



Water Views

December 2014

"A District of Distinction"
Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refrain

The warm California weather and blue skies are one of the reasons most people live in the state, but sometimes there can be too much of a good thing. The drought is worsening and being water efficient is no longer enough. Everyone in the state must reduce their water use, reuse water whenever possible, recycle as much as possible, and refrain from any unnecessary or frivolous use.

To date, the District has only reached four percent of the 20 percent water use reduction requirement mandated by the state.

"The District is encouraged by and appreciates every customer's effort to do their part during the drought," said ETWD General Manager Bob Hill. "Large scale toilet retrofit projects like the one Laguna Woods Village United Mutual HOA is pursuing will save over 13 million gallons of water per year." "Implementation of ETWD's ongoing Recycled Water Expansion Project will reduce potable water consumption by about 10%. It's disheartening to express that this level of savings is not enough. Drought conditions are not improving and we must simply do more to reduce the use of water."



The likelihood of water allocations (rationing) and financial penalties may be a reality the public will face as early as the beginning of 2015.

"Every gallon saved today postpones the need for more drastic, difficult, and expensive action should the drought continue into next year," said Felicia Marcus, Chair of the State Water Resources Control Board. One of the largest concerns and contributing factors to the drought is the California blue sky. There is no rain. "While we can hope for rain, we can't count on it, so we must keep going," said Marcus.

"We cannot stress enough the need for everyone to think of ways to reduce their water usage," said Mike Grandy, ETWD's Assistant General Manager. "Voluntary cut backs are not producing the desired result. Our current drought situation requires more savings whenever and wherever possible."

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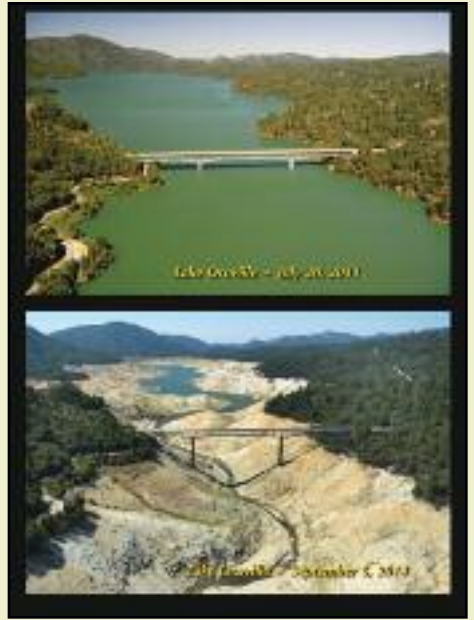
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Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Refrain (Continued from Page1)

Currently ETWD is in a Level 1 Water Supply Shortage. If water allocations (rationing) is imposed on the District by it's water wholesaler, ETWD will utilize its Water Conservation and Water Supply Shortage Ordinance Drought Factor (DF) to impose a penalty surcharge on customers exceeding reduced indoor and/or outdoor water budgets. The DF works by shrinking the customer's current water budget and would force them into a higher tier if water is not reduced further. Currently the indoor and outdoor DF is set at 100% of a customer's calculated indoor and outdoor efficient water budget.

If a customer working within their current budget is unable to further conserve water after the DF is adjusted they would pay a Drought Surcharge. The following example compares a customer's bill that is allocated 15 ccf's (billing units) under a 100% DF to an adjusted DF where they do not reduce their usage.



**Lake Oroville Comparison
July 2011 and September 2014**
Photo Credit: CA Department of Water Resources

Tier	Rate	Drought Factor: Indoor - 100% Outdoor 100%			Drought Factor: Indoor - 80% Outdoor 50%		
		Budget	Actual	Total	Budget	Actual	Total
Tier I - Indoor Efficient	\$2.34	9 ccf	9 ccf	\$21.06	8 ccf	8 ccf	\$18.72
Tier II - Outdoor Efficient	\$2.68	6 ccf	6 ccf	\$16.08	3 ccf	3 ccf	\$8.04
Tier III - Inefficient	\$5.04		0	\$0.00		4 ccf	\$20.16
Tier IV - Excessive	\$7.04		0	\$0.00		0	\$0.00
TOTAL			15	\$37.14		15	\$46.92

\$46.92 (Adjusted DF billing) minus \$37.14 (100% DF Billing) = \$9.78 (Drought Surcharge)

For additional information on the drought or future water allocations, customers can visit the ETWD website at www.etwd.com or call 949-837-0660.

Board President leaves a legacy of laughter and life well lived



Ted F. Martin (1919 – 2014) served the El Toro Water District (ETWD) for 22 years and as board president for the last 15 years. “President Martin's passing leaves a void without his presence, but, all who knew him think of a man who loved to laugh and enjoyed a full, healthy and happy life, “said ETWD General Manager Bob Hill. “He was highly regarded and respected by our staff and his peers. Ted thoughtfully and passionately represented the interests of the District and he could not have been more proud of the District's accomplishments and standing within the water industry. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones.” President Martin provided unwavering leadership and dedication to El Toro Water District, the water industry and community he served and will be greatly missed.

Rebate Programs

To reduce potable water use, ETWD residents can save water and money. Upgrade to water use efficient devices and take advantage of available rebates for residents, businesses, and other commercial customers. Rebates take approximately 6 – 12 weeks to process. ETWD encourages you to apply, as funding is *limited*.



ETWD residents can receive rebates on eligible devices up to:

- **High efficiency toilets - \$150**
- **High efficiency washing machines - \$185**
- **Smart irrigation timers - \$380**
- **Rotating sprinkler nozzles - \$5**
- **Soil Moisture Sensors - \$380**
- **Rain barrels - \$75**
- **Turf removal - \$2 sq/ft** (Designated recycled water sites within the ETWD service area are not eligible for turf removal rebates.)

For current residential and commercial rebate information, please visit www.ocwatersmart.com.

The Power of Swales

The website OverWateringIsOut.org has posted a series of videos by the State Waterboard showing just how easy it is for residents to step up and be environmental stewards. This following video link is all about the incredible impact that the addition of a swale or a rain garden can have in reducing runoff and putting the rainwater that falls on your home and garden to good use.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCWY4qw0iWzWUe_pmRgU7fhQ



At its simplest, a rain garden is a low point in your yard with good drainage where you want to direct water and let it infiltrate into the soil. By planting the right mix of plants, you can create an attractive addition to your garden that absorbs water, filters pollutants, and slows overwatering.

When we were looking for potential overwatering zones, they are also good candidates for rain gardens because the landscape naturally pools there. The key difference, of course, being that an overwatering zone is saturated because you're using your sprinklers too much while a rain garden is retaining rain water instead of redirecting it into the stormwater system.

So, to keep it simple, the next time it rains try to do the following 3 things:

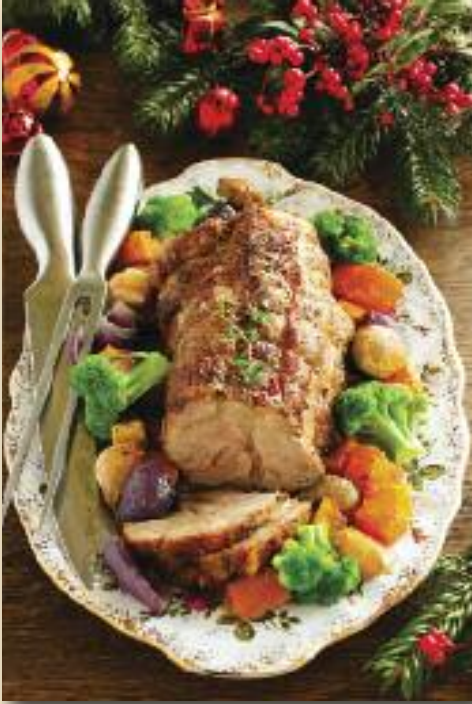
1. Identify the high point on your landscape. This is where the water will originate from.
2. Identify the low point on your landscape. This is where the water will collect and is an ideal spot for a rain garden.
3. Think how the water will get from the high point to the low point. If it has to travel far, consider adding a swale.

For more tips, please visit the Overwatering Is Out website at www.overwateringisout.org.

Holiday Meals

Help keep fats, oils and grease out of the sewer system

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) poured down the drain are the leading cause of sewage blockages and spills. FOG need to be handled carefully all year round, but especially during the holidays. Many families will cook special meals to share with family and friends. But the larger quantity of grease created by cooking a turkey, ham or roast can result in problems within your home's sewage pipes or within your neighborhood if not disposed of properly.



Your help is needed! Please properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease by following these simple instructions:

- Never pour fats, oils, and grease down the sink or garbage disposal.
- Pour cooking grease into a can. Refrigerate or freeze until solid and dispose in the trash.
- Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans, and dishes with a paper towel and dispose of it in the trash.
- Mix oils and grease with other absorbent material like paper towels, kitty litter, or coffee grounds and dispose of it in the trash.

These simple steps will help keep excess holiday cooking grease out of the pipes and help prevent sewage blockages and spills.

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EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

The mission of the El Toro Water District is to plan and invest appropriately to provide its customers a safe, reliable supply of water and wastewater and recycled water services 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 and is prepared by District staff. If you have any comments or suggestions, please mail them to:

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