

El Toro Water District

"Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment"

WaterViews

"It's Time to Get Serious"

Tomorrow's Water Supply & Today's Water Conservation

Water has been very much in the news lately as we deal with record dry conditions across California and heightened concerns regarding challenges facing our statewide water system. California's water system is an integration of local, state and federal facilities – tying together almost every region of the state. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD), our wholesale import water provider, uses part of the statewide system to convey water to its 18 million customers that must travel hundreds of miles from the Colorado River and the Sacramento – San Joaquin Bay Delta (Delta) in Northern California to reach the tap at your home or business.

Population growth, climate change, regulatory/environmental constraints to protect aquatic species and lack of investment in conveyance and storage infrastructure at a state level represent some of the challenges facing our statewide water system. Bob Hill, El Toro Water District (ETWD) General Manager, said "while local agencies have been investing heavily over the past decade in programs such as water recycling, water use efficiency and regional storage projects, investments in our statewide system have not kept pace". ***However, Governor Schwarzenegger and other legislators are beginning to recognize that our economy, our environment and our way of life depend upon continued investment and balanced management of our statewide water system.*** Hill states that "ETWD and other south county water agencies will be working with the Association of California Water Agencies, MWD, the Governor and legislators to ensure that solutions to the statewide system challenges are comprehensive and equitably beneficial to all of California." **Stay tuned as we will keep you informed and educated on statewide water system discussions.**

One of the most economical on-going solutions to ensuring that we have an adequate supply of water for the near and far term, is the efficient use of every drop of water we deliver to the customer. In August, MWD launched "It's Time to Get Serious" water conservation campaign. El Toro, in partnership with MWD, is requesting residential and business customers to use water wisely. Today

...Continued on Page 2

inthisissue

- ◆ "It's Time to Get Serious"- Tomorrow's Water Supply & Today's Water Conservation
- ◆ ETWD Successfully Completes LAFCO Process
- ◆ Weekly Watering Schedule
- ◆ Updating Information to Serve You Better
- ◆ Smartimer Rebate Program
- ◆ High Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program
- ◆ ETWD Speaker's Bureau

the request is voluntary but another dry winter may cause MWDSC to reduce deliveries that will impact each and every one of us. The record dry weather on the Colorado River (driest 8-year periods since 1910) and the eastern Sierras has caused MWDSC to draw upon reserves to meet higher than normal 2007 water demands. Every drop saved today, leaves more in reserve for tomorrow. Remember conserving water also conserves energy by reducing the amount of water that must be conveyed hundreds of miles to reach southern California. **You can do your part to conserve our most precious resource by following these simple water saving tips:**

- ◆ Run only full loads in the clothes washer and dishwasher
- ◆ Replace older, inefficient clothes washers
- ◆ Don't leave water running when rinsing dishes
- ◆ Turn off water when brushing teeth
- ◆ Shorten showers
- ◆ Fix leaky toilets and faucets
- ◆ Replace older, high volume flushing toilets
- ◆ Water before 6 a.m. or after 8 p.m.
- ◆ Don't overwater!
- ◆ Reset irrigation controllers and replace batteries
- ◆ Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and runoff
- ◆ Repair leaks and broken sprinkler heads
- ◆ Add 2" to 3" of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation
- ◆ Install water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees shrubs and flowers
- ◆ Upgrade to a "Smartimer" irrigation controller that automatically adjusts watering times
- ◆ Renovate landscape with beautiful native and California Friendly plants. Plant in the fall
- ◆ Use a broom instead of hose to clean driveways and sidewalks
- ◆ Don't leave the hose running while washing your car- use a bucket and positive shut-off nozzle

For additional water conservation and rebate information, see page 3 of the newsletter and visit:

www.bewaterwise.com

www.h2ouse.org

www.mwdoc.com/wue

Do at least one thing a day to save water, even if the savings are small...every DROP counts!◆

El Toro Water District Successfully Completes LAFCO Process

The District successfully completed the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) update for the El Toro Water District. The process took approximately six months and involved (1) educating LAFCO staff about the role ETWD plays locally and regionally to ensure adequate, reliable and efficient services to the communities that we serve and, (2) the preparation and submittal of multiple documents/reports covering the District's near and long term governance, organizational, financial, infrastructure, planning and communication status.

LAFCO is a regulatory agency with county-wide jurisdiction, established by state law to encourage the orderly and efficient provision of services such as water, sewer and fire protection. A MSR is a study conducted by LAFCO to analyze the service levels and needs of all local agencies and cities under LAFCO's purview. A sphere of influence is a planning tool adopted and used by LAFCO to designate probable future boundary and service areas for a city or special district.

The LAFCO Commission conducted a public hearing to review a LAFCO staff generated ETWD MSR/SOI report and to consider public input on same. The MSR assessed the District's ability to efficiently and reliably meet future water and sewer requirements within its service area. The final MSR/SOI report concluded that the District is satisfactorily positioned to meet the water and sewer demands of the Cities we serve today and into the future.

The independent determinations made by LAFCO acknowledge our commitment to efficient and responsive governance, administration, operations, planning, finance, and customer relations. We look forward to maintaining those high standards.◆

WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems

	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
September	4 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 2 cycles of 4 minutes
October	3 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
November	2 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	1 day 2 cycles of 4 minutes

Updating Information to Serve You Better

In case of an emergency, El Toro Water District may need to contact you. To do so, we need the correct phone numbers on file. For example, your neighbor may call the District to report a broken meter or a gushing service line break at your address. With accurate phone numbers on file, a District Representative can attempt to contact you to assist you in resolving the matter quickly.

To ensure the District has your correct phone numbers, please fill out the Change of Record below and send with your payment or call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660. Thank you for your assistance.

ETWD Customer Change of Record

Account No. _____
 Customer Name _____
 Service Address _____
 Home Phone _____
 Cellular Phone _____
 Work Phone _____
 E-mail Address _____



LIMITED TIME OFFER

Homeowners can get up to a \$540 rebate when you upgrade your outdoor sprinkler system with a qualifying "smart" controller.

For more information, including a program description, your potential rebate amount, restrictions and eligibility requirements, or to download an application, please go to www.mwdoc.com/SmarTimer/. You may also call 1-866-846-3725.

High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate Program

Orange County residents can receive a **\$150 rebate** for replacing a pre-1994 toilet with a new high efficiency toilet. HET's can save 150 gallons per week.



High Efficiency Clothes Washer (HECW) Rebate Program

Orange County residents can receive a **\$100 rebate** for purchasing a high efficiency clothes washer. HECW's use 50% less water.



For a list of all rebates, eligible toilets & clothes washers, rebate applications, and program guidelines, please visit www.mwdoc.com/wue or call 800-954-4344. ♦

Water Education Corner



ETWD Speaker's Bureau

We're Reaching Out

The ETWD Speaker's Bureau welcomes invitations for speaking engagements to local civic and community organizations, technical associations, educational institutions, and Homeowner's Associations located within El Toro Water District's service area.

Topics include but are not limited to Water Supply, Water Quality, Water Conservation, Wastewater Treatment, Emergency Preparedness, and Capital Projects.

To arrange for a speaker, please call Sherri Seitz at (949) 837-7050, x239 or e-mail sseitz@etwd.com. Please provide the following information:

- ◆ Name of the organization
- ◆ Date, time, and location, date of the event
- ◆ Topic or area of interest
- ◆ Audience size and desired presentation length

Speaking engagements will be filled per staff availability.◆



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 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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