



El Toro Water District • Spring 2022

WATER VIEWS

SERVING THE PUBLIC, RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

DROUGHT CONDITIONS PROMPT ETWD TO DECLARE LEVEL 2 WATER SHORTAGE



Low water levels at Lake Oroville
on March 17, 2022

There's no relief in sight for California's current drought, and there's not a drop of water to waste. State officials are warning residents to brace for a third year of dry conditions and have cut back the amount of water the region receives from the State Water Project from 15% to only 5% of the normal annual allocation leading to a significant draw on critical water storage reserves.

Conservation efforts are also falling short of the governor's voluntary call to reduce water use by 15%. The State has urged water suppliers to move to a Level 2 of their Water Shortage Contingency Plans. In addition, ETWD's wholesale water suppliers have declared a Level 2 Water Shortage. In response, the District updated its Water Shortage Contingency Plan and declared a Level 2 Water Shortage on March 24.

Take action

We need your help in using water efficiently. Please reduce your water use as much as possible by following the water wise tips below and ETWD's Permanent Water Conservation Requirements on the next page.

- 💧 Take shorter showers
- 💧 Turn the faucet off when brushing your teeth or shaving
- 💧 Scrape food off dishes instead of pre-rinsing before loading into the dishwasher
- 💧 Compost food scraps to avoid using the garbage disposal
- 💧 Wash full loads of laundry and dishes
- 💧 Install a water-saving showerhead
- 💧 Install a high efficiency toilet
- 💧 Use a broom to sweep driveways, patios and sidewalks
- 💧 Replace turf with California Friendly landscaping
- 💧 Install a weather-based irrigation controller

You can learn more about the District's Level 2 Water Shortage, Water Shortage Contingency Plan and related ordinances at [ETWD.com/Water-Conservation-Shortage-Stages](https://www.etwd.com/Water-Conservation-Shortage-Stages).

YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR NEXT COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The District holds quarterly Community Advisory Group meetings to share water, wastewater and recycled water information with our customers. Currently, the meetings are held in person.

If you have any questions, please email the District at district@etwd.com or call us at **(949) 837-7050**. We look forward to seeing you at a future meeting.

Sign Up

Register for the next Community Advisory Group meeting at [etwd.com/community-advisory-group-meeting-registration](https://www.etwd.com/community-advisory-group-meeting-registration).



EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

📍 24251 Los Alisos Blvd
Lake Forest, CA 92630

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✉️ (949) 837-7050

🌐 [etwd.com](https://www.etwd.com)





COVID-19 Moratorium on Termination of Water Service for Nonpayment Expires

As of December 31, 2021, the COVID-19 moratorium on termination of water service for nonpayment expired.

Starting May 1, 2022, ETWD will reinstate its termination of water service program for non-payment. ETWD Customer Service is here to help. Contact us at **(949) 837-0660** for any questions regarding your bill.



PERMANENT CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS FOR RESIDENTS



Save water 365 days a year. These measures are in effect 24/7.



Only water or irrigate lawns, landscaping and other vegetated areas between 6 p.m. and 9 a.m.



No excessive water flow and runoff onto sidewalks, driveways, the street, alley or gutter when watering your lawn, landscaping or vegetated areas



Fix leaks, breaks or malfunctions in lines, fixtures or facilities within 5 days



Hosing or washing down hard or paved outdoor surfaces is prohibited



Only wash your vehicles with a bucket and/or hose with a positive shutoff nozzle



Watering or irrigating any outdoor landscape with potable water during and within 48 hours after it rains is prohibited



Residents are encouraged to cover swimming pools and spas to minimize water loss

For more information, along with commercial and HOA requirements, visit [ETWD.com/Water-Conservation-Shortage-Stages](https://www.etwd.com/Water-Conservation-Shortage-Stages).

STREAMS OF HOPE CAMPAIGN

In honor of Earth Month, the District is excited to partner with the Wyland Foundation, Municipal Water District of Orange County, OC Conservation Corps and the County of Orange in the Wyland Foundation's "Streams of Hope" public art and community cleanup campaign. The art campaign aims to raise awareness about the impacts of pollution in our waterways and ocean, and promotes good water stewardship through art, education and hands-on community activities.

The Laguna Woods Art Association artists (pictured right) collaborated to paint a Wyland "Stella-the Baby Gray Whale" statuette. The group titled their Stella "Water is Life – Let's Protect It." They creatively used acrylic paint in a tile design to harken the numerous homes, businesses, individuals and wildlife who need water to survive and thrive. This montage of entities creates a greater picture of the entire Earth's oceans, streams, rivers and rainfall needed to survive. Their vision is that those viewing the art piece are inspired by the beauty of our ocean and the beings that live and play in it. They hope the message of protection prompts viewers to take personal corrective actions to protecting our most precious resource – water! Over the next few months, the Stella will be available for viewing at Laguna Woods Village Community Center, then at El Toro Water District and finally at the Laguna Woods Village Art Studio.



(L-R) Sue S. Mills, Mary Sinclair, Marlene Johnson, Yong Kapoor, Kris deYoung and Sherri Bashore

OSO LIFT STATION UPGRADES INCREASE EFFICIENCY, REDUCE ODORS AND ENHANCE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Infrastructure maintenance and upgrades are vital in maintaining the District's water and sewer systems. The District recently completed a \$2.3 million upgrade of the Oso Lift Station to help remove waste more efficiently and increase system resiliency. Several upgraded components were installed, including a wet well, pumps, a motor control center and an emergency generator. Additional system redundancies were put in place to keep the station running smoothly in the event of a failure or emergency.

Lift stations transport wastewater for treatment

Sewer lift stations are key components of the District's wastewater system that pump wastewater from lower to higher elevations to keep sewage moving on its way to the ETWD Water Recycling Plant.

The Oso Lift Station in Laguna Woods recently received important upgrades that will benefit the community.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT ETWD



Shane Fregin

OPERATIONS MAINTENANCE
WORKER I

Top Priorities

Maintaining and repairing the water distribution system

Experience

Working in the water industry runs in the family for Shane. He began his water career approximately one year ago, inspired by his father's 30 years of water industry service.

"Teamwork makes the dream work. We have a great crew, and I enjoy the hands on work on the water distribution system."



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM

Marcos Avalos

COLLECTIONS
MAINTENANCE WORKER I

Top Priorities

Keeping the District's sewer lines clean, clear and properly maintained for our customers

Experience

Marcos launched his career in the water and wastewater industry 1.5 years ago. He was inspired to follow in the footsteps of his oldest brother, who works at a neighboring water district.



"What I love most about my job is working together with my team to finish any task that needs to be done to help our community."

FIND AND FIX LEAKS



The average U.S. household's water leaks waste nearly 10,000 gallons every year, and 10% percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day, according to the EPA. The good news is that many common leaks are quick and easy to find and fix.

In only 10 minutes, you can search your home for leaks and reduce water waste.



Indoors, check for leaks in the kitchen, bathroom and laundry areas, including worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, leaking showerheads or other leaking valves.



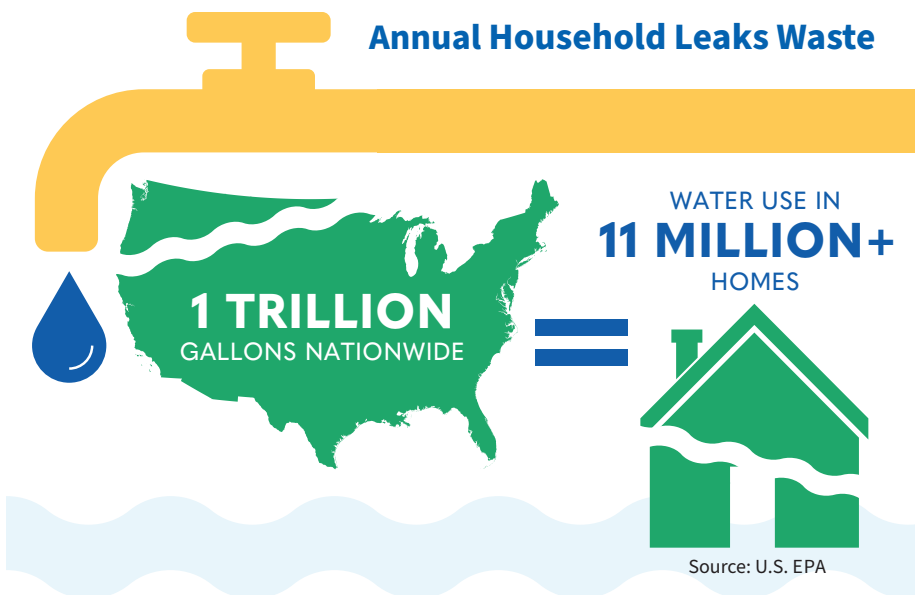
Quickly test for toilet leaks by placing a toilet dye tab or several drops of food coloring (don't use red) in your toilet tank. If the color seeps into the bowl without flushing, there is a leak. Replacing the toilet flapper valve will most likely fix the leak and save thousands of gallons per year.



Outdoors, check your sprinkler system for leaking valves, overspray and broken sprinkler heads. Repair these promptly to save up to 500 gallons per month.



Fix leaks as soon as you find them to save money and preserve our community's water resources.



Free Toilet Leak-Check Tab

You can pick up a toilet dye tab at the District's customer service office located at 24251 Los Alisos Blvd., Lake Forest, California 92630.

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The Board of Directors meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom teleconference. We encourage you to join us. Meeting agendas are posted on our website and include teleconference access and instructions. Learn more: etwd.com/governance/meetings-agendas-minutes

ETWD delivers drinking water, recycled water and wastewater services to customers in the City of Laguna Woods and portions of the cities of Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Laguna Hills and Aliso Viejo. Have questions? Call us at **(949) 837-7050** or email us at district@etwd.com.

