



# Water Views

July 2010

*"A District of Distinction"*  
Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment

## Water Budget-Based Tiered Conservation Rate Structure

In an on-going effort to encourage water efficiency and promote fairness, El Toro Water District (ETWD) will implement a new tiered rate structure in July 2010. The new Water Budget-Based Tiered Conservation Rate Structure was officially adopted by the District's Board of Directors following a public hearing on June 24.

The Water Budget-Based Tiered Conservation Rate Structure rewards customers who use water efficiently and discourages waste. It is a fair and highly efficient system that is used by many neighboring water districts. Similar to the Water Allocation Program, the new tiered rate structure acknowledges that not all water uses are equal in their benefits to the community. The first priority for water use is for health, safety and sanitary purposes.

"The District's Water Budget-Based Tiered Conservation Rate Structure is the most efficient way to contend with the confluence of issues impacting our water supply," shares Ted F. Martin, President of the El Toro Water District Board of Directors.



Weather monitoring station that collects data to assist in determining your property specific outdoor water budget

"This new structure continues to encourage conservation and it provides each customer with a unique indoor and outdoor water budget that is designed to meet efficient water needs."

Indoor water budgets are calculated based on the number of people living in the home and an average use of 60 gallons of water per person, per day. "It is very important that customers verify the occupancy number that is listed on their new water bill," says Martin. "That number is critical to ensuring the accuracy of the indoor water budget."

Outdoor water budgets are calculated based on each customer's estimated irrigation area, County parcel data for lot size, and current weather data.

"We realize that some of our customers may have special circumstances that could require an adjustment to indoor or outdoor water budgets." Customers may apply for a variance to their water budget to adjust the number of people in the house-hold, irrigation area or for special medical needs. Visit the website at [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com) to print a copy of the Variance/Adjustment Request Form or call (949) 837-0660.

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## ETWD Honors Dedicated Employees

### ***El Toro Water District honored Jim Redding for his 25-years of service in April***

As a Maintenance Man III on the Pump Stations crew, Jim is a mentor as well as a leader. He holds a Water Distribution Operator Grade 4 Certification from the Department of Health Services. Jim is jointly responsible with a coworker in heading the new reservoir management system. He also installs and maintains water and sewer pump stations, appurtenant valves, flow meters and other distribution and collection equipment and facilities. Jim recently took the position as Safety Chairperson for the Safety Committee. Over the years Jim has provided various safety trainings to the employees and is very safety conscious. Jim has also participated in many community events for El Toro Water District speaking to the public about water quality and water conservation. Congratulations Jim for your dedication to the District and the community it serves.



General Manager, Bob Hill presenting Jim Redding his service award



Ralph Palomares

### ***Ralph Palomares receives the Pomoroy Award***

The California Water Environment Association announced ETWD employee, Ralph Palomares as the recipient of the Richard D. Pomeroy Collection System Award. This award is presented for long standing contributions which expands the knowledge, improves methods and stipulates new techniques enhancing the professional development of the wastewater collections systems personnel. Ralph's resume includes a extensive list of achievements, accomplishments and involvement in professional associations and conferences. Today Ralph serves as the Sewer Collections Supervisor and Industrial Waste Inspector for the District. Congratulations to Ralph on this wonderful achievement.

### ***El Toro Water District honored Dave Westphal for 40-years of service in June***

On June 10, 1970, Dave started working for the Rossmoor Water Company as summer help, painting fire hydrants, installing meters and monitoring sewage lift stations. In the late 1970's, Laguna Hills Water Company asked Dave to work full time on converting the company's accounting system from an old ledger card system to its first computer system. Continuing on at El Toro Water District, Dave oversaw IT functions and the District's utility billing system. In 2005, Dave switched to focus on Customer Service and the utility billing as Customer Service Administrative Coordinator. Dave has been instrumental and invaluable in the implementation of the new water budget based tiered conservation rate structure. Congratulations Dave for your contributions to the District and the community it serves.



Dave Westphal

Jim, Ralph and Dave's commitment to sound operating practices has contributed to the District's honor of being awarded the District of Distinction accreditation.

## Water Conservation Corner

### California-Friendly Plant of the Month

#### California Fuchsia

A Spectacular Summer Bloomer

California Fuchsia, formerly Zauschneria, blooms brightly for a few months between June and October. It's brilliant orange-red color and tubular flowers are guaranteed to attract hummingbirds. In fact, the California Fuchsia is dependent on hummingbirds for pollination and provides one of their principle nectar sources during the summer months. This perennial grows approximately 1 foot high, spreading 4 feet wide depending on the variety. The California Fuchsia blends well with other native plants on a slope in full sun, requiring little water and excellent drainage. They also perform beautifully in pots and baskets. Plant in full sun, low traffic area and well-drained soil. After the first or second year, plants should be cut back almost to the ground to encourage new growth the following spring.

Source: Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano



#### California Fuchsia Epilobium

Season:	Summer
Size:	1 ft. high, 4 ft. wide
Color:	Grayish green leaves with orange-red tubular flowers
Water:	Little
Sun:	Full sun

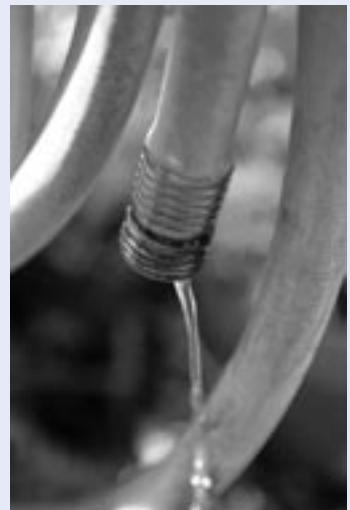
## Conservation...a Way of Life

### El Toro Water District's Permanent Mandatory Water Conservation Measures

- Watering or irrigating lawns, landscaping and other vegetation is prohibited between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- Watering is limited to a maximum of 15 minutes per day per valve.
- Watering while raining is prohibited.
- Excessive watering leading to runoff is prohibited.
- Leaks must be fixed within 5 days.
- No hosing down hard or paved surfaces.
- A bucket or hose with a shut-off nozzle must be used when washing vehicles.
- Effective July 1, 2010, All decorative fountains and water features must re-circulate water or users must secure a waiver from ETWD.
- Level 1 Watering Schedule: From 4/1 thru 10/31 - watering is restricted to 3 days per week.

**Aliso Viejo and Mission Viejo**  
**Laguna Hills, Laguna Woods, Lake Forest**

**Monday, Thursday, Saturday or Sunday**  
**Tuesday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday**



For more information on how you can save water in and around your home, please visit [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com). For additional water conservation information, a customized watering calculator, rebates and plant information, please visit [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).

# Metropolitan Water District of Southern CA Solar Cup 2010

The Solar Cup race is a annual seven-month program in which 36 teams totaling about 800 high school students build and race solar powered boats, learning about conservation of natural resources, electrical and mechanical engineering, problem solving and more.

The 2010 race was held at Lake Skinner on May 14 -16, 2010 and sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Teams were entered and sponsored by MWD member agencies and local water utilities.



**Colin Wagner and El Toro High School Engineering Club teacher, Mr. Ford**



**Colin Wagner and Aly Gatdula working on the solar powered boat**

ETWD was proud to have El Toro Water District residents, Colin Wagner, Chelsea Gatdula and Aly Gatdula of the Engineering Club at El Toro High School participate in the Solar Cup race. Congratulations to the entire club on a job well done.

If your high school is interested in participating next year or for more information on this event, please visit [www.mwdh20.com](http://www.mwdh20.com) and click on Solar Cup 2010 under Education.

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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