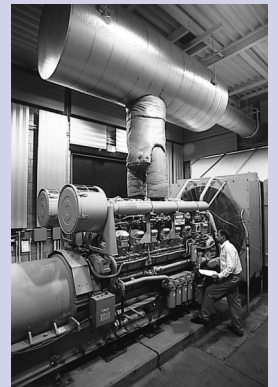
The new, enlarged EOC better accommodates District employees during times of emergency response. The advanced communications technology allows all personnel to be connected throughout the District as well as to other public agencies. An electronic white board allows critical information to be seen not only within the EOC, but also in other areas where staff would be assigned in an actual emergency.



*New ETWD Emergency Operations Center*



*Dedication/Ribbon Cutting*



*ETWD 1.2 Megawatt Standby Generator*

field for the November 13th exercise that will simulate a major Southern California earthquake. The simulated disaster exercise involves eight counties, all state departments, FEMA, non-profits, local governments and others. For ETWD and government agencies across the Southland, this is an opportunity to ask themselves the hard questions and make sure they will be ready to respond when the public needs them most.

For more information about El Toro Water District, please visit the website – [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com), or call ETWD at 949-837-0660. ♡

# WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems		
	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
September	4 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 2 cycles of 4 minutes
October	3 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
November	2 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	1 day 2 cycles of 4 minutes

## Rotating Nozzle Rebate Program

### Get Paid to Upgrade

You can decrease your outdoor water usage up to 30% by replacing traditional spray nozzles with new rotating nozzles. Rotating nozzles water more slowly and uniformly, and can be easily adjusted for precise, custom watering and runoff reduction.



**Rotating Nozzle  
Rebate level:  
\$4 - \$9 per nozzle.**

For more information on rebates,  
please visit  
[www.mwdoc.com/OutdoorRebates](http://www.mwdoc.com/OutdoorRebates)  
or call 1-888-376-3314.

## Smartimer Rebate Program



**Smartimer rebate level:  
\$60 per valve zone.  
Average rebate = \$540.**

Did you know that you can save an average of 40 gallons of water per day by installing SmartTimer? When you use less water, you're not only doing your

part to conserve scarce water resources, but you're also reducing your water bill.

For more information, please visit  
[www.mwdoc.com/OutdoorRebates](http://www.mwdoc.com/OutdoorRebates) or  
call 1-888-376-3314.

## HOW YOU CAN SAVE WATER

California's main water sources have been severely impacted by record dry conditions. And we're already using our reserves to supply our everyday water. Here is how you can help:

### INDOORS

- ◆ Replace old toilets and washing machines with a new high efficiency models.
- ◆ Turn off the water when you brush your teeth.
- ◆ Wash only full loads of laundry.
- ◆ Fix leaking faucets and toilets.
- ◆ Shorten your showers by one or two minutes.

### OUTDOORS

- ◆ Water your yard before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m. to reduce evaporation and interference from the wind.
- ◆ Use organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
- ◆ Use a broom instead of a hose to clean sidewalks and driveways.
- ◆ Check your sprinkler system for leaks, over spray and broken heads.

For more information, please visit  
[www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

# Water Education Corner



## SCHOOL EDUCATION PROGRAM

### Free School Assemblies

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), the 32 retail water providers in Orange County and the Discovery Science Center present FREE Water Education and Science Programs to Orange County Schools. Each program aligns with the California Science Content Standards and is available for Orange County students and teachers.

An estimated 88,000 Orange County elementary students will participate in the program this year. Teachers conduct in-class or assembly-style instruction.



If you are interested in having your child's school participate in these free programs, contact the Discovery Science Center at (714) 913-2823 x5106 or visit the MWDOC Web site, [www.mwdoc.com](http://www.mwdoc.com), and click on "For Students & Teachers."

Based on grade level, students will explore topics such as:

- ◆ The importance & scarcity of water in Southern California
- ◆ The water cycle
- ◆ The three sources of water
- ◆ Water storage, filtration, treatment, recycling and conservation.

Students role play water molecules, investigate human impacts on water and learn how to control pollution.

These programs are free to Orange County Schools.◆

The El Toro Water District is a California Water District governed by an elected Board of Directors.



### 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 and is prepared by District staff.

**Your comments and suggestions are welcome.**

Please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or visit our website at [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com).

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