



The Waterfront



Residential Lawn Irrigation—Water Wise Tips

If you live in a home with an average-sized lawn, you are likely using at least half of your water outdoors. Many people give their lawns too much water in normal years—not only is that wasteful, but it can also damage your lawn and leave it more susceptible to pests and disease. Understanding how much irrigation you need outside can help you find significant water savings. Also, look to page two to learn more about the state's turf replacement rebates.

see IRRIGATION page 4

Governor Lifts Drought Emergency, Restrictions Remain and Tighter Use Standards Proposed

On Friday, April 7, Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. issued an executive order lifting the drought emergency that has been in effect since 2014. Only Fresno, Kings, Tulare, and Tuolumne counties remain under drought emergency conditions.

Record precipitation this water year and increased levels of water conservation were cited by the governor in his decision to lift the drought emergency.

“Throughout this multi-year drought emergency, EID customers have stepped up and conserved when the state imposed water restrictions,” said EID General Manager Jim Abercrombie. “EID’s water portfolio is robust and the investment our community has made over the years to increase its supply has paid off.”

The State Water Resources Control Board will maintain urban water use reporting requirements through the end of the year and prohibitions on wasteful practices such as watering during or after rainfall, hosing off sidewalks and irrigating ornamental turf on public street medians.

The state is also proposing to implement enforceable water conservation standards that could affect EID customers.

At its April 10 meeting, the EID board of directors heard a legislative update from Bob Reeb, the district's advocate at the State Capitol. Reeb reviewed a budget trailer bill under consideration that empowers the State Water Board to develop new residential water use targets of potentially 55 gallons per person per day for indoor use and restrictions on outdoor use as well.

“We are paying close attention to this legislation and we hope that any maximum use standards established by the legislature account for local water supplies and conditions like ours and that the state will entrust local water suppliers to manage water use within their local water supply portfolio,” said Abercrombie. “We will continue to monitor this legislation and advocate on behalf of our ratepayers.”

Your 2016 Water Quality Report is Now Available Online

Each year, EID provides its customers with an annual water quality report to let you know how our water quality stacks up against established federal and state drinking water standards. We encourage you to review this report as it provides details about the source and quality of the drinking water delivered to your community in 2016.

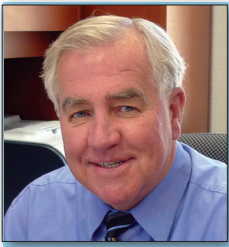
EID maintains three water systems—two small systems that supply the unincorporated communities of Strawberry (approximately 40 miles east of Placerville on Highway 50) and Outingdale (approximately 15 miles southeast of Placerville), and the main system, which covers the rest of EID’s service area.

To read the 2016 water quality report for your community, go to the EID website, or directly to the following web addresses.

MAIN SYSTEM: www.eid.org/main | OUTINGDALE: www.eid.org/outingdale | STRAWBERRY: www.eid.org/strawberry

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua beber. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.





Message from the General Manager

Conservative and Responsible Management

Jim Abercrombie

As I write this column, EID workers are in the thick of widespread emergency repairs. The emergency repairs, resulting from damages caused during the storms of January/February, are some of the most significant we've experienced in recent memory. Some of those repairs are to canal and flume sections perched high on hard-to-access mountain sides.

EID maintains 22 miles of canals, flumes, and tunnels in its federally licensed hydroelectric system. This system also transports a significant amount of our customers' drinking water supply from high Sierra sources.

And that's only one link in the chain of interconnected infrastructure and facilities that make possible the services we provide to our customers 24 hours a day.

EID's complex system requires continuous maintenance and scheduled reconstruction. That's why we plan our capital improvements carefully, issuing bonds to finance long-lived infrastructure that will benefit generations of customers. In order to make the repairs necessary to maintain our complex system of infrastructure, you must have a rock solid financial plan in place.

EID finances are stronger today than ever before. It has taken time to get to this point, but the careful planning and tough decisions made by EID staff and the EID board of Directors have created an agency able to deal with the many challenges it faces now and into the future.

EID's diverse system consists of nearly a billion dollars' worth of vital infrastructure across its five business lines—water, wastewater, recycled water, hydroelectric generation, and recreation services. To sustainably maintain such a diverse infrastructure spread out over 220 square miles of service area requires long-range, conservative financial planning and debt management.

It also takes a fair amount of money for those often large projects, especially the capital improvement projects that will last for many years and benefit generations of EID ratepayers.

Before 2010, water rates had risen six times in 22 years. And during this time, many important and necessary projects were deferred. For much of that time, the district overly relied on new connection fees that were so abundant before the 2008/2009 financial crash. Coming out of that period, EID has become more conservative, more sustainable, and has developed financial plans that feature modest, regular rate increases instead of the periodic "rate shock" corrections of the past that upset many customers.

This continued investment in our community infrastructure is important for the district as we face the challenges ahead of us. With a sustainably managed capital improvement plan, we'll be prepared to continue providing the dependable service that our customers rely on every day.

EID has come a long way in recent years to introduce resiliency not only in our water supplies, but also in our finances—and we are committed to keep to this conservative path going forward. And by implementing low, single-digit rate adjustments, EID is able to direct resources to replace aging infrastructure that has served us ably for so long, and will continue to serve our community for decades to come.

Fiscal responsibility and good management are the bedrock of EID's culture and this is born out in verifiable numbers and facts. El Dorado Irrigation District—and the men and women working to ensure our complex systems run safely and reliably every single day, during normal operations and in emergencies like we're experiencing now—stands by that.

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**TURF REPLACEMENT
REBATES
STILL AVAILABLE!**



The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has a rebate program for removing turf and replacing it with landscapes that require little water at California single-family residences to support the state's drought response. For more information on the program's history, go to the DWR turf site at www.water.ca.gov/turf/.

The \$24 million program budget is expected to support the conversion of more than 10 million square feet of turf, or approximately 20 percent of the statewide goal of 50 million square feet of turf. Up to \$2 per square foot of removed and replaced turf will be rebated per eligible household. The total rebated amount, including any rebates the homeowner has already applied for from another agency, can't exceed a total of \$2 per square foot.

For more on this state rebate program, go to:

www.saveourwaterrebates.com/turf-replacement-rebates.html

Emergency Repairs and Safety in the Cone Zone

The recent storms have left the district with a number of emergency repair projects. Some of those repairs are along busy roadways. Please be aware of the cones that are carefully placed in the roadway. They are there for an important reason.

Cone zones are not only for highway workers, EID uses them while working on your utilities that are in streets and roads.

We urge motorists to follow the driving tips below to ensure that a minor inconvenience of utility system maintenance does not turn into a tragedy.

Don't Speed — Reduce speed before entering a work zone. If other motorists are speeding, don't follow the bad example. Remember, fines double in work zones.

Stay Alert — Dedicate full attention to the road. Remember, somebody's loved one is working in that area.

Pay Attention — Avoid distracting activities like adjusting the radio, talking to passengers, or using a cell phone. Utility workers and heavy equipment will often be just a few feet from the vehicles passing through the cone zone. Take note of warning devices and flaggers' directions.

Expect the Unexpected — Be extra vigilant because the traffic patterns and speeds are different than normal.

Be Prepared to Stop — Signs and work-zone flaggers save lives.

Don't Tailgate — Maintain adequate and safe distances from workers and other vehicles.

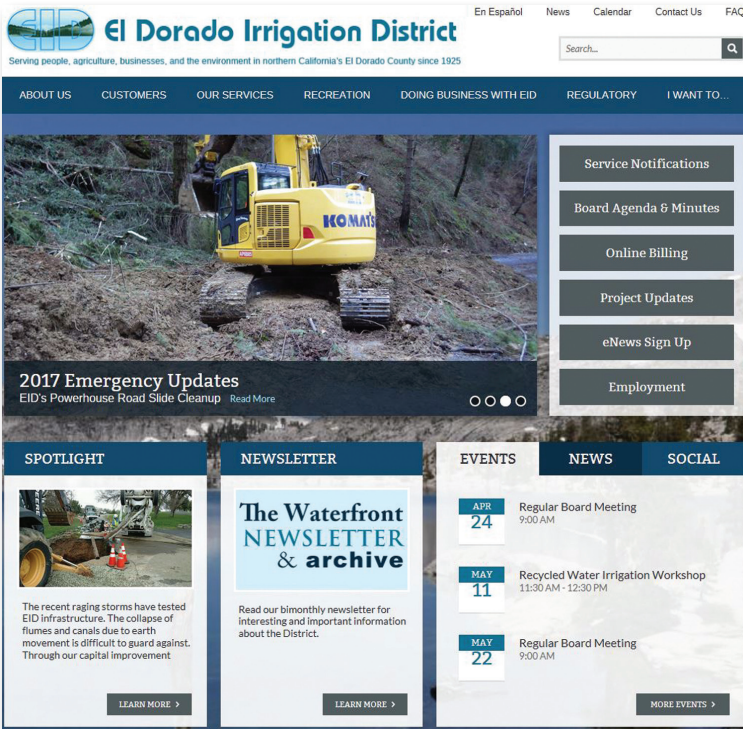


Be Patient — Traffic delays in work zones are sometimes unavoidable. Aggressive driving is dangerous for everyone. The risk of a hefty fine, accident, or fatality is not worth the few extra minutes it takes to get through a cone zone. Someone's family is expecting them to be home at the end of their shift. Please drive with caution and slow down. Follow the directions of traffic signs or by the cone zone flagger. The number one cause of cone zone crashes is excessive speed. Cone zones provide little room for maneuvering and virtually no margin for error.

EID is committed to 100 percent safety—for our staff and the public. By being vigilant when you enter a cone zone, you help to ensure your safety and the safety of our hard-working field crews.

EID is experiencing many ongoing emergency repairs. The pictures below show one such emergency repair that closed Highway 193. EID's El Dorado Main No. 2 (EDM-2) water transmission main was partially exposed when a landslide affected the hillside it is buried in. The landslide resulted in the closure of Highway 193, just north of Placerville off of Highway 49. The 24-inch EDM-2 serves approximately 21,000 customer connections from Camino to EID's western boundary in El Dorado Hills. For more on this and other EID emergency actions, go to www.eid.org/emergency2017.





EID Website Refresh

At the beginning of April, the EID website was refreshed in its look and feel. The new format allows for increased navigability and, hopefully, makes it easier for our customers and community to access the rich store of information located on the site.

Please browse to the new site and have a look around. If you are interested in receiving news to your email automatically, go to eNews Sign Up and choose the categories you would like to be notified about.

IRRIGATION, *continued from page 1*

Here are some additional helpful hints for efficiently watering your lawn that are useful for optimizing your irrigation schedules.

- Reduce the number of days you water per week, reduce the minutes of watering per day, or reduce both. During drought conditions, lawns can survive on a lot less water. The lawn won't look its best, but it will survive.
- Water in the early morning hours when there is usually less wind.
- Instead of watering for a short amount of time each day, water for longer periods of time, two times a week to allow the water to sink in to the root zone on your grass.
- Avoid water runoff, especially on sloped lawns, by turning off the sprinklers for 15 minutes halfway through your complete watering time to allow the water to soak deep into the soil.
- Eliminate overspray—don't allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway, or sidewalk. Adjust them so water lands only where it's needed, not the paved areas.
- Increase the mowing height for your grass. This helps increase the water-holding capacity of the soil.
- Avoid fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizing increases your lawn's need for water.
- Replace or repair broken sprinkler heads as needed.


Depending on the type of grass you have and the season, you may need to apply more or less water. A week of windy weather or temperatures over 100 degrees can influence how much water your lawn will need. The best way to determine the water requirements for your lawn is to look at the type of grass you have (cool season grasses vs. warm season grasses) and the efficiency of your irrigation system.

The UC Guide to Healthy Lawns (<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/TOOLS/TURF/>) includes an online irrigation calculator that can help you determine a watering schedule tailored to your lawn based on where you live, your sprinkler output, and the type of grass you have. Call EID customer service at 530-642-4000 to schedule a complimentary landscape water survey today. A water efficiency technician will assess your irrigation system and give recommendations for system improvements that could save water.

2017 REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
9	13	13	10	11	12	—	14	11	10 (T)	13	11
23	27	27	24	—	26	24	28	—	23	—	—

Board meetings generally occur on the second and fourth Monday of each month. The date marked (T) takes place on a Tuesday.

 In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California law, it is the policy of the El Dorado Irrigation District to offer its public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and require information or materials in an appropriate alternative format; or if you require any other accommodation, please contact the ADA Coordinator at the number or address below at least 72 hours prior to the meeting or when you desire to receive services. Advance notification within this guideline will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. The District ADA Coordinator can be reached by phone at (530) 642-4013 or e-mail at adacoordinator@eid.org.

The Waterfront is written and designed by EID's Communications Department.