



Water Views

July 2012

"A District of Distinction"

Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment

RECYCLED WATER EXPANSION PROJECT

In the coming months El Toro Water District will begin a comprehensive, multi-phase Recycled Water Expansion Project that will enhance local water supplies and reliability, reduce dependence on imported water and expand recycled water deliveries to meet future customer demand.

The first phase of the Recycled Water Expansion Project includes two components. The first component is the construction of approximately 100,000 feet or 19 miles of recycled water pipeline beneath the roadways in Laguna Woods and the northwest portion of Laguna Hills. Simultaneously, the District will expand its existing Water Recycling Plant to allow for the delivery up to 1,675 acre feet per year of recycled water. One acre foot of water is equivalent to water for two families of four for a year.



Like most water districts in south Orange County, ETWD relies on imported water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Bay Delta and the Colorado River to meet 95% of its customer demand. The remaining 5% comes from recycled water from the current Water Recycling Plant. By expanding the capacity of the Water Recycling Plant, ETWD will initially increase recycled water usage to about 20% of total water demand which significantly reduces dependence on imported water and enhances overall supply reliability.

"This project represents an exciting undertaking for the District which will allow us to further diversify the District's portfolio of high quality water resources," shares Bob Hill, General Manager for El Toro Water District. "As a District we have a long history of innovation, strategic planning and prudent investments, and this project illustrates our continuing commitment to our customers and the environment."

The District will utilize a variety of innovative funding sources to pay for the project, including a state grant, low interest state revolving loan fund, Metropolitan Water District rebate program and

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District's restricted reserves. The project will infuse more than \$34 million into the local economy and create an estimated 600 jobs.

In addition to the economic benefits, the project will also support the environment by reserving drinking water resources for use inside homes and businesses, and provide environmentally responsible recycled water for outdoor use. The expanded Water Recycling Plant will produce a higher quality of treated water, diminish the amount of treated water discharged into the ocean and will help to reduce the greenhouse gases that results from pumping imported water into the region.

The Recycled Water Expansion Project is one of the largest infrastructure improvements in the history of the District. Starting with the September issue of *Water Views*, the District will launch a comprehensive outreach plan to share project information with our customers. Stay tuned – there's more information to come!

Save Water and Money

ETWD is committed to helping all of our customers use water efficiently. Residential homeowners and commercial business owners can save water and reduce their water consumption by installing qualifying water efficient products. In addition to the rebates offered through the regional rebate program, ETWD is continuing to offer additional rebates on select water-saving devices. The total rebate is listed below. The rebate program is effective July 1, 2012. **We encourage you to apply, as funding is limited.**

Residential Rebates

- \$185 High efficiency clothes washer**
- \$75 High efficiency toilet (New to program)**
- \$5 Rotating sprinkler nozzles**

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.

Commercial Rebates

Commercial customers include businesses and the common areas of HOAs and multi-family properties.

- \$125 High efficiency flushometer toilet**
- \$250 Zero and Ultra-low water urinals**
- \$5 Rotating sprinkler nozzles**

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. If you have any questions, you may contact our Customer Service Department at 949-837-0660.



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 for 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.

Eligibility: El Toro Water District residents, HOAs and small businesses.

- 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.

We encourage you to apply, as funding is limited. For more information and rebate amount, 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.

California-Friendly Plant of the Month

Asclepias fascicularis Milkweed

A beautiful caterpillar and monarch butterfly habitat

The native Milkweed is a specific Monarch butterfly food and habitat plant. The plant provides larval food for the Monarch butterfly and the monarch caterpillars cover the plant during the summer. It is a flowering perennial with long stems, narrow leaves and clusters of lavender tinted, greenish-white flowers.

It performs well by tolerating drought in Southern California, accepting summer water, and tolerates clay soil. The Milkweed likes the sun the best and requires little maintenance once established. The Milkweed would make a wonderful addition to any native plant garden.

Source: Tree of Life Nursery, San Juan Capistrano



Milkweed

Season:	Summer
Size:	3-4 ft. high, 3-4 ft. wide
Color:	Green foliage with lavender tinted, greenish-white flowers
Water:	2 times/month summer
Sun:	Partial shade to full sun

2012 Water Quality Report

Since 1990, California public water agencies have been providing an annual Water Quality Report to their customers. This year's report was mailed out in June 2012 and covers calendar year 2011 drinking water testing and reporting. *El Toro Water District vigilantly safeguards its water supply and the water delivered to your home or business meets the water quality standards required by federal and state regulatory agencies.* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) are the agencies responsible for establishing and enforcing drinking water quality standards. ETWD's staff continuously monitors the water supply, conducting approximately 12,000 water quality tests each year from 70 representative sample locations throughout the District. We are proud to have a state-of-the-art Water Quality Laboratory that is state certified. ETWD is committed to delivering safe drinking water to your home or business.



The report is intended to provide you with information about what you need to know about your water and how it may affect you. For more information about this report, or your water quality in general, please contact Mike King, Customer Service Manager, at (949) 837-7050, Ext. 203. As always, you may also contact our Customer Service Office at (949) 837-0660.

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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