



WATER VIEWS

SERVING THE PUBLIC, RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

ETWD JOINS THE COUNTY'S ADOPT-A-CHANNEL PROGRAM: ENHANCING WATER QUALITY AND COMMUNITY PRIDE



Dennis Cafferty, General Manager, Vinnie Coppola, Compliance Program Coordinator, and Vu Chu, Water Use Efficiency Analyst

El Toro Water District is excited to announce our commitment to the OC Public Works Adopt-a-Channel program, adopting a local flood control channel to promote cleaner waterways and foster a greater sense of community stewardship. This partnership allows ETWD to take direct, meaningful action to improve the environment while encouraging public awareness and responsibility for our shared water resources.

About the Adopt-a-Channel Program

Since 2014, the Adopt-a-Channel program has empowered local organizations and communities to help maintain and improve flood control channels across Orange County. These channels

collect significant amounts of trash and debris, and many are frequently targeted by graffiti. The program offers the option of a sponsored adoption, which enables the sponsoring agency to hire a contractor—like the Orange County Conservation Corps (OCCC)—to perform cleanup, or a volunteer adoption, where the sponsoring agency coordinates volunteers for regular maintenance.

ETWD's Channel Adoption Details

After consulting with OC Public Works, Channel F23 was selected. This channel runs behind businesses along Lake Forest Drive between Avenida De La Carlota and Mill Creek Drive. ETWD has contracted with OCCC to maintain the channel and clean up debris and graffiti.

Cleaner Waterways, Greater Community Awareness

With the adoption, ETWD is taking concrete steps to improve water quality in the channel, which eventually flows to the ocean. This effort supports healthier habitats for local wildlife and cleaner, safer waterways for all. Signage at the site encourages residents and businesses to take pride in keeping our community's waterways clean and serves as a visible reminder of ETWD's commitment to environmental stewardship.

Lasting Community Impact

ETWD's channel adoption exemplifies our dedication to sustaining our local environment and creating a positive impact within our service area. We are excited to see the benefits of this program and invite our community to join us in supporting these efforts. Together, we can make a real difference in preserving the natural beauty and cleanliness of our local waterways.




The channel runs behind businesses along Lake Forest Drive.



EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

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EL TORO WATER DISTRICT GENERAL MANAGER EARNs PRESTIGIOUS CERTIFICATION



El Toro Water District (ETWD) is proud to announce that our General Manager, Dennis Cafferty, has achieved the Certified Special District Manager (CSDM) certification from the California Special Districts Association.

The CSDM certification is a testament to Dennis's deep expertise and leadership in water, wastewater and recycled water management. Dennis's achievement reinforces our District's commitment to innovation, efficiency and the highest standards of service.

We congratulate Dennis on this outstanding achievement and look forward to his continued leadership in advancing the mission and serving our community.

Dennis Cafferty, ETWD General Manager, and Chris Palmer, CSDA Senior Public Affairs Field Coordinator



RIDE THE WAVE OF WINTER SAVINGS WITH OUTDOOR REBATES

Winter is a great time to leverage water-saver rebates to spruce up your outdoor landscape, including plants and irrigation technology.

Choose from a variety of rebates for ETWD customers, offered in partnership with the Municipal Water District of Orange County and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

Turf Removal – Residential	\$4 sq. ft. up to 5,000 sq. ft. (annual maximum) *
Weather Based Smart Sprinkler Timer	Up to \$250
Soil Moisture Sensor Controller	Up to \$150
Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles	Up to \$2 per nozzle (min. 15)
Drip Irrigation	\$1 sq. ft. up to 5,000 sq. ft.
Rain Barrels and Cisterns	Up to \$50/rain barrel & \$250 – \$350 per cistern

**If you have already removed your turf, your project is not eligible for this program. Projects must not be started prior to the receipt and acknowledgment of this Program's Letter to Proceed.*



Learn more about all rebates available for residential and commercial customers at www.etwd.com/conservation.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: ENSURING COMMUNITY SAFETY TOGETHER

ETWD staff is dedicated to safeguarding our community by preparing for emergencies and disasters throughout the year. Our commitment to emergency preparedness was recently strengthened as our team participated in a tabletop exercise focused on dam safety. This training tested ETWD's ability to detect incidents, manage emergency communications, coordinate with multiple agencies, plan evacuations and guide post-incident recovery. During the exercise, we carefully reviewed roles, responsibilities, processes and procedures to ensure that our team is ready to respond swiftly and effectively in a real-world event.



How You Can Prepare at Home

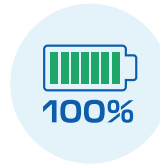
In an emergency, readiness is essential not just for us at ETWD, but for every household. Here's how you can prepare to keep your family safe:



Make a Plan

Visit [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov) or [Redcross.org/get-help](https://www.redcross.org/get-help) to find helpful resources for emergency planning. Create a family plan, so everyone knows what to do in an emergency. Pack an emergency kit with essentials like food, water, medications and supplies for

each family member and pet. Your kit should sustain you without utilities for several days.



Stay Informed with AlertOC

Emergencies can arise without warning, and **AlertOC** is a valuable tool to keep you informed. This notification system sends targeted alerts with important instructions, such as evacuation orders or boil water notices. ETWD, in coordination with the County of Orange, uses AlertOC to help protect our community.

Sign Up Today

Landline numbers are automatically registered, but you'll need to register your address, cell phone, email and any assistive devices to receive all relevant alerts. You can register multiple contacts, such as home, work and additional addresses. Sign up at [AlertOC.com](https://www.AlertOC.com) to ensure you receive timely information in a crisis.



WHAT TO FLUSH: THE 3 P'S



PEE



POOP



PAPER



WIPES

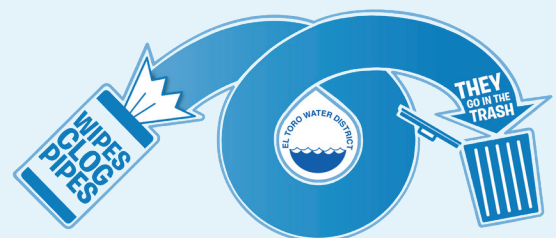


DON'T LET WIPES CLOG YOUR PIPES

Avoid sewer backups this season

For a stress-free holiday, keep wipes out of your toilet. Toss them in the trash can instead. Here's why:

- Wet wipes can be handy, but they are not safe for the sewer system. Even wipes labeled "flushable" or "disposable" are not safe to flush.
- When wipes, including baby wipes, cleaning wipes, cosmetic wipes, etc., are flushed down the toilet, they can form clogs and fatbergs (when wipes and grease combine in pipes) that block the sewer system flow and get tangled in pumps.
- These clogs can create sewer system spills and backups that cause damage to the environment.





BEHIND THE SCENES AT ETWD

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Cody Trementozzi

PUMP STATION MAINTENANCE WORKER II

Top Priorities

Maintenance and repairs of pump stations, reservoirs and water distribution equipment.

Experience

Cody's interests in maintenance and working outdoors with his hands sparked his interest in pursuing a college program in water utility science. He brings more than 12 years of experience, including a decade in the water industry, to his role at ETWD.



"I enjoy the variety of work at ETWD and the ability to gain new skills while serving the community."



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Become an ETWD insider and connect with ETWD staff and Board members at the District's quarterly **Community Advisory Group** meetings.

- Learn about important water and wastewater topics and upcoming ETWD projects in an informal setting.
- Feedback from the Community Advisory Group helps ETWD plan for the future.
- ETWD wants input from our customers about the items that matter to our community, including water quality, local and regional water supply, water use efficiency, finance and more.



Sign up to receive email notifications of upcoming quarterly meetings: etwd.com/community-advisory-group-meeting

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Mark Monin

DIRECTOR

Kathryn Freshley

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Gaskins

DIRECTOR

Vacant

DIRECTOR

Kay Havens

GENERAL MANAGER

Dennis P. Cafferty

The Board of Directors meeting takes place on the fourth Thursday of the month, and the Engineering and Finance Committee meets on the Monday before the Board of Directors meeting 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.