

# El Toro Water District

# WaterViews

## ETWD OPEN HOUSE/ FACILITY TOUR

**Saturday, May 1, 2004  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

To celebrate Water Awareness Month in May, ETWD will host its annual Open House and Facility Tour at its District Headquarters on Saturday, May 1st. This year the tour will be of the Water Recycling Plant.

For more information on the festivities or to RSVP for the tour, please turn to page 4.



*Mad Scientist, Dr. Pluto, demonstrates that science can be fun by conducting water experiments at last year's Open House.*

## inthisissue

- ◆ ETWD Open House/Facility Tour
- ◆ ETWD Receives 2003 Award
- ◆ ETWD Holiday Donation
- ◆ ETWD Community Advisory Group
- ◆ Weekly Watering Schedule
- ◆ ULFT Toilet Exchange Site
- ◆ Water-Saving Fixture Rebate and Co-Pay Programs
- ◆ Water is Life Poster & Slogan Contest



*From left to right, General Manger Bob Hill, ETWD Collections System Crew Ty Banagas, Chris Goodchild, Ed Peterson, Ralph Palomares and Director of Operations and Engineering, Dennis Cafferty*

## ETWD RECEIVES 2003 AWARDS

### ETWD Sewer Collection Department Receives Santa Ana River Basin Section 2003 Collection System and Operator of the Year Awards!

The District is proud to announce that its Sewer Collection Department was acknowledged by the California Water Environment Association – Santa Ana River Basin Section (CWEA-SARBS) as the 2003 Sewer “Collection System” of the Year. In addition, one of our very own operators, working as a supervisor within the department, received the prestigious 2003 CWEA-SARBS Sewer Collection System “Operator” of the Year award. The CWEA-SARBS is a not-for-profit association of 7,700 plus professionals in the wastewater industry committed to keeping California’s water clean. The CWEA is divided into 17 geographical sections of which the SARBS is one of the largest. The CWEA-SARBS trains and certifies wastewater professionals and promotes sound policies to benefit society through the protection and enhancement of our water environment.



*Ed Peterson, ETWD Maintenance Man III*

A key component of our day-to-day business activity evolves around the maintenance and operation of

*Continued on Page 2...*

a critical and extensive sewer collection system consisting of approximately 140 miles of collector sewers, pumping stations and pressurized pipes that transport domestic sewage from your homes and businesses to the District's Water Recycling Plant for treatment and proper disposal and/or beneficial reuse. Highly competent and dedicated staff implement best available procedures for operation and maintenance of the public sewer system to protect property, public health, local watersheds and ultimately the Pacific Ocean.

Our Sewer Collection Department consists of 5 trained operators and a host of specialized capital equipment used to routinely clean and video inspect the inside of below ground collector sewer pipes. Through optimum use of those resources, the Collection Department has also been able to extend such services beyond our boundaries to assist neighboring water districts efficiently accomplish similar programs. The outsourcing operation provides a

source of revenue to the District that helps subsidize operating costs.

*ETWD sewer pipe video inspection equipment.*



Competitive selection criteria for the CWEA-SARBS Awards focused on adequacy of maintenance procedures and record keeping, equipment maintenance, employment of special programs such as grease and root control programs, operator certifications, public education, emergency preparedness and collective and individual safety records. Bob Hill, General Manager declares **“Our hats go off to the entire Collection Department for their dedicated efforts and a special congratulation goes out to Mr. Ed Peterson for his attainment of the 2003 Collection System Operator of the Year award.”**◆

## EMPLOYEE HOLIDAY DONATION

This past December, the ETWD employees donated gifts to the Orange County Olive Crest in Santa Ana. Olive Crest provides shelter, care and professional treatment to more than 30,000 abused children and their families.

As a group, the ETWD employees participated in the “Holiday Wish Program”. The employees granted 37 wish slips to help brighten these children's holidays. If you would like more information regarding Olive Crest, please log onto their website at [www.olivecrest.org](http://www.olivecrest.org).

## Community Advisory Group Meetings

On behalf of the Board and staff of El Toro Water District, we would like to invite you to the next meeting of our Community Advisory Group (CAG). To enhance communication between the District and the community that we serve, the Board of Directors of ETWD in 1993 approved the formation of the CAG. The CAG provides a forum for establishing and maintaining open and effective communication with our customers.



ETWD's service area is quite diverse in terms of business and commercial interests including a large retirement community, a regional shopping mall, a regional hospital, numerous elementary and middle schools, a large number of single family and multi-family dwellings and mobile-home parks. As the District plans for the future it is essential that we understand what issues are important to our customers. The CAG meeting topics are as diverse as the community we serve. Topics include but are not limited to discussions regarding annual budgets, future water supply, water use efficiency practices, regional coordination between local governments, water quality, regulatory and environmental mandates and relative legislative activity.

At El Toro Water District, we place great value in the interests and concerns of the people we serve, and the CAG has been an important feature of our planning for the District. We believe you will find the meetings as interesting as they are significant. We look forward to a continued informative exchange of information between you, elected officials and the ETWD staff.

### 2004 CAG MEETING SCHEDULE

12:00 P.M. - 1:30 P.M.

**March 4, 2004**

**June 3, 2004**

**September 2, 2004**

**December 9, 2004**

**Reservations are required. Please contact Carol Adams at (949) 837-7050, Ext. 225 or [cadams@etwd.com](mailto:cadams@etwd.com) to get further information and/or to RSVP.**◆

# WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

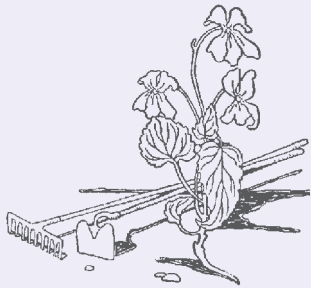
## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

### Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems

|       | Turf Grass                         | Trees, shrubs<br>groundcover       |
|-------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| March | 3 days<br>2 cycles of<br>3 minutes | 2 days<br>2 cycles of<br>3 minutes |
| April | 3 days<br>2 cycles of<br>4 minutes | 2 days<br>2 cycles of<br>4 minutes |
| May   | 3 days<br>3 cycles of<br>3 minutes | 2 days<br>3 cycles of<br>3 minutes |

*Remember to turn-off your irrigation system before and during rainy weather.*

Spring is right around the corner. The turf is growing at its optimum rate during April and May. Now is the perfect time to build deep roots. How do you do that and what is the advantage?



#### Building Deep Roots on Turf:

Typically, we have compacted, heavy clay soil in Orange County. In turf areas this means shallow root systems, sometimes as short as 2" into the soil.

This means that you will have stressed turf, hot spots and the need to water everyday during the summer. This will mean more shallow roots and higher water bills.

#### START NOW TO BUILD DEEP ROOTS

- Aerate compacted soils as deeply as equipment will allow.
- Spread fine organic material over the aerated turf. Irrigate to move the organic material down into the soil.
- Use a soil probe to "see" how deep the soil moisture is and how deep each irrigation cycle penetrates into the soil.
- Use irrigation cycling to move water deeper into the soil than the current root depth (training roots to move deeper into the soil).
- Let the soil dry somewhat between watering (do not water every day, allow for at least one day between watering, allowing 2 days between watering during April and May which is better for building deeper roots).
- Use short cycles of 3 minutes or less and run more cycles (3-5) to move water deeper into the soil without having water runoff.
- Use a soil probe to monitor how deep the roots are moving.
- Aerate again in late September and follow the same steps. ♦

## Rebate and Exchange Programs

El Toro Water District, in cooperation with the Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California continues to promote Home Water Use Efficiency Programs.



### TOILET AND WASHING MACHINE REBATES

O.C. residents can apply for a:

**\$50 Rebate** for qualifying water saving toilet installations. An ultra low flush toilet can save you 2 - 3.5 gallons per flush or more.

**\$100 Rebate** for qualifying high-efficiency washing machines. High-efficiency washers can save you 18 - 25 gallons per load.

For more information on these programs, please call (800) 954-4344.

### TOILET EXCHANGE PROGRAM

With a **\$30 Co-pay** O.C. residents can exchange their pre-1992 toilets for a new water saving toilet. See below for the upcoming toilet exchange site. ♦

## Residential Toilet Exchange Site

### Saturday, April 24

**Laguna Hills High School  
25401 Paseo de Valencia  
Laguna Hills**

- ♦ \$30 Co-Pay
- ♦ Exchange pre-1992 toilets for a water-saving Ultra Low Flush Toilet
- ♦ ULFT's save 2 - 3.5 gallons per flush
- ♦ Limit 2 toilets per household
- ♦ Required to return old toilets for recycling (Return date: Saturday, May 8, 2004)

**For more information, please visit our website at [etwd.com](http://etwd.com) or call (800) 693-5331.**

# Water Education Corner



## ATTENTION STUDENTS!

Just a reminder. **The Municipal Water District of Orange County's 2004 Poster and Slogan Contest Deadline is March 28, 2004.** The contest is open to all Orange County students in



*Tyler De Haven's poster is featured in the 2003/2004 Water Is Life Calendar.*

grades kindergarten through sixth. Contest Winners will have their posters or slogans featured in the 2004/2005 Water is Life School Year Calendar. **All entries must be submitted by March 28, 2004,** to Municipal Water District of Orange County, P.O. Box 20895, Fountain Valley, CA 92728. For more information on the contest including rules and guidelines, please log onto our website at [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com) or pick up an entry form at our main office. ♦

grades kindergarten through sixth. Contest Winners will have their posters or slogans featured in the 2004/2005 Water is Life School Year

## ETWD OPEN HOUSE/ FACILITY TOUR

You and your family are invited to celebrate "May is Water Awareness Month".

Please join us to learn more about one of our most **precious resources - WATER!**



**Saturday, May 1st  
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

**Free Hot Dogs and Refreshments  
Red Cross Blood Drive (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.)**

### Activities Include:

- Water Recycling Plant Tours
- Mad Science Shows
- Games for Kids
- Hands on Water Experiments

### Exhibits Include:

- Water Conservation
- Water Quality
- Equipment Displays
- Saddleback Memorial Medical Center
- O.C. Fire Authority

**To RSVP for the Tour, Open House or the Blood Drive, please call Sherri Seitz at (949) 837-7050, x 239 or e-mail at [sseitz@etwd.com](mailto:sseitz@etwd.com) ♦**

## 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 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

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| President          | <b>Ted F. Martin</b>    |
| Vice President     | <b>M. Scott Goldman</b> |
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| Director           | <b>William H. Kahn</b>  |
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