



Water Views

March 2012

"A District of Distinction"

Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment

Enhanced Rebates and Smartimer Giveaway



New Programs to Help ETWD Customers Use Water Efficiently

Using water efficiently is a way of life in Southern California. For a limited time, El Toro Water District has two new programs to assist residential homeowners and commercial business owners in reducing the daily amount of water used. ETWD is now offering enhanced rebates on select water-saving devices and is participating in the South County **Free** Smartimer Giveaway Program. These water efficient products can help customers save water and reduce your water bills. Now is the time to take advantage of these rebates being offered.

Enhanced Rebates

For a limited time, ETWD has increased rebate levels. Residents can receive a rebate of **\$185 for the purchase of a high efficiency clothes washer** and a rebate of **\$4 per nozzle for rotating sprinkler nozzles**. These water-saving devices can help you reduce your water bill and protect the environment. A high efficiency clothes washer can save up to 24 gallons per day and the rotating nozzles can save up to 3.6 gallons per nozzle, per day.

For a list of qualifying products, rebate process information, and a rebate application for residential customers, please visit www.socalwatersmart.com or call 888-376-3314.

ETWD commercial customers can also upgrade to water efficient technology and receive rebates. Commercial customers include businesses and the common areas of HOAs and multi-family properties. Commercial customers can receive a rebate of **\$100 for the purchase of a high efficiency toilet**, **\$250 for an ultra-low water or zero water urinals**, and/or **\$4 for rotating sprinkler nozzles**.

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For a list of qualifying products, rebate process information, and a rebate application for commercial customers, please visit mwdsaveabuck.com or call 888-728-2282. Additional rebates are also available on the website.

Act now to get your enhanced rebate! This program runs through June of 2012, or while funding lasts.

Free Smartimer Giveaway Program

For a limited time, selected smartimers (weather based irrigation controllers) and the cost of installation are **FREE** to **South Orange County residents and small commercial businesses** who qualify for the program. The smartimers are available through a pre-qualified installer or through a do-it-yourself workshop. This program is for irrigation systems that have 16 valves or less. All irrigation systems must be functional to qualify for the program.

Program details and a list of pre-qualified installers are available at www.mwdoc.com/smart-irrigation. Details of a local do-it-yourself workshop will follow at a later date.

Note: For those customers that do not qualify for the Smartimer Giveaway program, you can go through the on-going rebate program that can be found at www.socalwatersmart.com.

We encourage our customers to use water wisely! If you have any questions, you may contact our Customer Service Department at 949-837-0660.



Safety and Insurance Refund

El Toro Water District recently accepted a refund check from the District’s insurance provider, the Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA). The refund represents a partial return of the prior years’ insurance premiums due to the District’s successful efforts to control and reduce property, liability and worker’s compensation losses. ETWD continues its on-going

commitment to safety, efficiency and cost control by utilizing training resources provided by the ACWA/JPIA in the areas of employee safety, employment practices, infrastructure management and risk transfer.



From left: Dennis Cafferty, Director of Operations, Loretta Banks, Human Resources Manager, Peter Kuchinsky II, JPIA Risk Management Manager and Renzo Marin, Technical Regulatory Analyst/Collections Systems Manager

ETWD’s Board of Directors supports management and staff in development and implementation of policies and procedures to protect District’s assets and to safeguard the public, as well as District employees from injury. These efforts not only reduce injury and damage claims, they improve operating efficiencies and reduce costs for the District’s ratepayers. “I am very pleased with the District’s ongoing commitment to effective risk and loss management programs and proud of our employees’ dedication

to continued safety and operating efficiency,” says Bob Hill, General Manager of El Toro Water District.

The District is one of over 300 agencies participating in ACWA/JPIA to help pool resources and reduce insurance rates. “The pool of members have achieved a level of success unmatched in the industry” reports Peter Kuchinsky II, JPIA’s Risk Management Manager,. “It is the combined efforts of the entire membership that make these refunds possible.”

Turf Removal Rebate Program

Through the Turf Removal Program, residential and small commercial customers of El Toro Water District are eligible to receive an incentive of \$1.00 per square foot of turf removed for qualifying projects.

The goals of this program are to increase water use efficiency within Orange County, reduce runoff leaving the properties, and evaluate the effectiveness of water-saving practices.

Application Period: Prior to May 25, 2012 (or until funding runs out)

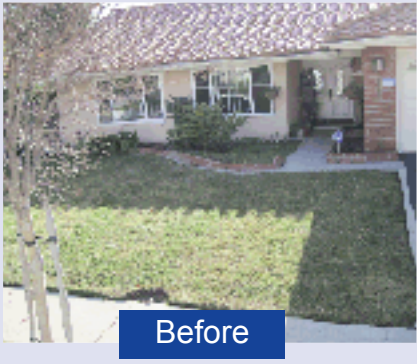
Incentive: \$1 per square foot of turf removed.

- 250 – 10,000 square feet of turf may be removed and replaced with California Friendly/native plants and other permeable materials.
- Before and after site inspections and measurements are required.
- Soil must be covered with mulch or creeping ground cover.
- No invasive species may be used.

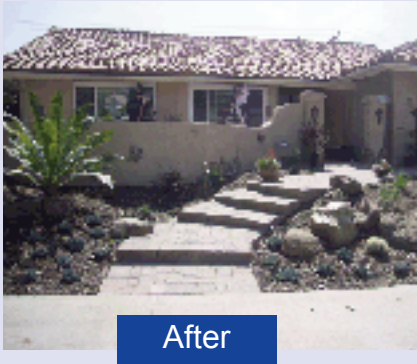
Eligibility: El Toro Water District residents, HOAs and small businesses of select retail water providers.

We encourage you to **apply now**, as funding is limited. For more information or to apply, please visit www.mwdoc.com/services/turf-removal.

This Program is sponsored by the Municipal Water District of Orange County, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the California Department of Water Resources, the United States Bureau of Reclamation, and El Toro Water District.



Before



After

California-Friendly Plant of the Month

Iris ‘Canyon Snow’

One of the loveliest and the most dependable of the Pacific Coast Hybrid Irises. This variety has pure white flowers that are highlighted by a yellow patch at the base. This iris, with its bright shiny green foliage, slowly spreads to form clumps up to 3 ft. across.

It performs well by tolerating drought in Southern California, accepting summer water, likes loamy clay soil and does well in containers. The canyon snow iris likes partial shade to sun exposure and requires little maintenance once established.

It is a wonderful addition to any perennial border, a meadow garden, for high shade under native oaks or other trees, or paired with roses as a ground cover.

Source: Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano



Iris ‘Canyon Snow’

Season:	Spring
Size:	1-2 ft. high, 2-3 ft. wide
Color:	Shiny green foliage with pure white flowers and yellow nectar guides
Water:	2 times/month summer
Sun:	Partial shade to sun

Ocean-Friendly Gardens

What does a garden and hard surfaces like driveways have to do with the ocean?

Urban runoff from them is often the primary source of ocean pollution, and it can contribute to flooding. But where do the pollutants come from?

- pesticides, herbicides, synthetic fertilizers and sediment (soil)
- oil, engine exhaust and brake pad dust
- dog waste...etc.

Pollutants can run off the property during rain storms and during dry periods, with sprinklers overwatering and overshooting the landscape. The use of gas-powered equipment to mow lawns, prune and haul away over-planted and improperly spaced vegetation generates air pollutants, eventually settling onto roofs and streets and gets washed into waterways. Every 8 months, 10.9 million gallons of oil runs off streets and driveways and into our nation’s waters - equivalent to the amount lost in the Exxon Valdez spill.

Gardens can be beautiful, resourceful, wildlife-friendly and prevent runoff. Vegetable and fruit gardens can do this, too. Here’s how: The **Ocean Friendly Gardens**™ (OFG) Program educates and assists people in “applying CPR - Conservation, Permeability and Retention - to their gardens to revive their watersheds and oceans.”

Conservation of water, energy and habitat through native plants, spaced for mature growth.

Permeability through healthy, biologically active soil, and utilizing materials for - or making a cut in - driveways, walkways and patios that allow water to percolate into the soil.

Retention devices like rain chains, rain barrels and rain gardens retain water in the soil for the dry seasons or save it to water veggies, preventing it from running off the property.

Information provided by the Surfrider Foundation. Interested in learning more about how to improve your landscape and protect our water resources? Check out the Surfrider Foundation’s *Ocean Friendly Gardens* Program, www.surfrider.org/programs/entry/ocean-friendly-gardens.

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



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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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