



WaterViews

December 2013

"A District of Distinction"

Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment

ETWD Customers Save \$ 900,000

Annual Standby Fee Discontinued

For the past 18 years, ETWD has been collecting (on the County tax rolls) an annual \$35 Standby Fee from each household in the district to pay for a \$15 million reconstruction of the secondary sewer treatment process at the Water Recycling Plant.

The funds collected through the Standby Fee (which total \$900,000 annually) enabled the District to completely reconstruct the 30 year-old wastewater treatment facilities in the mid-1990s.



Construction of the new aeration basins



New state of the art aeration blowers

The District is pleased to report that sufficient funds have now been collected to pay-off the zero interest state loan that funded the project, and the Standby Fee will be discontinued.

In 1996 the District promised that the Standby Fee would be eliminated when sufficient funds had been collected, and here we are. On your most recent property tax bill from the County of Orange, you will no longer see the annual ETWD Standby Fee.

ETWD is committed to operating in an open and transparent way with regards to all administrative, operational and financial matters. We respect the trust that our ratepayers have in our ability to provide a safe, adequate and reliable supply of water, wastewater and recycled water services in an environmentally

and economically responsible way.

For more information about the District's commitment to transparency, please visit www.etwd.com.

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Disaster Preparedness

El Toro Water District has enhanced its water reliability and disaster preparedness with a new mobile drinking water trailer. The District is one of eleven local water providers that received a potable drinking water trailer through a grant from U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

This innovative program, coordinated in partnership with the Water Emergency Response Organization of Orange County and the Municipal Water District of Orange County, will bring a total of thirteen trailers to the region.

While ETWD works diligently to plan for continued water supply reliability under various scenarios, the possibility still exists that natural or human-caused disasters could cause interruptions in water deliveries. During a major disaster, it can take several days for outside resources to be coordinated and delivered.

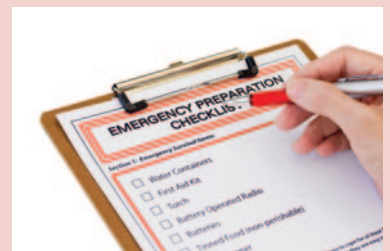


The District's potable water trailer holds 2,000 gallons of water, which provides one day of the minimum recommended emergency supply of drinking water for 2,000 residents. In an emergency the trailer would be filled with treated water from reservoirs and then delivered to various public locations for water distribution. Residents would be able to bring clean one gallon containers to fill with drinking water. Clean food grade, water or soda bottles are recommended. Milk

and juice containers are not acceptable water storage containers as the protein and fruit sugars cannot be adequately removed from these containers and provide an environment for bacterial growth when water is stored in them.

ETWD's potable water trailer was funded by an Urban Area Security Initiative Grant, through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The \$431,000 grant funded a total of thirteen potable water trailers. In addition to ETWD, trailers will be distributed to Irvine Ranch Water District (2 trailers), Laguna Beach County Water District, Moulton Niguel Water District, Santa Margarita Water District, South Coast Water District and the cities of Anaheim (2 trailers), Garden Grove, Huntington Beach, Orange and Tustin.

While ETWD works closely with local agencies to maintain emergency preparedness plans, it is very important for residents to be prepared as well. *All residents are encouraged to store a minimum of three days of disaster supplies.* These supplies include water for drinking, cooking and cleaning. Typical storage should include one gallon of water per person per day.



To learn about what you can do to be prepared in case of an emergency, visit the ReadyOC website at <http://www.readyoc.org/> and Alert OC, a mass notification system that alerts Orange County residents of emergencies via phone, email, or text message at <http://bos.ocgov.com/alertoc/alertoc.asp>.

Water Use Efficiency

Rebate Programs



The So Cal Water Smart program and ETWD provide rebates on select water-efficient devices to residents, businesses, and other commercial customers. A few of the rebates include high efficiency toilets, high efficiency washing machines, smart timers, and rotating nozzles. This program is effective through June 30, 2014 or until funding runs out. Rebates will take approximately 6 – 12 weeks to process. We encourage you to apply, as funding is *limited*.

Please visit www.socalwatersmart.com or call (888) 376-3314 for current information on program guidelines, lists of approved devices, rebate applications, and rebate program information. For Turf Removal rebates,

please visit www.mwdoc.com/services/turf-removal

Sidewalks Are For Walking, Not Watering

Broken, misdirected or “over-enthusiastic” sprinklers often spray sidewalks or the street instead of lawns. This not only wastes water and carries litter and pollutants into our waterways, but it is an annoying inconvenience for moms pushing strollers, dads walking dogs, grandparents out for a stroll or kids going to school.

The *Orange County Stormwater Program*, also known as *H₂OC* has developed a new website at www.overwateringisout.org in collaboration with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC), MWDOC member agencies and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) where residents can:

- Find landscape related events taking place throughout the County
- Sign up to receive monthly email tips on how to water smart; and
- Get tips from the blog with simple, easy to follow steps to a drier sidewalk and a healthier yard.

Here are some tips to get you started. In some cases, the over-watering problem can be fixed with a simple turn of a screw.

Simple Sprinkler Fixes:

- Turn the adjustment screw at the top of your sprinkler head to keep from spraying sidewalks, driveways or walls.
- Check for leaks and repair or replace any sprinklers that are leaking. The small amount of time and expense you spend in repairing your sprinklers can result in water savings over the long run.
- Check for any foliage or clogs around your sprinklers. Keep the area around the sprinkler heads trimmed near the ground to keep them functioning properly.



For more tips to water more efficiently, and to follow OC's spokesgnome on his adventure to keep water in the yard, visit 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's need to be handled carefully all year round, but especially during the holidays. 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.

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

The ETWD Board of Directors and Staff wish you and your family a very happy holiday season.

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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, adequate and reliable supply of water, 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:

Sherri Seitz, Editor
El Toro Water District
24251 Los Alisos Boulevard
Lake Forest, CA 92630

24 Hour Customer Service (949) 837-0660
Customer Service Email: district@etwd.com
Website: www.etwd.com