



El Toro Water District · Fall 2023

WATER VIEWS

SERVING THE PUBLIC, RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

MAKE A SPLASH THIS FALL WITH CALIFORNIA-FRIENDLY LANDSCAPING AND REBATES

Fall is the perfect time to refresh your landscape. Nearly half of residential water is used outdoors, and as much as half of that is wasted or lost to overwatering, runoff and evaporation. Here are some easy tips to select the right plants and save water.

Tune-up your irrigation system

- ✓ Check your irrigation system monthly for broken pipes, valves, pressure, spray head pattern, water runoff, and make repairs.
- ✓ Set your irrigation controller with seasonal weather changes. Turn the controller off for rain.
- ✓ Use a garden moisture meter to check root zones for moisture and determine watering needs.



Get smart about soil

- ✓ Over time, soil compacts and forms an impenetrable surface. Aerate your soil and lawn to break up the hard surface so water can soak in to give plants more oxygen, nutrients and water.
- ✓ Add soil amendments to build in nutrients and improve water percolation. Remember, we have clay soil here in south Orange County.

Mulch your plant beds

- ✓ Mulch minimizes water loss, controls weeds and returns nutrients to the soil.
- ✓ Spread two to three inches of mulch in plant beds and around trees.
- ✓ Keep mulch away from the base of shrubs and trees to prevent decay and disease.

Irrigation upgrades

- ✓ Install a smart controller that automatically adjusts the watering time and frequency based on soil moisture, rain, wind, evaporation and transpiration rates or plant types.
- ✓ Change spray heads in lawn and shrub areas to low-precipitation multi-stream rotators to save up to 30% less water compared to traditional spray heads.
- ✓ Use bubblers, drip irrigation or low-volume spray heads in planter beds.
- ✓ After planting, mulch and adjust your irrigation controller for the valve that will water your new plant area. Most new plants need a little extra water until they are established. Once they start growing, turn the water down to only what they need.

Plant changes

- ✓ Choose California-friendly and native plants.
- ✓ Group plants with others that match the sun, water and space needs of the plants.
- ✓ Create a hydro zone in one area with plants that have similar water needs.



Water Saver Rebates

Rebates are available for the turf removal program, spray-to-drip irrigation, rotating spray heads and weather-based irrigation controllers. Visit [ETWD.com/conservation/rebates](https://www.etwd.com/conservation/rebates).

For specific landscape questions, please contact ETWD's Water Use Efficiency Analyst, Vu Chu at (949) 837-7050, ext. 253.

Learn More

Visit [ETWD.com/conservation/landscaping](https://www.etwd.com/conservation/landscaping) to learn more and sign up for a free ETWD leak detection workshop or online class.

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

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 district@etwd.com

 (949) 837-7050

 [etwd.com](https://www.etwd.com)





JOIN US AT THE NEXT COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

Interested in learning more about ETWD behind the scenes? We hold quarterly Community Advisory Group meetings to provide our customers a community information forum and discuss pertinent topics related to ETWD, including water quality, local and regional water supply, water use efficiency, and finance.

We place great value in our customers' interests and concerns, and this group has been an important feature for planning for the future. The next meeting is on **Nov. 9, 2023, at 11:30 a.m.** Sign up to receive quarterly invitations on our website homepage at [ETWD.com](https://www.etwd.com).

UPCOMING CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS

Pipe Patrol: Leak Detection and Prevention Workshop

Join us for two in-person workshops at ETWD, 24251 Los Alisos Blvd., Lake Forest, CA 92630.



TUESDAY, OCT. 24, 2023, 7 – 8:30 P.M.

Sign up at <https://conta.cc/45uQGJC>



SATURDAY, OCT. 28, 2023, 9:30 – 11 A.M.

Sign up at <https://conta.cc/47DITv2>



Enhance Your Landscape Skills

Join free Zoom workshops co-hosted by ETWD and Metropolitan Water District with a focus on sustainable yard solutions.

- 🔹 **GOODBYE GRASS – QUALIFY FOR A TURF REMOVAL REBATE · OCT. 18, 6 – 7 P.M.**
- 🔹 **DECIPHERING YOUR IRRIGATION CONTROLLER · OCT. 21, 9 – 10 A.M.**
- 🔹 **CALIFORNIA-FRIENDLY NATIVE PLANT LANDSCAPE · NOV. 2, 6 – 7 P.M.**
- 🔹 **IRRIGATION & WATER USE EFFICIENCY · NOV. 7, 6 – 7 P.M.**
- 🔹 **GARDEN DESIGN · NOV. 8, 6 – 7:30 P.M.**
- 🔹 **DRIP IRRIGATION · NOV. 14, 6 – 7 P.M.**



Learn more and sign up

[ETWD.com/conservation/landscape-workshops](https://www.etwd.com/conservation/landscape-workshops)

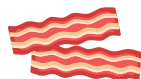
DON'T INVITE FOG TO HOLIDAY MEALS

FOG (fats, oils and grease) is one pesky guest that doesn't deserve a seat at your holiday table. Putting FOG down the drain or garbage disposal can clog your pipes and cause sewage to back up into your house and spill into the streets.

Protect your pipes and our environment by keeping these items out of your drain. Dispose of them in your green waste container or in the trash if you do not have organic recycling in your area.



GRAVY



BACON GREASE



MEAT DRIPPINGS



SOUR CREAM



COOKING OIL



SALAD DRESSING



MAYONNAISE



SHORTENING, LARD, BUTTER AND MARGARINE



IN THE COMMUNITY



Orange County Grand Jury Water Supply and Infrastructure Trip

In August, ETWD welcomed members of the Orange County Grand Jury, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Municipal Water District of Orange County for a presentation and tour of the 275 million gallon El Toro Regional Reservoir. General Manager Dennis Cafferty dived into the history and provided a behind the scenes look at what it takes to maintain a reservoir this large.



Girl Scout Patch Clinic

Saturday, Nov. 4, 9-11 a.m.

ETWD is partnering with MWDOC and the Girl Scouts of America to bring the



Water Resources &

Conservation Patch Clinic to ETWD. This two-hour, STEM-based clinic allows Girl Scouts to learn where their water comes from and a tour of ETWD's Water Recycling Plant. Registration is limited. [Sign up: mwdoc.com/nov04clinic](http://mwdoc.com/nov04clinic)

Boy Scout Patch Clinic

Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

ETWD is partnering with MWDOC and the Boy Scouts of America to bring the Soil & Water

Conservation Merit Badge Clinic to ETWD.

Scouts ages 11-17 can learn about the importance of soil and water with hands-on activities and a tour of ETWD's Water Recycling Plant. Registration is limited.

[Sign up: mwdoc.com/dec09clinic](http://mwdoc.com/dec09clinic)



BEHIND THE SCENES AT ETWD



NEW FACES AT ETWD



Marc Avila Jr.

MAINTENANCE WORKER I

Top Priorities

Maintaining water system infrastructure, including valves, hydrants and service lines.

Experience

Marc's trajectory demonstrates the opportunities for ETWD staff to grow their careers. After a successful internship with the sewer collections department, Marc was promoted to a full-time role with the operations crew.

"I enjoy the camaraderie of working together with the ETWD team to complete tasks and handle emergencies."

Jessica Ocampo

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

Top Priorities

Responding to customer inquiries about sewer or water service and providing solutions to create a positive impact in ETWD customers' lives.

Experience

Water is a family affair for Jessica. She was inspired to pursue a career in water by her husband's nine years of water industry service.

"Treat each customer as if you are that customer."



Mark Bastia

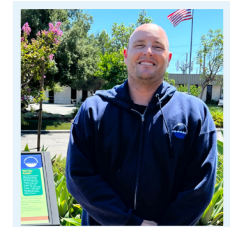
MAINTENANCE WORKER I

Top Priorities

Performing maintenance tasks at pump stations to maintain water quality for customers.

Experience

Mark's passion for public service ignited in a role at the City of San Juan Capistrano. Inspired to pursue a career in water and wastewater, he earned industry certifications and joined the ETWD team.



"I really appreciate ETWD's commitment to protecting the local environment and high standards in providing clean water to our customers."

ETWD EARNs PRSA BRONZE ANVIL AWARD

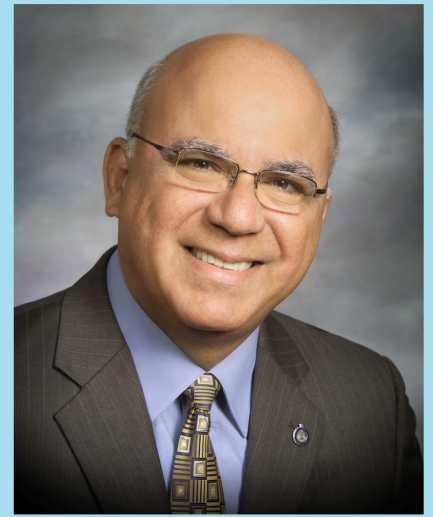
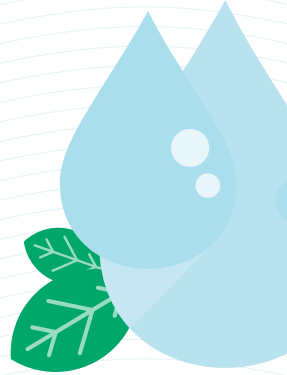


ETWD Public Affairs Manager, Sherri Seitz, accepts the award on behalf of ETWD.

Keeping the lines of communication open between ETWD and our customers is a top priority for the District. The Water Views newsletter that you're reading right now is one of the public outreach channels we use to help ETWD customers stay updated with the latest information and resources.

We're delighted to report that the newsletter earned a top national honor,

a 2023 Bronze Anvil Award from the Public Relations Society of America (PRSA). The Anvils are considered the icon of the profession and the benchmark of high performance in public relations and community outreach. Bronze Anvil Awards recognize outstanding activities that contribute to the success of public outreach programs and campaigns.



BOARD VICE PRESIDENT JOSE VERGARA RETIRES



Congratulations to ETWD Board of Directors Vice President Jose Vergara on retiring after 11 years of service. Director Vergara's strong leadership propelled ETWD forward in accomplishing many milestones during his tenure. Several key projects undertaken with Director Vergara's oversight include the Recycled Water Expansion Project, the R-6 Reservoir Cover and Liner Replacement Project, a strategic planning process, and participating in the Baker Water Treatment Plan Project. ETWD appreciates Director Vergara's dedication to the District and wishes him well in all future endeavors.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT

Kay Havens

DIRECTOR

Mike Gaskins

VICE PRESIDENT

Vacant

DIRECTOR

Mark Monin

DIRECTOR

Kathryn Freshley

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.

