

El Toro Water District

WaterViews

Does Consolidation Make Sense?

Your Water and Wastewater Service in the Balance

A study initiated by a state-created agency called the Local Agency Formation Commission of Orange County (LAFCO) evaluated whether there might be rate payer benefits from merging El Toro Water District (ETWD) into the larger Moulton Niguel Water District (MNWD).

Both Districts Conclude: Not in the Best Interest of Customers

As the presumed successor agency, MNWD was asked by LAFCO to sponsor the consolidation study. After reviewing the completed report, the MNWD's Board of Directors determined that a merger with ETWD is not in the best interest of the MNWD customers. After reviewing the Moulton Niguel report, as well as the results of their own detailed review of the consolidation issues, the ETWD's Board of Directors came to the similar conclusion that a merger is not in the best interests of the ETWD customers. However, the study did conclude that current voluntary collaboration between the two agencies was in the best interest of the customers and that it should continue. Both agencies embrace the collaborative resource-sharing philosophy and are committed to joint ventures for the benefit of their respective customers.

In January 2003, after lengthy debate, the seven-member LAFCO Commission voted five to two in favor of receiving and filing the report that concluded that consolidation would not benefit customers. As such, this consolidation proposal is now closed.

Future District Challenges and Goals

With consolidation studies behind us, we are directing our attention to the development and implementation of a long-range Capital Facility/Equipment Replacement and Operating Plan that will be used by the Board of Directors and staff to ensure and maintain competitive and reliable services to our customers. We are continuing to collaborate with the County of Orange, the Cities we serve, neighboring water districts and regulatory agencies to coordinate and pool resources to eliminate duplicity of effort and reduce cost of service wherever possible. Our planning and operating plan seeks to innovatively and efficiently utilize available and new water supplies, energy, labor, technology, financial investments and collaboration.



ETWD sharing resources with Santa Margarita Water District. Pictured is ETWD Field Specialist Chris Goodchild high pressure-cleaning a below ground sewerline.

El Toro Water District's Regional Reservoir Successfully Maintains Water Flow to South Orange County

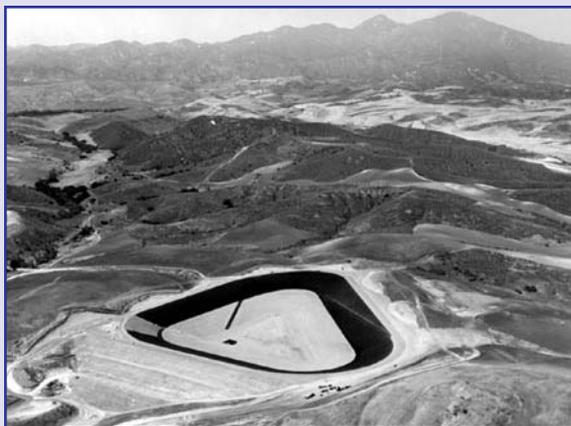
Local Water Storage is a Critical Water Reliability Component

A planned eight-day interruption of the import water supply from the regional Allen-McColloch Pipeline (AMP) in January went unnoticed by the residents in South Orange County. Bob Hill, General Manager of El Toro Water District explained, "The recent pipeline shut down from January 20 to 28 was planned for inspection, maintenance and repairs to the critical AMP water conveyance facility which ultimately helps to ensure imported water will continue to flow to our area without interference."

The AMP is one of two major import water conveyance pipelines serving Orange County. Without the availability of local resources such as groundwater, South Orange County retail water agencies are primarily dependent upon the reliability of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California import water supply system. This dependency creates a critical need for South Orange County water retailers to maintain adequate local emergency reservoir storage to meet water demands when the import system is interrupted for planned or unplanned purposes.

Joint Venture Works as Planned

As designed and intended, the recently expanded El Toro Reservoir continued to supply water during the recent outage to meet daily water demands of the project sponsors without missing a drop. Led by the El Toro Water District, the aggressive \$9.5 million dollar Project with its many complex challenges was successfully completed in July 2002 on time and under budget.



ETWD Reservoir - Original Construction 1967



ETWD Regional Reservoir Today

The El Toro Reservoir, the largest covered drinking water reservoir in Orange County, is owned and operated by the El Toro Water District. However, the El Toro Reservoir Expansion Project (Project) was a collaborative multi-jurisdictional joint venture formed by the Community of Interest of the El Toro, Santa Margarita and Moulton Niguel Water Districts. Using innovative

technology the previous reservoir capacity of 224 million gallons was expanded by 23% or 51 million gallons at a fraction of the cost it would take to procure property and construct a new similarly-sized facility. The new capacity is now 275 million gallons. According to Hill, "during the shut down of eight days, 182 million gallons were drawn from the reservoir or 66% of its total capacity."

Win – Win for El Toro Water District Customers

The Project improves water reliability, preserves water quality, and increases water conservation capabilities, while retaining local community understanding and local control. The Joint Venture allowed El Toro to retain 14-

days of emergency reservoir-storage capacity and to reduce its water commodity rate by 21%. Orange County Board of Supervisors Chairman, the Honorable Tom Wilson, stated at the on-site Facility dedication and ribbon cutting on October 1, 2002: "The accomplishment and benefit to the region before us today is a testament to voluntary collaboration and planning on the part of the El Toro, Santa Margarita and Moulton Niguel Water Districts."

**CELEBRATE "MAY" IS WATER
AWARENESS MONTH**

ETWD's Open House

Saturday, May 3, 2003
9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.



at ETWD
Headquarters
24251 Los Alisos
Blvd., Lake Forest

LEARN ABOUT YOUR WATER DISTRICT:

- Regional Reservoir Expansion Project
- Water Conservation
- Water Quality
- Heavy Equipment Displays
- "Mad Science" Theater
10 A.M and 12 P.M.
- Activities for Kids
- Giveaways
- Lunch



For more information and/or to RSVP, please call Sherri Seitz at (949) 837-7050, Ext. 239.



Ron Hightower, Dave Barber, Colone Barber, Sherri Seitz, Wes Mautz, Zileha Korsund, and Joann Dew (Center)

Office Spreads Holiday Cheer

ETWD employees chose the Orange County Ronald McDonald House for last year's employee holiday charity. The house provides a temporary "home away from home" for families whose children are critically ill and receiving treatment at local hospitals. The families return to the house after a long day at the hospital and usually are not up to preparing a meal for their family or too overwhelmed to think of Christmas shopping for their other children. The employees provided and made a "Feast from the Heart" meal for the house and donated needed household items and gifts for the children. ETWD employees plan to donate to a similar charity again this year.

Water Efficient Toilet and Washing Machine Rebates

Do you need to replace your *old* pre-1992 water-guzzling toilet with a new water-saving one or replace that *old* inefficient washing machine with a new efficient model? If the answer is yes, then consider participating in one of the programs available for installing efficient water using toilets and washing machines. An ultra low flush toilet could save you 2 – 3.5 gallons per flush or more depending on the size of your existing toilet. High efficiency washers use 35 - 50% less water.

El Toro Water District in cooperation with the Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is promoting Home Water Use Efficiency Programs.

Rebate Programs

Orange County Residents can apply for a:

\$50 rebate for qualifying water saving state-of-the-art toilet installations.

\$100 rebate for qualifying high efficiency washing machines.



To receive more information on the rebate amount, participation criteria and to receive a rebate application, please call (800) 954-4344.

Co-Pay Program

Orange County Residents can exchange their pre-1992 toilets for water saving toilets at special event sites or at the Orange County Toilet Exchange Program office located in the city of Orange.

A **\$30 co-pay** for customers of the ETWD to purchase a brand new water saving toilet on selected models.

To receive more information about the co-pay program, special event sites, or the toilet brands being offered, please call (866) 373-3928.

For more water use efficiency information please call the ETWD Customer Service Representatives at (949) 837-0660. **Thanks for helping the District preserve our most precious resource, "WATER". Conserving water saves money and reduces cost.**

Water Education Corner

WATER CYCLE TRIVIA

Match the following words to the correct sentence on the right:

Evaporation
Condensation
Precipitation
Accumulation
Transpiration
Percolation

1. Water on the ground is heated by the sun and turns into a vapor. This vapor then rises into the sky. What is this process called?

2. _____ is the process when water as a vapor comes out of the pores on leaves of a plant.

3. When vapor gathers together, forms clouds and changes back into visible droplets of water, it is called _____ ?

4. _____ is the process when water soaks into the ground?

5. When water falls to the earth as rain or snow, it is called _____ ?

6. _____ is the process when water gathers in a large area like a lake or a river.

Answers: 1. Evaporation, 2. Transpiration, 3. Condensation, 4. Percolation, 5. Precipitation, 6. Accumulation.

Just a Reminder.....

Regular meetings of the El Toro Water District Board of Directors have been rescheduled. They are now being held on the fourth Thursday of each month at 8:00 A.M. at the District's Administration Offices at 24251 Los Alisos Blvd. in Lake Forest.

Quick Takes.....

"Experience is a hard teacher: She gives the test first, the lessons afterward."

Unknown

"Tough times never last but tough people do."

Robert Schuller

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

24251 Los Alisos Boulevard
Lake Forest, CA 92630
(949) 837-0660

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

Water Views is published quarterly by ETWD. For questions, suggestions, or comments, please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or visit our website at www.etwd.com.

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

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