



WATERVIEWS

El Toro Water District

Summer 2017

Serving the Public, Respecting the Environment "District of Distinction"

DROUGHT EMERGENCY UPDATE

On April 7, 2017, Governor Brown issued Executive Order B-40-17 ending the drought State of Emergency for most of California. The rescinding of this Executive Order provided the El Toro Water District Board of Directors the opportunity to review our statewide and local water supplies and make changes to our current water regulations.

On May 1, 2017 the El Toro Water District Board of Directors made the following changes:

1. Rescinded the Level 1 Water Supply Shortage Declaration that was adopted under Water Conservation and Water Supply Shortage Ordinance No 2015-3. This includes rescinding the 3-day a week watering schedule.
2. Increased the Outdoor Drought Factor portion of your Water Budget Based Tiered Conservation Rate Structure from 75% to 100%.
3. Reaffirmed suspension of the \$2/ccf Administrative Drought Penalty Fee that was imposed on customers exceeding their combined efficient indoor and outdoor water budgets.

The wet winter, end of the drought State of Emergency and the changes the ETWD Board has given us much to celebrate, but we must always remember that we need to make water conservation a way of life. The winter storms have certainly helped to end the drought emergency, but one year of wet weather does not erase the five years of drought that we faced. We live in a coastal desert and the need to be vigilant with water savings remains prevalent. We know the next dry year is always right around the corner. Ongoing conservation and permanent changes are important

because there is never enough water to waste in California.

"The El Toro Water District continues to encourage our valued customers to use water efficiently in all ways possible as we move through 2017 and beyond," said ETWD General Manager Bob Hill. "Our agency has many programs to help customers make changes that will result in permanent water savings. We invite you to take advantage of these and continue to do your part to embrace conservation as a California way of life."

Again, we thank you! You are the ultimate stewards of California's precious water. Keep up the good work! Visit www.saveourwater.com for water savings tips and visit www.ETWD.com for more information on our rebates, our drought-resilient supplies and what we are doing to raise the bar on efficiency.

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FIRE HYDRANT AND WATER MAINLINE FLUSHING PROGRAM

El Toro Water District's preventative maintenance program includes flushing of fire hydrants and water main lines. Periodically, you will see ETWD personnel releasing water from these fire hydrants or water mains. Flushing improves the quality and appearance of the water by removing sediment from the distribution pipes. Flushing is also necessary to test the hydrants to make sure they are operable and can deliver adequate flow and pressure in the event of a fire or an emergency.

During the flushing procedure, residents in the immediate area might notice a temporary discoloration or sediment in their water. The water is safe and can be cleared up by running cold water through all the water faucets for a few minutes. ETWD personnel post signs in the area in which they are flushing to inform residents of the preventative maintenance activity.

ETWD performs these maintenance tasks in the most efficient manner possible to minimize water usage.

If you have any questions regarding the program, **please call (949) 837-7050.**



ETWD DEMONSTRATION GARDEN PROJECT

In response to the California drought, ETWD made a permanent change to its landscape located at 24251 Los Alisos Blvd., Lake Forest, CA 92630. By removing the large water thirsty lawn and replacing the area with California Friendly plants, drought tolerant plants, drip irrigation system, decomposed granite walkways, mulch, synthetic turf and a dry stream bed, ETWD will save thousands of gallons of water. In addition to saving money, the garden will attract essential wildlife such as hummingbirds, butterflies, bees, insects and local birds. ETWD broke ground on the Demonstration Garden in March 2017 and construction was completed in June 2017.

The main objective of the project is to promote efficient outdoor water use and demonstrate a variety of California Friendly and drought tolerant plants. There are four gardens representing Australian/New Zealand, Mediterranean, South African, Succulent and California Friendly/natives plants throughout. The garden showcases approximately 100 plant varieties that are colorful, sustainable and

available to purchase locally (depending on demand) and can be incorporated into any residential or commercial landscape.

The garden was funded by a restricted water conservation reserve account and rebate/grant funding through the Metropolitan Water District and Municipal Water District of Orange County.

Plant signage is currently in progress and the garden will be available soon for touring. The garden will be open 365 days per year from dawn to dusk for self-guided tours. In addition, ETWD will hold water wise landscape classes with tours of the garden periodically throughout the year. Group tours will be available upon request.

For information on the garden, please call 949-837-7050 or visit www.etwd.com/demonstration-garden



BOY SCOUT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION BADGE PROGRAM AND TOUR



Nearly 70 Boy Scouts earned their "Soil & Water Conservation" merit badges during a clinic hosted by the El Toro Water District (ETWD) and Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC).

ETWD General Manager Robert Hill welcomed the Scouts to the clinic and explained that water in South Orange County travels hundreds of miles to their homes – through the Colorado River Aqueduct or State Water Project – and the importance of water use efficiency and recycled water. ETWD is a pioneer in OC water recycling, and the clinic was

held at ETWD's Water Recycling Plant located in the city of Laguna Woods.

ETWD Director Frederick J. Adjarian, who earned his Eagle Badge as a teen told Scouts about the importance of the Scout motto, "Be Prepared," which has guided him through his career in the water industry. Scouts learned water principles from Charles Busslinger, MWDOC's principal engineer, before taking a tour of the ETWD Water Recycling Plant. Closing the program, the scouts demonstrated their new knowledge by writing essays. Thank you to all that attended.

For interest in future programs please visit <http://bit.ly/ETWDBSA>.



DIESEL FUEL TRAILER

ETWD was a recipient of a 500 gallon portable diesel fuel trailer through a Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) grant. The grant funded the purchase of 10 diesel fuel trailers that will be used as mutual aid during disasters. MWDOC received the grant through the Homeland Security Urban Area Security Initiative. The primary purpose of the trailers are to move diesel fuel from fueling stations to deployed generators or heavy equipment in emergencies for Special Districts and Municipalities.

In September 2011, California experienced a power outage that impacted four counties. The incident lasted for approximately eleven hours. In order to maintain delivery of clean drinking water and the collection of wastewater, generators would be deployed



to several critical ETWD sites. Most of these generators only have a fuel capacity to support an 8-12 hour outage. In the event of a power outage that extends beyond this duration, these generators would need to be refueled to maintain operations and to protect the public

health of the community. Many of the generators are deployed throughout service areas and often in hard to reach locations making refueling complex. Acquisition of large capacity fuel trailers enable water utilities to refuel generators more efficiently and for sustained periods of time.



LANDSCAPE DESIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Landscape Design Assistance Program (LDAP) is a FREE program providing a professional design consultation and access to landscape conversion design ideas and resources for orange county residents planning to remove turf. Visit www.ocfriendlylandscapes.com to view design ideas from California Native, Coastal Influence, Cottage, Mediterranean, Modern and OC Friendly landscapes. These landscape design ideas will all thrive in Southern California's semi-arid climate.

To participate in the program, participants must be eligible per the terms and conditions listed on the website above.

- The LDAP only applies to front yards.
- The LDAP provides the customer with a professional landscape design consultation, which results in design, irrigation, and maintenance plans.
- The LDAP does not provide labor, materials, or installation services.
- If turf is not present you will not be eligible for the program.

Visit www.ocfriendlylandscapes.com to view the full terms and conditions and to apply for the program.



REBATES



SMART IRRIGATION TIMER/SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS REBATES UP TO \$250*

► **WATER SAVINGS:** 40-50 gallons per day/home

Choose a weather-based irrigation controller that adjusts the watering schedule based on current weather conditions, or a soil moisture sensor controller that measures the soil's water content to determine how much water plants need.

ROTATING SPRINKLER NOZZLES - REBATES UP TO \$3* EA.

WATER SAVINGS: 15 gallons per day/nozzle

Upgrade to rotating sprinkler nozzles that water more evenly and efficiently than traditional pop-up spray heads.
Minimum 30 nozzles



DRIP IRRIGATION - UP TO \$175* PER KIT

► **WATER SAVINGS:** 50 gallons per day

Convert spray heads to drip irrigation, which uses emitters to deliver water to specific locations at, or near, plant root zones.
Up to 3 kits per site



TURF REMOVAL - \$2 SQ. FT. RESIDENTIAL UP TO 2,000 SQ. FT. AND \$1 SQ. FT. COMMERCIAL UP TO 25,000 SQ. FT.

WATER SAVINGS: Up to 70% less water used
Replace thirsty turf with beautiful, climate-appropriate landscape.



RAIN BARREL - REBATES UP TO \$50* CISTERNS - REBATE UP TO \$350*

► **WATER SAVINGS:** Varies based on rainfall

Capture the rain water that falls on your roof and use it later to water your plants. Rain barrels can reduce urban runoff and ocean pollution.

HIGH EFFICIENCY CLOTHES WASHER - REBATE UP TO \$150.00*

WATER SAVINGS: 15 gallons per day

Upgrade your old washing machine to a high efficiency clothes washer that uses up to 55% less water and gets clothes just as clean.



PREMIUM HIGH EFFICIENCY TOILETS - REBATES UP TO \$75.00*

► **WATER SAVINGS:** 22 gallons per day

Get paid to replace your old toilets with high efficiency models that use just 1.06 gallons or less per flush while maintaining high performance standards.

SPRINKLER ADJUSTMENT REMINDERS - FREE

Sign up for free sprinkler adjustment reminder emails that tell you when/how to use the percent adjust feature on your basic sprinkler timer, ensuring proper watering year-round.



*Rebate levels are subject to change based on available funding. Rebate paid will not exceed device cost. Please visit www.OCWaterSmart.com for current rebate levels and eligibility requirements.



www.OCWaterSmart.com | 888.376.3314

COMMERCIAL REBATES

Indoor and outdoor commercial rebates are also available. Please visit www.ocwatersmart.com for more info or to apply.



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Water Views is published quarterly to keep water users in the El Toro Water District informed about water and wastewater related issues and events. If you have any comments or suggestions, please mail them to: Sherri Seitz, Editor
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