

El Toro Water District

“Serving the Public - Respecting the Environment”

WaterViews

California’s Water Crisis

The public education program, **“California’s Water: A Crisis We Can’t Ignore.”** focuses the public’s attention on the problems facing the state’s water system. Sponsored by public water agencies throughout the state, the program helps Californians understand the complex issues behind our state’s deepening water crisis.

The problems California faces are serious and growing. From court-ordered supply reductions, increased demands due to more people, an aging and fragile infrastructure, lack of storage, and competing interests, all regions of California will soon feel the effects of our water troubles.

In late summer, a federal court ordered the state’s largest water systems to cut deliveries by one-third to protect an endangered fish species, the Delta smelt. This significant reduction in water supply, potentially the single largest court-ordered reduction in California’s history, will be experienced in the Bay Area, Central and Southern California.

In fact, some water agencies from San Francisco to Los Angeles to San Diego already have asked their customers to voluntarily reduce water

use above and beyond their normal water use efficiency practices. In others, water officials have already imposed mandatory water restrictions.

But urban communities are not the only ones who will feel impact of the court-ordered cutbacks. Some farmers in the San Joaquin Valley, Inland Empire and San Diego regions have abandoned crop planting this coming winter and spring because of water supply restrictions.

State leaders are acutely concerned about the future of California’s water supply. On the heels of the Delta Smelt court decision, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger called the state’s water system “broken, unreliable and in

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crisis” and the cutback order “ a devastating blow to our water supply system and economy.”

This past summer, Schwarzenegger and U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein hosted a bi-partisan water summit to call attention to the broken Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta system. Feinstein agreed with the governor’s concern about the state’s water supply and delivery system, saying that if the Delta were to collapse due to a major earthquake, “there would be no water for drinking, there would be no water for agriculture, there would be no water for fish, marsh, ecosystems.”

Some people hope the state can avoid feeling the pressures of these mounting problems simply by using less water. **More conservation is definitely needed and it is an extremely valuable water management tool.** However, the collective impacts of court-ordered supply reductions, drought, climate change, increased population demands and/or potential natural disasters mean that conservation alone will not solve this crisis.

Water managers are also worried about a prolonged, statewide drought. This year was one of the driest years on record. **Another record-dry year, combined with the cutbacks, and reduced imported water deliveries, could equate to mandatory water rationing in the near term.**

Never before has the state’s water system faced the troubles it faces today. It is critical that all Californians take the state’s water problems seriously. We simply cannot afford to ignore this crisis—California’s present and future economy, environment and quality of life depend on a reliable water system.

For more information, please visit www.calwatercrisis.org. For more information on water conservation opportunities, refer to page 3 and visit www.etwd.com and www.bewaterwise.com.

Every drop of water saved today leaves more for tomorrow.♦



The El Toro Water District board of directors and staff would like to express their gratitude to the heroic firefighters, law enforcement and volunteers who contributed so generously during the Santiago Canyon fire and surrounding fires.♦



The El Toro Water District Board of Directors and Staff want to thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

We wish you the season’s best. Happy New Year.



WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

Suggested Weekly Watering Schedule

Weekly Watering Schedule for Spray Head Irrigation Systems

	Turf Grass	Trees, shrubs groundcover
December	2 days 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
January	2 days 2 cycles of 2 minutes	1 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes
February	2 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes	1 days 2 cycles of 3 minutes

Rotating Nozzle Rebate Program

The latest innovation in sprinkler technology are nozzles that turn a standard sprinkler head into a precision device that can water your landscape better using 20% less water.

The nozzles shoot a multi-trajectory, rotating stream that applies water more slowly and uniformly than the conventional sprays and rotors.

Orange County residences and commercial customers are eligible to receive a rebate for the purchase of select rotating nozzles on or after July 10, 2007.

For a list of approved products, application and additional information, please visit www.mwdoc.com/wue.



Rotating nozzle sprinkler head.



LIMITED TIME OFFER

Homeowners can get up to a \$540 rebate when you upgrade your outdoor sprinkler system with a qualifying "smart" controller.

For more information, including a program description, your potential rebate amount, restrictions and eligibility requirements, or to download an application, please go to www.mwdoc.com/SmarTimer/. You may also call 1-866-846-3725.

High Efficiency Toilet (HET) Rebate Program

Orange County residents can receive a **\$150 rebate** for replacing a pre-1994 toilet with a new high efficiency toilet. HET's can save 150 gallons per week.



High Efficiency Clothes Washer (HECW) Rebate Program



Orange County residents can receive a **\$100 rebate** for purchasing a high efficiency clothes washer. HECW's use 50% less water.

For a list of all rebates, eligible toilets & clothes washers, rebate applications, and program guidelines, please visit www.mwdoc.com/wue or call 800-954-4344. ♦

Water Education Corner



BE AN O.C. WATER HERO

Attention all kids!

Water is a precious limited resource. You can help to protect water by becoming an O.C. Water Hero. It's easy, just promise to save 20 gallons of water each day and complete a pledge form at www.ocwaterhero.com. Heroes receive an official O.C. Water Hero Kit with:

- ◆ water hero badge
- ◆ water waster fix-it ticket pad
- ◆ shower timer
- ◆ water hero flying disc
- ◆ water activity sheets
- ◆ water conservation tip stickers
- ◆ parent pledge form to become a water SUPERHERO!

Ways to Save Water:

- Wash full loads of laundry
- Turn off water while brushing teeth
- Clean the driveway with a broom, not a hose
- Water the yard late p.m. or early a.m.
- Take a 5 minute (or less) shower



Kids! Find out how to become a water SUPERHERO and get more cool prizes, including a t-shirt at www.ocwaterhero.com.

This program is brought to you by the Orange County Water District, Municipal Water District of Orange County and the family of Orange County Water Agencies.◆

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

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The Mission of the El Toro Water District is to plan and invest appropriately to provide its customers a safe, adequate and reliable supply of water, wastewater and recycled water service in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

Water Views is published quarterly to keep water users in the El Toro Water District informed about water and wastewater related issues and events. It is prepared by District staff. [Your comments and suggestions are welcomed.](#) Please call Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or visit our website at www.etwd.com. The El Toro Water District is a California Water District governed by an elected Board of Directors.

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