



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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El Toro Water District Enhances Water Reliability and Disaster Preparedness with a New Mobile Water Trailer

The District is one of eleven local water providers that received a potable water trailer through a grant from U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Lake Forest, CA – El Toro Water District (ETWD) has further enhanced its ability to provide clean and reliable drinking water, even in the event of an unplanned or natural disaster, with the acquisition of a new potable (drinking) water trailer. 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 public points for water distribution. Residents would be able to bring clean one gallon containers to fill with drinking water. Clean food grade or soda bottles are recommended. Milk and juice containers are not acceptable water storage containers. Milk 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 a robust emergency preparedness plan, 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/>. You may also consider signing up for Alert OC, a mass notification system that alerts Orange County residents of emergencies via phone, email, or text message. To learn more about Alert OC, please visit <http://bos.ocgov.com/alertoc/alertoc.asp>.

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The mission of the El Toro Water District is to provide its customers a safe, adequate and reliable supply of water and wastewater service in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

2000 GALLONS

DRINKING
WATER

