



Water Views

November 2008

"A District of Distinction"

Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment

California's Drought Fact Sheet

Back-to-back dry years and low reservoir levels have put California squarely in a statewide drought. State water officials say key reservoirs such as Lake Oroville will dip to record low levels later this fall. Mandatory water rationing is in place in certain urban areas, and growers in some of California's most productive agricultural regions are seeing dramatic cuts in water deliveries.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger declared an official drought June 4. He also declared a local drought emergency in nine Central Valley counties due to water shortages.

Runoff Projections

After a bountiful January and February, precipitation came to a virtual stop in March through June, qualifying the four-month period as the driest on record. 2008 saw the sixth driest April-May-June in 114 years of record keeping.

The Department of Water Resources says runoff will be low enough to designate 2008 as critically dry on both the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems.

Reservoir Storage

Storage in key statewide reservoirs continued to drop throughout the summer. Lake Oroville, the state's largest reservoir and the mainstay of the State Water Project, is at 45% of average for this time of year. The lake is expected to drop to record low by the end of fall. San Luis Reservoir, located south of the Delta, is at 40% of average.

Total reservoir storage in the Colorado River system remains at roughly half of capacity, reflecting the preceding eight-year drought period.

Court Rulings

Making matters even worse, a federal judge has restricted pumping in the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta to protect a threatened fish species, the Delta Smelt. The restrictions are reducing water deliveries as much as 30% this year to 25 million Californians.



Southern California relies on a diversified portfolio of water supply programs.

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Bob Hill, ETWD's General Manager, says *"there is no doubt that California and Orange County water users are facing extremely tight water supplies in the coming months and throughout 2009. All water users must work together to make sure that supplies last as long as possible."*

Hill further states that *"a likely response to the water supply challenges is mandatory water rationing by Southern California's wholesale water provider."* Mandatory rationing along with financial penalties for retailers exceeding their allocation of water will ultimately trickle down to the end user. A water shortage declaration and mandatory water rationing could take place during the first or second quarter of 2009.

ETWD Water Shortage Contingency Plan - Ordinance 2007-1

ETWD is in the process of updating its adopted Water Supply Shortage Contingency Plan (Plan). The Plan:

- would be implemented in response to a threatened and/or existing water shortage condition,
- establishes usage reductions and specific indoor/outdoor water use prohibitions
- establishes a base water usage period from which to apply target usage reductions
- establishes monetary penalties, public noticing requirements and a customer appeals process

Significant customer outreach and education regarding potential rationing and amendments to the District's Ordinance will continue via face-to-face meetings, newsletters, bill inserts and media articles. In the meantime, Mike King, ETWD's Water Conservation Coordinator, states *"It is imperative that we continue to use water efficiently. Every drop saved today leaves more in reserve for tomorrow."*

We urge you to do your part: Outdoors

1. Adjust sprinklers and irrigation systems to avoid over spray, runoff and waste;
2. Avoid watering lawns in the hot part of the day – between 8:00am and 5:00pm;
3. Install new California Friendly and native plant landscaping, and efficient irrigation systems;
4. Shut off decorative fountains, unless a water recycling system is used;
5. Do not hose down driveways, sidewalks and other paved surfaces;
6. Use organic mulch around plants to reduce evaporation; and
7. Check outdoor plumbing for leaks and repair them immediately



Indoors

1. Retrofit indoor plumbing fixtures with low-flow devices (**Rebates available**);
2. Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes;
3. Turn off the water when brushing your teeth and shaving;
4. Shorten your showers by one or two minutes; and
5. Check faucets, toilets and pipes for leaks and repair them immediately.



**Take advantage of conservation rebate programs
(Refer to our Conservation Corner, www.bewaterwise.com and www.etwd.com)** ♦

WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems		
	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
December	2 days 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
January	2 days 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
February	2 days 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes

Smartimer Rebate Program



**Smartimer rebate level:
\$60 per valve zone.
Average rebate = \$540.**

Did you know that you can **save an average of 40 gallons of water per day** by installing a Smartimer? When you use less water, you're not only doing your

part to conserve scarce water resources, but you're also reducing your water bill.

For more information, please visit www.mwdoc.com/OCrebates or call **1-888-376-3314**.

SoCal Water\$mart Rotating Nozzle Rebate Program

SoCal Water\$mart recommends installing rotating nozzles for your landscape's irrigation system. The rotating nozzles can eliminate wasteful runoff by allowing for directed, uniform water distribution on your landscape.

Rotating nozzles use multi-trajectory, rotating streams of water that water more slowly and uniformly. **Rotating nozzles can properly direct water flow and use 20% less water than conventional spray heads.**

All residential and commercial rotating nozzle customers within the El Toro Water District are now eligible to receive up to \$9.00 per rotating nozzle and up to \$18.00 per large rotating nozzle for the Rotating Nozzle Rebate Program.

The El Toro Water District (ETWD) is able to offer these funds as a result of a Department of Water Resources (DWR) grant and because ETWD received approval from the DWR for the Urban Water Management Plan.



**Rotating Nozzle
Rebate level:
\$9 - \$18 per nozzle.**

For more information on rebates, please visit www.mwdoc.com/OCrebates or call **1-888-376-3314**.

Water Education Corner



ATTENTION KIDS

Try to do one thing each day to save water!

The water we use today is the same water the dinosaurs used millions of years ago, it is continually recycled through the water cycle. We use water everyday in our own lives and everything from growing food to making jeans to producing electricity. Water is scarce and precious and we need to conserve every drop. Each day try one of the following:

- ◆ Turn off the water when brushing your teeth or washing your hands.
- ◆ Turn off the water when washing dishes by hand.
- ◆ Take a 5 minute or less shower.
- ◆ To take a bath, only fill the tub 1/4 full.
- ◆ Only run the dishwasher when it is full.
- ◆ Report leaks in the house to your parents.
- ◆ Share tips on water conservation with your family, friends and neighbors.

Become an O.C. Water Hero and save water by logging onto www.ocwaterhero.com to join.◆



ACTIVITY FOR KIDS

MAKE MULCH FOR YOUR PLANTS

Combine pine needles, fallen leaves, shredded bark and straw.

Put mulch around the soil

1 - 2 inches from the base of the plants.
This will keep the moisture in the soil and the need to water will be less.

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



EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

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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 and is prepared by District staff.

Your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or visit our website at www.etwd.com.

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