



El Toro Water District • Summer 2022

WATER VIEWS

SERVING THE PUBLIC, RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

WORKING TO PRESERVE SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY WATER RELIABILITY

The El Toro Regional Reservoir

El Toro Regional Reservoir Floating Cover and Liner Replacement Project

The El Toro Regional Reservoir, known as the R-6 Reservoir, provides 275 million gallons of water storage. ETWD owns and operates the reservoir, which provides water and emergency water storage for ETWD. The reservoir also provides emergency water storage for Santa Margarita Water District and Moulton Niguel Water District. The reservoir was originally built in 1964 and was expanded in 2001 to meet daily peak demands and provide seasonal and emergency water storage to our south Orange County communities.

New cover and liner

The reservoir's current liner and cover are made of reinforced polypropylene installed 20 years ago and have reached the end of their expected useful life. The

District will install a new cover and liner this fall to keep the reservoir in top condition and preserve our region's water reliability.

"The El Toro Regional Reservoir plays a crucial role in protecting our water supply," said District Engineering Manager Hannah Ford.

"This \$24 million rehabilitation project will maintain water quality for decades."

YOUR WATER QUALITY IS OUR TOP PRIORITY



At El Toro Water District, your water quality is our number one priority. We're proud to report that, as always, the drinking water we provide to our customers meets or exceeds all state and federal quality standards.

Our commitment to water quality runs deep, and we're dedicated to delivering safe drinking water to your home or business 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. In fact, District employees conduct more than 12,000 water quality tests every year from 70 representative sample locations throughout our service area. We also operate a

high-tech water quality laboratory that has the distinction of being one of only a few in Orange County certified by the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program.

Read our new Water Quality Report

You can read more about your water quality in our Annual Water Quality Report posted at etwd.com/governance/water-quality-report.



EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

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LEVEL 2 WATER SHORTAGE REDUCE YOUR WATER USE



The District is in a Level 2 Water Shortage. We are urgently asking customers to reduce their water use by 15% or as much as possible, fix leaks right away and continue to follow ETWD's Permanent Water Conservation Requirements that are in effect 365 days a year. Here's how you can do your part:



Take advantage of water-saver rebate programs

Save water and money with rebates for qualifying devices and upgrades. Here are just a few of the rebates available now.

- **Turf removal:** Earn up to \$4 per sq. ft. for residential and commercial customers.*
- **Toilet:** Earn up to \$100 per toilet to upgrade to a premium high efficiency toilet (four liter).*
- **High Efficiency Clothes Washers:** Earn up to \$200.*
- **Drip irrigation:** Earn up to \$0.50 sq. ft. up to 5,000 sq. ft.*
- **Weather based smart sprinkler timer:** Earn up to \$250.*

Get started at etwd.com/conservation/rebates.

** Please note that limits and restrictions apply.*

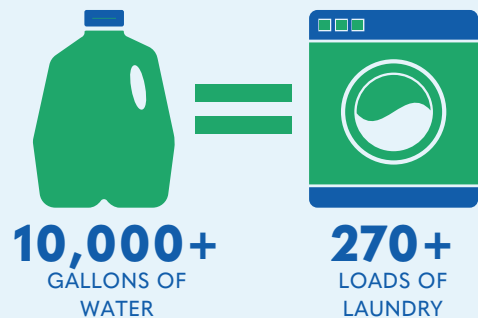


Find and fix leaks

Small household leaks can add up to gallons of water lost every day, wasting precious water resources. Make sure to fix leaks, breaks or malfunctions in lines, fixtures or facilities as soon as possible.

Drought FAQs

For the most up-to-date information on ETWD's water shortage restrictions, ETWD's permanent conservation requirements and the state's emergency conservation regulations, visit etwd.com/conservation/water-conservation-shortage-stages. For questions, please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660.



*Average U.S. family per year

Source: U.S. EPA

FREE LANDSCAPE WORKSHOPS



ETWD is co-hosting a series of California Friendly Landscape Workshops with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Landscaping and design professionals, the G3 Green Gardens Group, will present the one-hour workshops through Zoom on the following dates:

July 26, 6-7 p.m. – CA Friendly/Native Plant Landscape

July 27, 6-7 p.m. – Irrigation & Water Use Efficiency

July 28, 6-7 p.m. – Garden Design

August 2, 6-7 p.m. – Turf: Remove, Replace or Maintain Organically

August 3, 6-7 p.m. – Deciphering Your Irrigation Controller

August 4, 6-7 p.m. – Drip Irrigation Fundamentals

August 9, 6-7 p.m. – Rainwater Harvesting

Reserve your spot today at etwd.com/conservation/landscape-workshops.



CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

District staff has been busy out in the community encouraging everyone to work together to use water wisely and protect our precious natural resources. We recently connected with customers at the events below where we discussed ETWD's Level 2 Water Shortage, current water supply conditions, our region's water needs and the steps the District is taking locally to ensure continued water reliability. We also provided water efficient takeaways and offered water conservation tips and rebate information.

In the community

- Laguna Woods Village Third Mutual - Gate 11 Meeting
- Concerned Citizens Earth Day Celebration
- City of Laguna Woods Earth Day Speaker Series Highlighting Air and Water
- City of Mission Viejo Earth Day & Arbor Day Green Expo



BEHIND THE SCENES AT ETWD



Employees Nicholas Carrera and Yesenia Ocampo work at one of the District's pump stations.



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR TEAM

Nicholas Carrera

**PUMP STATIONS
MAINTENANCE WORKER 1**

Top Priorities

Maintaining, installing and repairing water and sewer distribution and pumping facilities.

Motivation

A drive to do meaningful work in the community inspired Nicholas to join the District team one year ago.



“There is opportunity to be a part of your community everywhere!”

DISTRICT BOARD MOURNS PASSING OF FORMER BOARD MEMBER JERRY WERNER



The District mourns the passing of former Board Director Jerry Werner, who passed away earlier this year. Jerry was 94 and a longtime resident of Laguna Woods Village. He served on the District's Board of Directors for 12 years from 2002 until 2014. Jerry continued to support the District long after retirement by attending ETWD's Community Advisory Group meetings and other District events.

"We are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague Jerry Werner. Jerry embodied high standards for ethical public service and was a strong advocate for what was best for the District and its customers," said ETWD General Manager Dennis Cafferty. During Jerry's tenure, he provided unwavering leadership, including serving as the District's Treasurer, provided financing and investment guidance and insight; and a discerning vision that helped implement cost-effective principles and programs in all operational aspects of the District. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and loved ones.

We are grateful for Jerry's dedication, vision and leadership in the water community and his years of service to the El Toro Water District. He will be greatly missed.

DISTRICT EARNS TOP WORKPLACE AWARD AND AA CREDIT RATING

The Orange County Register named the District as a winner of the Orange County Top Workplaces 2021 Award. The District has earned this honor three years in a row. The list of winners is based on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey that measures 15 culture drivers that are critical to the success of any organization, including alignment, execution, and connection, just to name a few.

AA credit rating

The District has earned an "AA" credit rating from S&P Global Ratings, a top independent credit rating agency. The agency praised the District's:

- "Competitive and affordable customer rates"
- "Extremely strong" enterprise profile
- "Strong" financial profile
- "Stable outlook" for our 2022 water and wastewater revenue bonds
- "Strong service area economy and management policies"



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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GENERAL MANAGER

Dennis P. Cafferty

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.

