

# El Toro Water District

## WaterViews

### DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

#### WATER EMERGENCY TIPS AT HOME

A critical mission of the El Toro Water District is to continue to meet the service demands of our customers during emergency situations. We continue to make significant investments in equipment and personnel training to ensure the quickest and most appropriate response to emergencies.

Unfortunately, the exact origin and location of emergencies and the possible impact to our facilities can be difficult to predict. As such, it is important that you and your family take measures to prepare yourself for any potential emergency interruption to your water service. The Red Cross recommends that you store enough water at your residence or business to make it on your own for at least 3 days.

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### El Toro Water District 2004/05 Budget

The ETWD Board of Directors and Staff have been diligently working on preparation of next year's budget. The budget process utilizes historical operating experience and long-range asset restoration and replacement planning to determine the Cost of Service, which relates directly to our rates, fees and charges. Cost of service is the term used to describe all costs associated with your water and wastewater service.

The ETWD and the water industry in general continue to be faced with increased costs, many of which are beyond our control. The fiscal challenges that influence our budget in addition to normal inflation include rising import water costs, increases in labor related medical and workers compensation insurance, projected facility restoration and replacement costs, water safety and security issues and more aggressive and stringent regulatory requirements.

In spite of all these outside pressures, by partnering with neighboring water agencies, keeping our internal operating expenses lean and utilization of prudent cash reserve management, we have historically been able to hold the line on rates or to minimize the impact of rate adjustments to our customers.

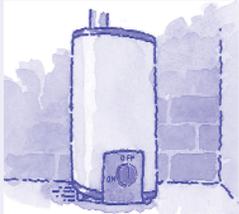
It is our priority to keep you informed on all water related issues of interest. As we review our situation, we will continue to keep you and our other ratepayers informed on our on-going financial needs.

If you would like more information please contact our Customer Service Representatives at (949) 837-0660. ◆

Now that you know you need to store water; how much should you store? A good rule to follow is about 1 gallon per-person per-day of clean drinking water. Some families will want to consider their pets as a person for these purposes.

**Emergency sources of water for home storage and use:**

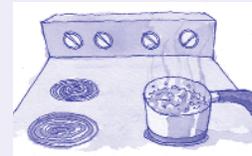
- Store tap water in clean food grade quality plastic containers with screw cap lids (i.e. soft drink bottles). Seal containers tightly, label them and store in a cool, dark place. Replace stored tap water every six months.
- Bottled water purchased at the market should be stored in its original container and replaced once a year. Once opened, use it and do not store it further.
- In an emergency if your water supplies run low, drink what you need at the time and find additional sources the next day. Reducing activity and staying cool minimizes the amount of water your body will need.



- To use water out of your hot-water tank, turn gas or electricity off and open the drain at the bottom of the tank. Start the water flowing by turning off the water intake valve and turning on a hot-water faucet. Do not turn on the gas or electricity when the tank is empty.
- To use the water in your pipes, let air into the plumbing by turning on the facet in your house at the highest level. A small amount of water will trickle out. Then obtain water from the lowest faucet in the house.

**If the purity of water is questioned, use the following methods to make the water safe to drink:**

- **Boiling** water is the safest method of treating water. Bring water to a rolling boil for 3-5 minutes, keeping in mind that some water will evaporate. Let the water cool before drinking.
- **Disinfection:** You can use household “liquid” bleach to kill microorganisms. Use only regular household liquid bleach that contains 5.25% sodium hypochlorite. Do not use scented bleaches, colorsafe bleaches or bleaches with added cleaners. Add 8 drops of chlorine bleach to one gallon of clear water or 16 drops to one gallon of cloudy water, stir and let stand for 30 minutes. If the water does not have a slight bleach odor, repeat dosage and let stand for 15 minutes. **Do not use granular forms of bleach; they are poisonous.**
- **Distillation:** Distillation involves boiling water and then collecting the vapor that condenses back to water. The condensed vapor will not include salt and other impurities. To distill, fill a pot halfway with water. Tie a cup to the handle on the pot's lid so that the cup will hang right side up when the lid is upside down (make sure the cup is not dangling into the water) and boil the water for 20 minutes. The water that drips from the lid into the cup is distilled.



**If you have any questions, please call our Customer Service Representatives at (949) 837-0660. ♦**



**[www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com)  
Website Reconstruction!**



**[www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com)** is undergoing a complete facelift! Set for an early **June** release, **[www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com)** will be your source for all water conservation information as well as provide a comprehensive links section to many other water related sites. Save water and money by finding information and applications for our regional water conservation rebate programs. A consistently updated calendar of events, along with meeting agendas, and contact information can help you become an active participant in your local water district. An archive of the ETWD **WaterViews** newsletters will keep you abreast of the past, current and future water activities taking place locally and regionally. Learn about the history of the El Toro Water District. Find out where your water comes from and view the current and past water quality reports. Learn about and how to be good stewards of water and the environment we enjoy. View our service area map. Learn how to read your meter and how to check it for leaks. **[www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com)** will be expanded greatly and should be your first source for water information. Stay tuned and plan to visit us soon!♦

# WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

## Water Supply

Our primary sources of water travel hundreds of miles from the Colorado River and the Northern California San Francisco-San Joaquin Bay Delta to get to the ETWD service area and ultimately to reach your water tap at home. While good regional and local water supply planning assures us that we will have adequate water supplies going into the near future, the lingering drought conditions in the west continue to heighten the need for vigilant conservation practices when it comes to water use.

Being a good water steward at home and/or in your business saves you money each month on your water bill and helps to partially mitigate the magnitude of future costly local and regional water supply projects. Our "Water Conservation Corner" is intended to help you make a difference when it comes to optimizing the use of our most precious resource – **WATER.** ♠

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

### Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems

	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
June	3 days 2 cycles of 5 minutes	2 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes
July	4 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 3 cycles of 4 minutes
August	4 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 3 cycles of 4 minutes

## SUMMER CONSERVATION TIPS

The summer season is upon us and this is one of the most popular times for careless water use. From taking shorter showers to re-adjusting our sprinkler timer to water the lawn less often. Here are a few tips to keep your water bills low:

- Install a low-flow showerhead and take only a 5-minute shower.
- Catch water in a bucket or watering can while waiting for the water to get hot, and then use it for cleaning or watering flowers and plants.
- Put a water displacement bag or full plastic bottle in each toilet tank, so less water is used on each flush.
- Fix all leaky toilets, faucets and pipes.
- Turn off the water while shaving, brushing your teeth and lathering in the shower.
- Run only full loads in dishwashers and washing machines.
- Water your lawn and garden by operating automatic sprinklers manually and make sure the water you pay for is going on the plants and not on sidewalks, walls and down the storm drain.
- Use a bucket of water and one short rinse to wash your car.
- Sweep (never hose) driveway, patio or sidewalk.
- Keep grass 1 - 3 inches long. Grass this length shades the roots, requires less water and mowing and allows the root system to become deeper and more water-efficient. ♠

## 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. For more information about the co-pay program, please call (866) 373-3928. Program ending June 4, 2004. ♠



# Water Education Corner



## Education through Community Events

### TIERRA NATIVA

El Toro Water District participated as an exhibitor in the "Tierra Nativa 2004-Celebration of the Native Land" on Saturday, April 24, 2004 hosted by the City of Mission Viejo. A festival and volunteer projects such as planting, weeding, litter clean-up and a tile project took place.



ETWD's Booth at the Tierra Nativa Festival. Employees Ron Hightower & Steve Wingen

The theme this year was "Cultivating a Community of Character" focusing on character core values, recycling, stewardship of the land, water quality, conservation and community service activities. ETWD promotes water education through literature, water conservation giveaways and water-related questions asked at our famous "WATER WHEEL." ♣

### ETWD's 8TH ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE & FACILITY TOUR

The District held this event on Saturday, May 1, 2004 at its District Headquarters. Guests celebrated "May is Water Awareness Month" and learned more about one of our most **precious resources - WATER!**

The District held guided tours to the Water Recycling Plant, provided information on water and the environment, sponsored a blood drive, provided lunch and a relaxed atmosphere for customers to ask questions. Kids participated in Mad Science shows, hands-on water experiments, and visits from Ricki-the-Raindrop. ♣



Rebecca and Alyssa Wingen with Ricki-the-Raindrop at ETWD's Open House.

## EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

24251 Los Alisos Boulevard  
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(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.

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