

# El Toro Water District

"Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment"

## WaterViews

### ETWD COULD LOSE \$1 MILLION IN PROPERTY TAX REVENUE

The State Budget agreed to by Governor Schwarzenegger and the California Legislature this past July resulted in a two-year take of local revenues, totaling \$2.6 billion. These revenues are being redirected from local agencies, including the ETWD.

ETWD could lose approximately \$1 million dollars over the next two years due to the state budget action. This is equal to 100% of our basic 1% property tax revenues. These funds coupled with other revenues are used to fund annual water and sewer operating expenses and on-going infrastructure replacement and restoration costs.

The local revenues earmarked for the shift originate from the basic property tax that Orange County property owners pay each year. These tax revenues are allocated according to a complex formula among local governments. In 1978, Proposition 13 set the maximum basic tax rate at 1% of assessed property value per year. Thus, the earmarked local revenue is commonly referred to as the 1% property tax.

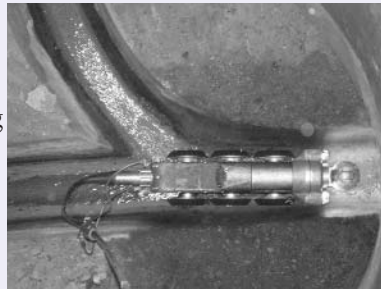
The ETWD Board of Directors will be working with staff of the District to evaluate options to compensate for the loss of property tax revenue. It is our priority to keep you informed about any financial issues that impact ETWD's budget. Please stay tuned.

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### "EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE" article makes cover story in the September issue of "Cleaner Magazine" (Cleaner).

*Cleaner* is a highly read monthly sewer pipeline cleaning and inspection publication that targets residential, municipal and industrial pipeline cleaning and inspection contractors.



*State-of-the-art 360 degree color pan and tilt mobile video camera inspecting the inside of a pipe.*

The article show-cases ETWD's on-going proficiency, productivity and regulatory compliance in the area of public and private sewer system maintenance. According to ETWD's Director of Operations and Engineering, Dennis Cafferty, "the primary objective of the sewer



*Ty Banagas, in the computerized video inspection van control room viewing the inside of a pipe.*

system maintenance program is to preserve public health and protect water quality and the environment by making sure wastewater flowing in the sewer system does not overflow and become a source of contamination for our creeks and the ocean".

The article highlights ETWD's program success and the significance of continued investment in state-of-the-art equipment technology

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and highly trained operators. Maintenance of the District's 125 miles of below ground sewer pipes and 3,200 manholes is accomplished by dedicating five certified crew members, computerized data processing software, multiple high pressure pipeline cleaning and vacuum vehicles and multiple internal pipeline video camera systems to the full time task. Ralph Palomares, the crew supervisor says "Without a camera and



ETWD certified operators. Ed Peterson, Chris Goodchild, Mitch O'Sullivan, Ty Banagas and Ralph Palomares

well-trained operators you are blind. The secret of our success is having a great crew and reliable cameras to provide visuals of the internal sewer system condition and to document your work". The video equipment inspects, assesses and documents the condition of below ground facilities.

Bob Hill, ETWD General Manager indicates that "ETWD is thinking and working out-of-the-box to maximize business opportunities for the benefit of our ratepayers". Operator experience and technology efficiencies have enabled ETWD to extend its sewer system cleaning and video inspection services beyond its own system. Optimization of our existing resources has provided and sustained opportunities to outsource similar services to other public agencies and to owners of private sewer systems. According to Hill, "This outsource activity has proven to be mutually beneficial to all involved while generating additional revenue to help offset on-going increases in the cost of doing business".



Combination high-pressure cleaner and vacuum truck.

ETWD is here to make sure that the sewer system operates smoothly. If you have a problem with your private sewer system or notice gushing of water from a cleanout or manhole in the street or your yard, please contact our 24-Hour Customer Service number. ♦

## Directors Re-Elected



From Left to Right, Ted F. Martin, President, M. Scott Goldman, Vice-President and John Dudley, Director/Treasurer.

The November 2004 election resulted in four-year terms for Directors Martin, Goldman and Dudley. ETWD was organized as prescribed by California Water District Law, Division 13 of the Water Code of the State of California. The District is governed by a five (5) member board whose Directors are elected for staggered four-year terms of office. It is the responsibility of the Board to establish policies that govern the affairs of the District. In addition, the Board appoints the General Manager to oversee day-to-day operations, prepare strategic plans and provide oversight and direction to employees in implementing the policies of the Board to ensure reliable and quality services to the customers of the District. ♦

## ETWD EMPLOYEES



From Left, Ted Martin, Board President, and employees, Ron Hightower, Mitch O'Sullivan, Chris Goodchild, Dave Burton and Laura Christensen.

At ETWD's October Board Meeting the following employees were recognized.

Dave Burton was recognized for twenty-years of service with the District. Chris Goodchild achieved his Grade IV Certificate from California Water Environment Association (CWEA). Ty Banagas achieved his Grade II Certificate from CWEA. Ron Hightower achieved his Grade III Certificate from CWEA. New employees Mitch O'Sullivan, Collection Maintenance Man and Laura Christensen, Customer Service Rep I were welcomed as new employees. ♦



On behalf of the ETWD Board of Directors and Staff, we wish our customers happy holidays and a prosperous New Year.



# WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

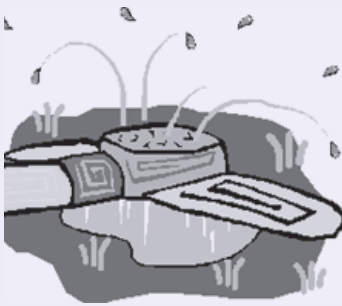
## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

### 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 day 2 cycles of 3 minutes

*Remember to turn-off your irrigation system before  
and during rainy weather.*

## CONSERVATION TIPS



Winter is here. Have you changed your sprinkler schedule? What will you do when it is raining? Here are some conservation tips for the winter months.

1. Spreading mulch to all groundcover, shrub and tree areas will help (1) reduce water evaporation, (2) keep the soil surface open to water for better penetration/infiltration, and (3) reduce weed growth in spring and summer.
2. Use a soil probe to monitor soil moisture and moisture depth.
3. Match the amount of water you are applying to the weather. Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has a water scheduling calculator. You can access their web site at [www.mwdh20.com](http://www.mwdh20.com). Look for the "**WATER-ING CALCULATOR**". Input general information about your site and you will get back a water efficient irrigation schedule.
4. Aerate your turf. Aerating promotes deeper water penetration and root depth and will pay off in summer. ♠

## Rebate Programs

El Toro Water District, in cooperation with the Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California continues to promote Home Water Use Efficiency Programs.

### TOILET AND WASHING MACHINE REBATES

Up to a **\$50 Rebate** for qualifying water saving toilet installations. An ultra low flush toilet can save you 2 - 3.5 gallons per flush or more.

**\$100 Rebate** for qualifying high-efficiency washing machines. High-efficiency washers can save you 18 - 25 gallons per load.

For more information on these programs, please call (800) 954-4344. ♠



**Native plants are not only beautiful, they thrive on 2/3rds less water. Looks like Mother Nature was playing favorites.**



There are more than 6,000 varieties of native and California Friendly plants to choose from. And you won't have any trouble choosing the right ones for your garden. They're every bit as colorful as other plants, without being nearly as thirsty. And that's a beautiful thing. To learn more log on to [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com).

Family of  
Southern California  
Water Agencies

[bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com)

# Water Education Corner



## Water Education for Teachers and Students

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) Water Education Program has been a fixture in Orange County schools for more than 30 years educating hundreds of thousands of students about our most precious natural resource - water.

MWDOC has entered into an exciting partnership with Discovery Science Center that will improve and expand the water education program to reach even more students and teachers in Orange County.

This partnership blends the traditional offerings of the MWDOC school program, such as grade-specific water science assemblies and Project WET teacher training, with the in-depth classroom instruction, field trips, and science training for teachers offered by Discovery Science Center.

Under this new partnership, Discovery Science Center will now be your point of contact for all school program inquiries and scheduling. For more information about Orange County's new water education team and the exciting programs for students and teachers, please call Discovery Science Center at (714) 913-5030 or visit [www.discoverycube.org](http://www.discoverycube.org). If your school already pre-booked assemblies for the 2004-05 academic year through MWDOC, your request will be accommodated through Discovery Science Center. ♦



*Photo courtesy of the Discovery Science Center.*

## EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

24251 Los Alisos Boulevard  
Lake Forest, CA 92630  
(949) 837-0660

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.

Water Views is published quarterly to keep water users in the El Toro Water District informed about water and wastewater related issues and events. It is prepared by District staff. **Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.** Please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or visit our website at [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com).

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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	<b>Ted F. Martin</b>
Vice President	<b>M. Scott Goldman</b>
Director/Treasurer	<b>John S. Dudley</b>
Director	<b>William H. Kahn</b>
Director	<b>Jerard B. Werner</b>

General Manager  
**Robert R. Hill**

Editors  
**Sherri Seitz**  
**Linda Mansouri**

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