

El Toro Water District

“Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment”

WaterViews

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 7, 2005
9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**



For more information or to RSVP, please see page 4.

RESTAURANT WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Did you know that for every glass of water provided it takes two glasses of water to clean the glass regardless of whether the initial glass of water was consumed?

Even after several major rainstorms, the drought gripping the West is still the most severe in 500 years, according to the U.S. Geological Survey. Water Conservation is one of the most effective, proactive strategies we can employ today to both reduce future water demand and costs. El Toro Water District is providing a **FREE** public education program to reduce the use of our most precious resource – **WATER**. The District is asking its restaurant community to assist in this program. A specific area of potential water waste can be attributed to the practice of providing glasses of water to patrons that do not request it.



Watch for the new Water Conservation Tent Cards in your local restaurants.

At no cost to the restaurants, El Toro Water District is providing colorful bilingual water conservation “Tent Cards” that will be placed upon each table. The intent of the program is to educate and inform the patrons of the importance of conserving water while making it clear that water is always available upon request. We are asking our customers to help conserve water by asking for water in restaurants only when you need it.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact Mike King, ETWD Water Services Manager at (949) 837-7050, Ext. 203. ♦

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El Toro Water District 2005/06 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.

In addition to normal inflation, ETWD and the water industry in general continue to be faced with increased costs, many of which are beyond our control. The financial challenges that influence our budget include rising import water costs, projected facility restoration and replacement costs, rising energy costs, more aggressive and stringent regulatory requirements, increases in labor related costs, and the loss of property tax revenue as a result of the State's economic problems.

In spite of all these outside pressures, by partnering with neighboring water agencies, using innovation and internal restructuring to keep 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 fiscal and all other water related issues of interest. As our budget process continues, we will keep you and our other ratepayers informed on our ongoing financial requirements.

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

High Quality Water is Priority Number One

Advanced water treatment technologies, increased monitoring and stringent laws and guidelines have worked together to protect the quality of the water we reliably deliver 24/7 to your residence and/or business. The El Toro Water District vigilantly safeguards its water supply to ensure that all state and federal regulatory standards are continuously met. Water



State Certified Operator drawing samples.

quality parameters must meet both primary and secondary standards as established by the State Department

of Health Services. Primary standards are intended to protect public health against substances in the water that may be harmful to humans if consumed for long periods of time. Secondary standards are intended to ensure that esthetic qualities of the water such as taste, odor and clarity are acceptable.

Depending upon regulatory requirements, water quality monitoring takes place around the clock, daily, weekly, monthly and quarterly. The District's State Certified field operators and Laboratory analyze approximately 6,200 water samples each year.

Samples are collected from 57 dedicated and approved sample sites located at reservoirs and throughout the water distribution system.



ETWD State Certified Laboratory

Bob Hill, General Manager, explains "The District is continually planning and investing in its infrastructure and water resources to ensure a high level of service and water quality to our customers." Please contact our Customer Service Office or Mike King, Water Services Manager, if you have any questions about water quality. ♦

WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems

	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
March	3 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
April	3 days 2 cycles of 4 minutes	2 days 2 cycles of 4 minutes
May	3 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes	2 day 3 cycles of 3 minutes

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

CONSERVATION TIPS

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. 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 every-day 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.
- Aerate again in late September and follow the same steps. ♦

HOME GARDNERS

Water Conservation Workshops -
Saturdays: April 2, 9, 16 & 23, 2005

ETWD along with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is hosting a series of 4 workshops designed to educate residents on how to create and maintain a beautiful water-efficient landscape.

Workshop times are from 9 a.m. to 12 noon each Saturday and there is a \$10 fee per person for each workshop.

April 2 Basic Landscape Design
April 9 Landscape Plants
April 16 Landscape Sprinkler Systems
April 23 Landscape Watering & Fertilizing

Reservations are required. Please call Sherri Seitz at (949) 837-7050, x239. ♦

CUSTOMER SERVICE

DIRECT PAYMENT COMING SOON!

At ETWD we're always looking for opportunities to improve our service in economical and effective



ways. Utilizing technology when appropriate has always been a priority. In this regard we are pleased to announce that we are finalizing agreements with our bank to allow customers to sign up for direct payment of their monthly water and wastewater bill. Once enrolled in this service we will deduct your monthly bill from your checking or savings account automatically. You will be notified in advance as to the amount of the deduction and date.

This added convenience will be in addition to the current methods of payment, check or credit card. This exciting new service will be effective in May 2005. Enrollment information will be available soon on our website at www.etwd.com. ♦

Water Education Corner

ETWD OPEN HOUSE & FACILITY TOUR

Please join us for ETWD's 7th Annual Water Awareness Day Celebration on:

SATURDAY, MAY 7, 2005 from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Bring your friends and family for food, educational activities, tours and much more. The event is free and open to the public.

Activities Include:

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

Exhibits Include:

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



To RSVP for the Tour and/or the Open House, please call Sherri Seitz at (949) 837-7050, x 239 or e-mail at sseitz@etwd.com ♦

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

24251 Los Alisos Boulevard
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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. 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. The El Toro Water District is a California Water District governed by an elected Board of Directors.

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