



El Toro Water District · Fall 2022

WATER VIEWS

SERVING THE PUBLIC, RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

California residents are all too familiar with extended periods of drought. Unfortunately, we find ourselves once again in a period of extreme drought. Because most Californians have weathered drought conditions multiple times it's far too easy to become complacent and try to ride it out until mother nature fixes the problem for us. We may not have that luxury any longer. Dr. Kurt Schwabe, the associate dean of the UC Riverside School of Public Policy, recently noted "We are experiencing the worst drought event in over 12 — yes, 12 — centuries."

Areas in the State of California that do not overlie a sustainable groundwater basin rely on two primary sources of imported water to meet their potable water needs. The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) distributes 1.5 million acre-feet of water supply to agencies in Southern California. This water comes from either the State Water Project or the Colorado River. In this current drought, both sources of supply are severely compromised. Currently, MWD is able to access only 5% of its typical allocation of State Water Project supply. MWD's first option when State Water Project supplies are limited is to lean more heavily on supply from the Colorado River. Unfortunately, reservoir levels at Lake Powell and Lake Mead are at historic lows. Due to the on-going drought conditions and the critical need to maintain the availability of hydro-electric power at Lake Powell, the Federal government indicated a necessary cut in usage of Colorado River water by 2- 4 million acre-feet per year. Such a drastic cut represents 27 – 53% of the total assumed supply to the Colorado River basin States.

Changing weather patterns have resulted in multiple impacts on water supply in California. We are seeing far less rain or snow in the California Sierra Mountains as well as the Rocky Mountains in Colorado and Wyoming. In both cases changing weather patterns are resulting in less snow and more rain which is much more difficult to capture for water supply. In addition, hotter conditions have robbed soils of typical moisture. Storm or snowmelt runoff is gobbled up by soils before making it to rivers and streams resulting in runoff efficiencies that are half of what they used to be. The result of this combination of conditions is far less water entering the system and plummeting reservoir levels in California and on the Colorado River system.

MWD's significant investment in water storage facilities buys some time in the short term. The long-term solution will require a combination of water supply infrastructure projects coupled with conservation efforts across the State. While new water supply projects are a necessary part of the long-term solution, many infrastructure projects envisioned to improve water supply in California will take years to work through engineering, design construction before a drop of new water might be available. In the short term, we are faced with the need to live with less water by whatever means we can.

The District has invested heavily in water supply projects over the last ten years. The expansion of the District's recycled water system has reduced potable water consumption by over 15%. Water Use Efficiency efforts by ETWD customers have further reduced the need for imported potable water. While we can hope for better weather, we need to plan for continued drought conditions and step up our water use efficiency and conservation efforts.

The District's Board of Directors updated the ETWD Water Shortage Contingency Plan and Ordinance in 2022 and declared a Level 2 water shortage which seeks water use reductions of 15%. The District continues to provide education to residents, commercial customers and HOAs on water use efficiency. In addition, the District invests significantly in rebates to incentivize the removal of turf, the replacement of inefficient water appliances and the installation of efficient irrigation technology.

Assuming the continuation of the current dry conditions and associated impacts on the State Water Project and Colorado River supplies, the need for water use efficiency and emergency conservation measures is only likely to increase. The District continues to evaluate options to invest in water supply projects that would benefit its customers. In the meantime, the District and I sincerely appreciate the efforts of residents and businesses in its service area to adapt to these changing conditions, minimize any water waste and conserve water wherever and whenever possible.

THANK YOU, DENNIS P. CAFFERTY, GENERAL MANAGER



ETWD and our customers are working together to weather the drought

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INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE

The District is launching three important projects to maintain and secure our water and wastewater infrastructure systems for the future. The projects will help protect the health of our community and our environment.

Ocean Outfall Pump Station Emergency Generator Replacement Project

The District is installing a new emergency generator at the Ocean Outfall Pump Station at our Water Recycling Plant to increase reliability, protect against power outages and ensure that our systems function properly in case of an emergency.

The station plays a vital role in the reliability of the discharge of treated wastewater effluent. Its current generator is more than 25 years old and must be replaced due to reliability and maintenance issues. The new generator will meet the latest fire safety requirements and air quality emission standards. It will also reduce operating costs and deliver consistent output long into the future.



El Toro Regional Reservoir Floating Cover & Liner Replacement Project

The District will be replacing the floating cover and liner of the El Toro Regional Reservoir, an important reservoir that provides 275 million gallons of water storage. The new liner and cover will be made of chlorosulfonated polyethylene (CSPE), a material that will lengthen the anticipated life span to 30 years.

To protect water quality, reservoir liners prevent water seepage. Floating covers protect against airborne contamination, evaporation and algae growth.

The cover also eliminates the need to treat water through a

filtration process, which allows us to repurpose the Filter Building Site, which you can read about below. For more information, visit etwd.com/eltororeservoir.



Filter Building Site Project

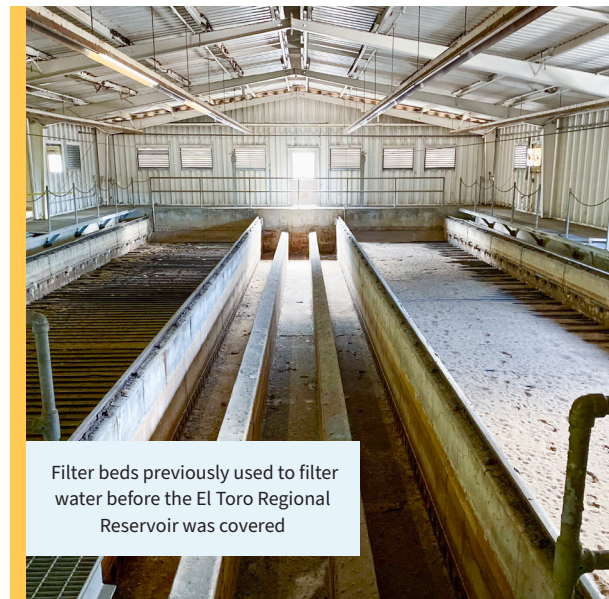
The Water Filtration Plant (Filter Plant) was built in the mid-1960s has been out of service since 1984. The Filter Plant consists of four sand bed filters and associated mechanical and electrical equipment housed in a 13,000 square foot metal building, as well as a 300,000-gallon, steel tank reservoir.

Beginning in September, crews will demolish the existing Filter Plant and reservoir, disconnect and remove existing pipelines, remove an existing meter valve vault, relocate existing Air Quality Management District monitoring equipment and prepare the

site for a potential future warehouse building.

The Filtration Plant previously treated water before it entered the El Toro Regional Reservoir. Since the reservoir was covered, this process is no longer needed.

For more information, visit etwd.com/filterbuildingsite.



Filter beds previously used to filter water before the El Toro Regional Reservoir was covered

OUTDOOR PERMANENT WATER CONSERVATION REQUIREMENTS



Water waste and unreasonable water use is prohibited at all times. For questions, please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or email district@etwd.com.

Outdoor Permanent Water Conservation Requirements

The District is in a Level 2 Water Shortage. Make sure to follow these top outdoor residential requirements to do your part to help save water. Every gallon of water saved today will be a gallon saved for the future and will help avoid or defer additional conservation mandates.

For full indoor and outdoor requirements for residential, commercial and HOA customers, visit etwd.com/water-conservation-shortage-stages.



Watering or irrigating lawns, landscaping and other vegetation is prohibited between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. **Landscapes irrigated with recycled water are exempt from these requirements.**



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



Excessive water flow and runoff onto sidewalks, patios, driveways, streets, alleys or gutters is prohibited.



Fix leaks, breaks or malfunctions in lines, fixtures or facilities within 5 days. (4 days in a Level 2 Water Shortage)



Hosing or washing down sidewalks, patios, driveways and any other hard or paved surfaces is prohibited.



Only wash your vehicles with a bucket and/or hose with a positive shut off hose nozzle. This includes cars, trucks, vans, buses, motorcycles, boats or trailers. Commercial carwashes are exempt.



All decorative fountains and water features must re-circulate water.



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

THESE MEASURES ARE ALWAYS IN PLACE.



BEHIND THE SCENES AT ETWD

"Always remain open to learning new things. If you don't learn, you don't grow." - Vu



MEET THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR TEAM

VU CHU

WATER USE EFFICIENCY ANALYST

Top Priorities

Planning, organizing, implementing and evaluating the District's water efficiency programs for residential, landscape irrigation and commercial customers

Motivation

Vu's passion for science, including water chemistry and treatment processes, inspired him to take a water treatment class at Santiago Canyon College, where he connected with water industry professionals who sparked his interest in joining the water industry three years ago.

Water Inspiration

Vu's love for water runs deep. He is a saltwater aquarium hobbyist and amateur corals keeper, and his interests piqued his curiosity about all things water.

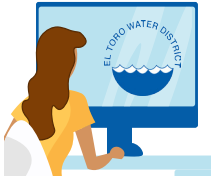




CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

National Night Out

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's National Night Out event on Aug. 2. We enjoyed sharing water-wise tips with our community at the Mission Viejo celebration and getting to know our customers better.



Virtual Landscape Workshops

ETWD co-hosted seven virtual California Friendly Landscape Workshops with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Landscaping and design professionals, the G3 Green Gardens Group, presented workshops in July and August.

Visit etwd.com/conservation/landscape-workshops to register for upcoming workshops.



FALL OUTDOOR REBATE SPOTLIGHT

Save water and money outdoors this fall

Temperatures may start cooling down, but the rebate savings are heating up. Prepare your yard for the season with these residential rebates for qualifying devices and upgrades.

**SOIL MOISTURE SENSOR CONTROLLER
UP TO \$150***

**ROTATING SPRINKLER NOZZLES
UP TO \$2 PER NOZZLE***

**DRIP IRRIGATION
\$0.75 SQ. FT. UP TO 5,000 SQ. FT. ***

**RAIN BARRELS AND CISTERNS
UP TO \$50 PER RAIN BARREL AND \$250 – \$350
PER CISTERN***

**TURF REMOVAL RESIDENTIAL
\$4 SQ. FT. UP TO 5,000 SQ. FT. (ANNUAL MAXIMUM)***

**TURF REMOVAL COMMERCIAL
\$2 SQ. FT. UP TO 50,000 SQ. FT. (ANNUAL MAXIMUM)***

** Please note that limits and restrictions apply.*

More information

For a full list of available residential and commercial rebates, visit etwd.com/conservation/rebates.

For questions, please call Customer Service at **(949) 837-0660** or email district@etwd.com.

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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.

