



# California Drought Emergency

## El Toro Water District

Serving the Public, Respecting the Environment  
"District of Distinction"

# DROUGHTUPDATE

**The drought continues to significantly impact Orange County. At El Toro Water District (ETWD),** our approach to managing the drought has been to openly communicate and work collaboratively with our customers to meet state-imposed water conservation goals.

In mid-2016, the State of California made significant changes to how Water Districts, like ETWD must operate to monitor and report water usage, and ensure water-use efficiency for the District's service area.

We outline those changes and requirements in this Drought Update.

*ETWD customers  
responded well.  
The drought persists.  
Keep up the  
good work.*



## The Drought Continues.

Southern California is in the 5th year of a major drought. The drought shows no promising signs of easing. Although we gained some relief from weather conditions earlier this year, the fact is that El Nino was extremely mild. Northern California received the majority of the relief with a respectable rainfall and snowfall in the Sierras.



## Passing Along Some Relief.

Because our customers have responded so well by conserving water over the past year, the state has relaxed their mandated conservation measures on ETWD. According to Bob Hill, General Manager, ETWD, "Because we have received relief from the State, our customers deserve relief." This relief comes in the form of suspended drought penalties and outdoor water-use reduction requirements.

## Call to Remain Vigilant.



Being smart about water-use and water conservation is now a way of life in Southern California. We all must adjust how we think about and use water. The new reality requires us to rethink 'water efficiency' and how we can stretch each gallon of water. We're confident that our customers will continue their noble efforts and actions to save water.

## WATER SAVING TIPS



Capture water  
for plants



Scrape dirty  
dishes



Take shorter  
showers



Use a broom,  
not a hose

## CONSERVATION PROHIBITIONS

The following ETWD Permanent Mandatory Conservation Measures (prohibitions) have been permanently adopted by the State of California:

- Hosing off sidewalks, driveways and other hardscapes
- Washing automobiles with hoses not equipped with a shut-off nozzle
- Using non-recirculated water in a fountain or other decorative water feature
- Watering lawns in a manner that causes runoff
- Watering within 48 hours after measurable precipitation
- Irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians

## How ETWD is easing the pressure:

ETWD has eased some of the pressure on customers. Although ETWD's board wants to avoid giving public the perception that the drought is not as serious as it was last year, they feel that our customers deserve relief since the District received some relief from the State. Effective, August 1, 2016, some of the changes include:

- Adjusting the overall water-use reduction goal to 10%, down from 24%, compared to water use in 2013/14
- Increasing the Water Budget Based Tiered Conservation Rate Structure outdoor Drought Factor from 50% to 75%
- Suspended the \$2/billing unit Administrative Drought Penalty.

## OUTDOOR WATERING DAY SCHEDULE

On April 1st, your assigned watering days change to no more than three (3) days per week. Please see the assigned days below for your city:

### April 1 - October 31 Maximum 3 Days Per Week

ALISO VIEJO	MONDAYS	THURSDAYS	SAT OR SUN
LAGUNA HILLS	TUESDAYS	FRIDAYS	SAT OR SUN
LAGUNA WOODS	TUESDAYS	FRIDAYS	SAT OR SUN
LAKE FOREST	TUESDAYS	FRIDAYS	SAT OR SUN
MISSION VIEJO	MONDAYS	THURSDAYS	SAT OR SUN

### November 1 - March 31

All cities: Maximum 1 Day Per Week (Your Choice)

Level 1 Water Alert – ETWD continues to be in a Level 1 Water Alert. Watering lawns, landscapes and all other vegetated areas between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Exemptions are listed in the Water Conservation & Water Supply Shortage Ordinance 2015-3.

