



WATERVIEWS

El Toro Water District

Fall/Winter 2019

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

LEADERSHIP CHANGES AT EL TORO WATER DISTRICT



Robert (Bob) Hill



Dennis Cafferty

Summer has brought leadership changes to the El Toro Water District. On July 1, 2019, the ETWD family bid farewell to our longtime General Manager Robert (Bob) Hill who retired after 45 years of dedicated service and exemplary leadership. Bob served as ETWD's General Manager since 2001 and in that time spearheaded numerous innovative projects that saved the District and its customers millions of dollars while saving billions of gallons of potable water. Bob's legacy was established in large part by his commitment to diversifying and improving the reliability of ETWD's water supply over the last four decades.

Before serving as General Manager, Bob rose through the ranks of ETWD holding multiple positions from operations to contract administration and leadership roles including Operations Manager and Assistant General Manager. Bob's extensive knowledge of the District and water in Orange County made him an invaluable leader for the District and the customers we serve.

"It has truly been an honor to serve the ETWD Community. The District's success is due to the Board's vision and the commitment and dedication of ETWD's management and staff"- Bob Hill.

During his tenure at ETWD, Bob led by example and established numerous partnerships with neighboring water agencies. His leadership and consensus building style helped improve services and achieve economies of scale through cost sharing initiatives. The sharing of resources proved to be beneficial to both customers and partnering agencies alike.

Beyond being recognized as an outstanding industry leader and public servant, Bob became a pillar of the ETWD family. While we are sad to say goodbye to a leader of Bob's caliber, ETWD now counts on the leadership of new General Manager Dennis Cafferty. Dennis brings with him more than three decades of experience in the water industry and has a proven track record of managing significant milestone projects for ETWD since 1989.

"Having spent the majority of my professional career here at ETWD, it is a distinct honor to serve the agency & its customers in this capacity," said General Manager Dennis Cafferty. "Now as General Manager, I hope to bring my decades of experience to further ETWD's goals & objectives as an agency that prioritizes customer service while providing reliable services in an environmentally and economically responsible way."

Prior to his appointment, as general manager, Dennis held positions of progressive responsibility at ETWD, including serving as Director of Operations & Engineering as well as Assistant General Manager/District Engineer. Among many achievements, Cafferty oversaw and managed a number of significant milestone projects for ETWD, including the recent Recycled Water Expansion Project which included the design and construction of a new tertiary treatment plant at the ETWD Laguna Hills facility.

Beyond his extensive knowledge of ETWD, Cafferty has a bachelor's degree in Engineering from University of Redlands and a Master's of Business Administration from University of California, Irvine. He is also a Licensed Professional Engineer in the State of California and holds a D-5 Water Distribution Certification, as well as a T-2 Water Treatment

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Certification from the State Water Resources Control Board. For over 13 years, Cafferty has also been an Instructor in the Water Utility Sciences Department of the Business and Career Technical Education Division at Santiago Canyon College.

Now as General Manager, Cafferty is responsible for implementing policies adopted by the Board of Directors, managing day-to-day operations associated with all aspects of water, wastewater and recycled water services and maintaining a highly qualified and productive staff. Cafferty also represents the District as a member on a variety of industry organizations and committees including

the Orange County Water Association, Orange County Water Reuse, Association of California Water Agencies and the South Orange County Wastewater Authority.

ETWD is fortunate to count on leaders of Bob and Dennis' caliber. Bob's strategic vision and collaborative approach set a strong foundation for ETWD to operate; contributions that will not soon be forgotten. As Dennis leads the District into the future, we have confidence that he will build upon Bob's legacy by implementing capital improvement projects, managing ETWD's day-to-day and most importantly, servicing the District's customers.

WHAT TO FLUSH DOWN THE TOILET



If you're wondering whether you can flush something down the toilet, use the 3 P's (Pee, Poop and Paper) as a rule of thumb. By practicing this rule, you will be helping ETWD avoid maintenance problems associated with the buildup of non-dispersible paper and tissue products (i.e. flushable wipes, baby wipes, facial wipes) that are routinely flushed down household toilets.

Wipes are generally produced using a woven process and do not disintegrate quickly when wet—as toilet paper does—even though the product may say “flushable”. Once flushed, wipes tend to string together forming large balls of material that become lodged in wastewater pipes, the impellers of wastewater pumps and other wastewater process equipment.

For ETWD and many other agencies, this has become an ongoing maintenance problem that requires significant manpower to de-rag pumping equipment, bar screens and sewer clean-outs. According to Bloomberg, this problem is so severe that New York City pays \$19 million a year to keep fatbergs—sewage blockages mostly from wipes—from forming.

So remember to stick to the 3 P's rule and refrain from putting flushable wipes down the drain. You will save the District and our customers costly repairs and maintenance in the future!



ETWD CELEBRATES CALIFORNIA WATER PROFESSIONALS WEEK

ETWD is proud to join water agencies throughout the state in celebrating California Water Professionals Week from October 5-13, 2019. This designated week highlights the important role of water industry professionals and local public water agencies in ensuring safe and reliable water, wastewater and recycled water in California.

Our outstanding employees here at ETWD work in a range of fields from engineering, operations and maintenance to sewer collection systems, recycled water, fleet services, field services, customer service, finance, accounting, safety, human resources, regulatory compliance and public affairs.

ETWD thanks all its dedicated employees, past and present, for their knowledge, commitment and pride in delivering safe and reliable water to our customers' homes each day.

Interested in a career in water? Visit <http://www.cawaterjobs.org/career-paths/> and <https://jobs.cwea.org/> to find out more!



IN THE NEWS - WATER QUALITY AND PFOA / PFOS

You may have read a recent news story regarding PFOA / PFOS in the Southern California water supplies. This information addressed water quality that was specific to groundwater wells in north Orange County. The good news is that El Toro Water District and the water supply our customers enjoy are **unaffected** by the family of chemicals referred to as PFOA / PFOS. It's important for you to know that ***your water is safe to drink***.

Even though there are no impacts from PFOA / PFOS in ETWD's water supply, the District wanted to share some updated and accurate information on this important topic because of the news coverage and public announcements from other water agencies.

PFAs are manmade chemicals prevalent in the environment and were once commonly used in many consumer products including carpets, clothing, furniture fabrics, paper food packaging, water/stain/grease resistant materials and fire-fighting foam used at airfields. These chemicals can be found in groundwater, affecting agencies in Orange County. This includes Orange County Water District (which manages groundwater resources in Orange County) and other north county cities and water districts such as the city of Anaheim and Yorba Linda. Because El Toro Water District does not rely on groundwater resources and instead obtains water exclusively through imported sources, the District's water supply is unaffected by PFOA / PFOS.

Treatment options are being researched but are likely to involve costly retrofits. This cost will likely need to be passed on to water customers of affected agencies. In some cases, agencies have shifted to alternative water supplies such as imported water while solutions are being developed. In addition, state regulators (including the California State Water Resources Control Board's Division of Drinking Water) serve as the lead policymakers addressing PFAS and are developing updated standards and guidelines. The District will inform our customers of any changes affecting El Toro Water District.

Additional information on PFOA / PFOS is available from the Orange County Water District at <https://www.ocwd.com/what-we-do/water-quality/pfoapfos/>, including more on the known sources and impacts of PFOA / PFOS chemicals.



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Messages can be delivered by:

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This service allows landlines, cell phones and email addresses to be incorporated into a single notification system.

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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:

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