

# El Toro Water District

"Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment"

## WaterViews

### El Toro Water District Receives District of Distinction Honor

For nearly 50 years, the El Toro Water District (ETWD) has been an anchor in the water-supply community thanks to its ability to exercise tremendous foresight and planning. Its accomplishments have not gone unnoticed, as evident May 4th when

ETWD was awarded the District of Distinction accreditation by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF).

**"This accreditation is proof that the El Toro Water District understands and respects the responsibilities inherent to providing essential public services in a fiscally responsible manner."**

**Darcel Harris  
SDLF Administrator**

El Toro Water District – which supplies water to the city of Laguna Woods and portions of the cities of Lake Forest, Laguna Hills, Mission Viejo and Aliso Viejo – is the first independent special district to receive this important accreditation by SDLF. There are 3,400 special districts in California.

The Special District Leadership Foundation – an affiliation of the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) – is a collaborative effort of eight special district organizations dedicated to excellence in local government. The Foundation was formed to provide educational opportunities to special district officials and employees to enhance service to the public provided by special districts in California.

CSDA is a not-for-profit association with a membership of over 1,000 organizations throughout California, and the only statewide association representing all types of independent special districts including irrigation, water, park and recreation, cemetery, fire, police protection, library, utility, harbor, healthcare and community services districts.

"This is one of the most prestigious awards in local government in the State of California," said ETWD President Ted F. Martin. " This accreditation clearly validates El Toro Water District's commitment to good

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governance and to ethical and sound operating practices.”

In meeting the accreditation criteria, ETWD submitted a detailed analysis of District records, policies and procedures, and a commitment by the board of directors and the executive staff to continued education. Current financial audits and evidence of training completed by each of the District’s board members and executive staff in ethics, governance and leadership were also included. El Toro Water District board members and executive staff take part in ethics, governance and leadership training workshops that are now required by the State legislature, according to ETWD General Manager Bob Hill.

“At a time when special districts are often criticized for how we act, how we conduct our finances, and how we relate to the public, it is greatly important that special districts, our boards, and our management perform all operations with the utmost moral integrity,” said Hill. “As a result, ETWD seamlessly continues with its commitment in providing our 51,000 customers a safe, adequate and reliable supply of water and wastewater service in a most environmentally and economically responsible way.”

“This accreditation is proof that the El Toro Water District understands and respects the responsibilities inherent to providing essential public services in a fiscally responsible manner,” added SDLF Administrator Darcel Harris. “It validates the District’s commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices.”

For more information about the El Toro Water District, please call 949.837.0660 or visit the District’s web site at [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com).◆

## Poster Contest Winner

El Toro Water District (ETWD) congratulates Emily Ho of Del Cerro Elementary School, winner of the 2007 Water Conservation Poster and Slogan Contest.

Each year, ETWD and the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) hold a Water Conservation Poster and Slogan Contest to promote the wise use of water and to raise awareness of local water

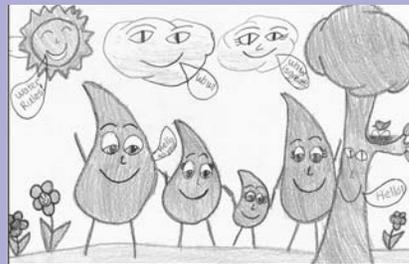
issues. The contest provides an opportunity for students to consider how they can help conserve our most precious natural resource-WATER.



From left, Rosa Ho, Emily Ho, and Bob Hill, ETWD General Manager

At ETWD we take great pride in educating students and the community that we serve about water conservation and we participate in several programs like the MWDOC School Program that promotes the wise use of water.

More than 1,500 posters and slogans were entered into the “Be a Water-Wise Pro...Conserve H2O!” contest. Entries were received from over 112 Orange County Schools. The entries were divided into 8 Orange County divisions and with 2 sub-categories of K - 3rd grade and 4th - 6th grade. Emily Ho, 3rd grade student of Del Cerro



Elementary in Mission Viejo won in Division 5 which covers Lake Forest, Laguna Woods, Irvine,

Newport Beach, portions of Costa Mesa, Laguna Hills and Mission Viejo. Emily’s artwork along with 15 others will be featured in the MWDOC 2007-08 Water Conservation School Calendar. Emily, her sister, Julia, and her mom, Rosa, attended El Toro Water District’s Board meeting in which Emily was presented with an award for her achievement. El Toro Water District honors Emily and all of the participants and reminds everyone to “Be a water-wise pro and conserve H2O.”◆

# WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

## Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

### Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems

	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
June	3 days 2 cycles of 5 minutes	2 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes
July	4 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 3 cycles of 4 minutes
August	4 days 3 cycles of 3 minutes	2 days 3 cycles of 4 minutes

## CONSERVATION TIPS

Save water and money by controlling your outside water use.

- ◆ Consider native and drought tolerant plants when making landscape choices.
- ◆ Tune-up your irrigation system. Watch your sprinklers and adjust to plant choices and schedule above.
- ◆ Water your lawn when it needs it. Step on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot, it does not need water.
- ◆ Consider reusing some household water to irrigate your landscaping by using a bucket.
- ◆ Water your lawn during the cool times of the day. Early morning is better than dusk.
- ◆ Set lawn mower blades one notch higher. Longer grass means less evaporation.
- ◆ Adjust automatic sprinklers so that water lands on lawn or garden and not the sidewalk or street.
- ◆ If you have a pool or spa, use an insulated cover to cut down on evaporation.
- ◆ If you have an evaporative air conditioner, direct the water drain line to a flowerbed, tree base or lawn.
- ◆ Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slow evaporation.



### LIMITED TIME OFFER

For a limited time, select "smart" controllers are virtually FREE.\*

By installing a qualifying "smart" controller, you can receive a rebate that covers up to the full price of the controller plus some installation costs.

\*"Smart" controllers are rebated at \$60 per active valve, plus up to \$200 for qualifying installations.

For complete details, please call **1-866-846-3725** or to download an application, visit [www.mwdoc.com/Smartimer/](http://www.mwdoc.com/Smartimer/).

## High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate Program

**FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY, Orange County single family residents can receive a \$250 rebate for replacing a pre-1992 toilet with a new high efficiency toilet.**



Offer valid while funding lasts. HET's must be installed in Orange County and purchased after February 15, 2006. The rebate does not cover installation costs. HET's must be on the list of approved HETs in order to be eligible for rebate. For more information or the approved HET list, please visit the District's website [www.etwd.com](http://www.etwd.com) or call **1-800-954-4344**.

# Water Education Corner



## ETWD CELEBRATES WATER AWARENESS MONTH

ETWD held it's 11th Annual Open House on Saturday, May 5th, 2007. Over 300 people attended to celebrate Water Awareness Month and learn more about one of our most **precious resources - WATER!**

The educational day included Mad Science Presentations, Wild Wonders animal meet and greet, flower pot painting & planting, water games, and face painting. The Orange County Fire Authority hook and ladder engine was on display as well as their fire education tent and booth. Green Thumb Nursery showcased a variety of plants, Saddleback Family & Urgent Care provided health information, and City of Laguna Woods and South Orange County Wastewater Authority provided information on stormwater and wastewater. Information and displays of native plant were provided by the Tree of Life Nursery.

The District provided information on water conservation, emergency preparedness, water quality, fats-oils-grease program, and a hot dog lunch. The District also had their large equipment on display.

Thank you to the customers, employees and vendors for making this open house such a successful event. ♦



## 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 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. 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

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Vice President	<b>M. Scott Goldman</b>
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