



The Waterfront

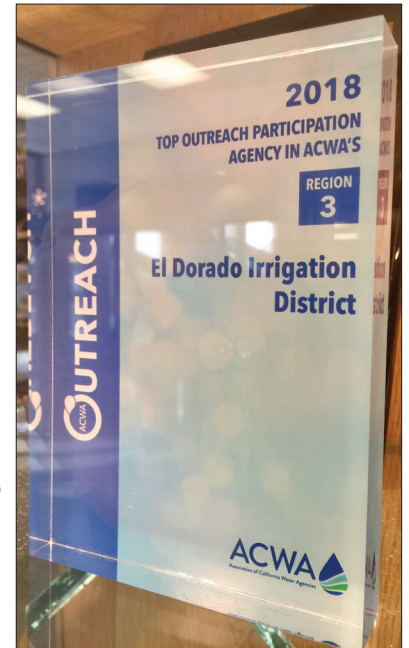
EID Receives Outreach Award

Every year at the Association of California Water Agencies' (ACWA) Fall Conference and Exposition, outreach awards are given to the top outreach participants in each of ACWA's 10 regions. Winners are determined by the number of contacts made with legislators that are consistent with ACWA's support or oppose positions, as determined by the ACWA State Legislative Committee.

At this fall's conference, EID was awarded the 2018 Region 3 Outreach Recognition Award. ACWA Region 3 is comprised of 25 member agencies across Alpine, Amador, Calaveras, El Dorado, Inyo, Mariposa, Mono, Nevada, Placer, Sierra, and Tuolumne counties.

Each year, ACWA's outreach program encourages member agencies to contact their legislators, key regulators and administrative officials to actively advocate against bad legislation and regulations. During this year, EID urgently opposed Assembly and Senate Bills that would impose what would amount to a tax on customer water bills. District staff and lobbyist Bob Reeb of Reeb Government Relations called legislators, sent individual letters, and had face-to-face meetings in support of modifying or defeating the proposed water tax legislation.

"EID is pleased to be recognized for this award," said EID General Manager Jim Abercrombie. "The EID Board and District management continuously advocate for sensible legislation and regulations. Partnering with the statewide Association of California Water Agencies strengthens our collective voices."



EID Receives Transparency Certificate of Excellence



In late December, EID was notified that it had received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its "outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance."

This is the third time EID has achieved this certification. Each certification period covers two years and the current certification lasts through 2020.

In order to receive the award, a special district must demonstrate the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

EID also fulfilled over fifteen website requirements, including providing readily available information to the public, such as

see [TRANSPARENCY](#), page 4

Does EID Read Every Meter? Yes, But You May Not See Us!

EID uses an automated meter reading (AMR) system that more efficiently allows our personnel to read customer meters—remotely. Over 20,000 of our customers' meters use AMR technology.

AMR meters use communication technology to read meters without having to access the meter, which is located in a meter box in the ground.

Automated meter reading allows for more accurate and faster collection of water usage readings than the more labor-intensive manual method and it improves safety conditions for EID personnel in the field.

Water meters with AMR technology include a small radio transmitter powered by a battery that is connected to the water meter by a cable. The radio device collects a reading from the meter and transmits the reading to a receiving device located in an EID service vehicle that's being driven through your neighborhood.

The data collected consists of a unique meter number and

Most of the more densely populated western part of EID's service area and accounts with sewer service are on the AMR system.

see [METERS](#), page 4



Message from the General Manager

Transparency and Outreach Recognition Exemplifies EID Commitment

Jim Abercrombie

EID’s outstanding debt has continued to trend downwards over this time, from almost \$388 million in 2010 to nearly \$301 million in 2019. While the trend continues downward, low interest long-term debt continues to be an important strategic funding source to pay for the expensive rehabilitation and reconstruction projects that keep our water, wastewater, and recycled water business lines in good working order. Not to mention our vital federally-licensed hydroelectric project that provides valuable and sustainable electricity and is also—and more importantly—the source for one third of our customers’ drinking water supply.

In 2019 the board and the ratepayers they represent will find an agency that has worked diligently to get us here. There are no hidden agendas, no hidden strategies, in the successes we’ve had to get to this moment.

EID was recently honored with its third “Transparency Certificate of Excellence” from the Special District Leadership Foundation. These awards, good for two-years, require transparent access to important documents and require us to meet increasingly stringent rules about the District’s communications with our ratepayers—most of this information is located on EID’s website at www.eid.org. We will reapply in two years because we are proud to showcase our transparency and we take immense pride in continuing to make the workings of our agency open, honest, and crystal clear.

In 2018, EID acted urgently on behalf of its ratepayers and community to counteract the sometimes onerous bills that come up in the state legislature and that could cost our ratepayers thousands of dollars. EID staff and our legislative advocate called, wrote letters, and had sit-down meetings with regional legislators. These actions, and the actions of our ratepayers, helped change the tide and stopped the bills.

In late November of 2018, EID’s efforts were recognized by the Association of California Water Agencies for an Outreach Award highlighting EID’s efforts to defeat the water tax legislation that would have added an additional burden to water bills across the state. We thought the need for funding was correct—safe, reliable drinking water for all Californians—but we did not think the water tax was the way to fund it.

As District staff looks ahead to another year of hard work, important projects are on the horizon. Projects like the complicated flume rehabilitation are vital for ensuring a reliable water supply for our customers. Our system of flumes and canals are located in difficult terrain and construction on them can be complex and expensive—but they are an important artery for bringing water from the High Sierra to our customers’ taps.

Important piping projects, lift station repairs, and a variety of other needed projects that are largely invisible to our ratepayers’ daily lives are scheduled to keep our system safe and reliable. Along with these projects, EID staff will continue to act transparently and advocate fiercely for our ratepayers and community for this and every year.

In December of 2018, two new EID board directors were sworn into service. Together, the five elected EID board directors take on the task of guiding policy and shaping priorities for EID’s diverse and far-reaching organization. It is an impactful responsibility that they have taken on and they do not take it lightly.

District management and staff welcome the new board members to an agency that has made verifiable strides to make EID more sustainable and resilient over the last decade.

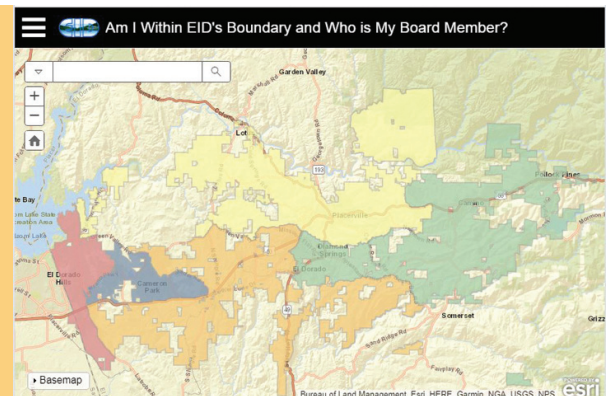


EID'S OUTSTANDING DEBT HAS CONTINUED TO TREND DOWNWARDS OVER THIS TIME, FROM ALMOST \$388 MILLION IN 2010 TO NEARLY \$301 MILLION IN 2019.

New Members of the Board Sworn In

On December 10, two new members of the EID Board of Directors were sworn in and board officers for 2019 appointed.

For more, go to www.eid.org/about-us/board-of-directors. On this webpage you can also use our GIS-enabled tool to explore division boundaries and find out in which division your home or property is located.



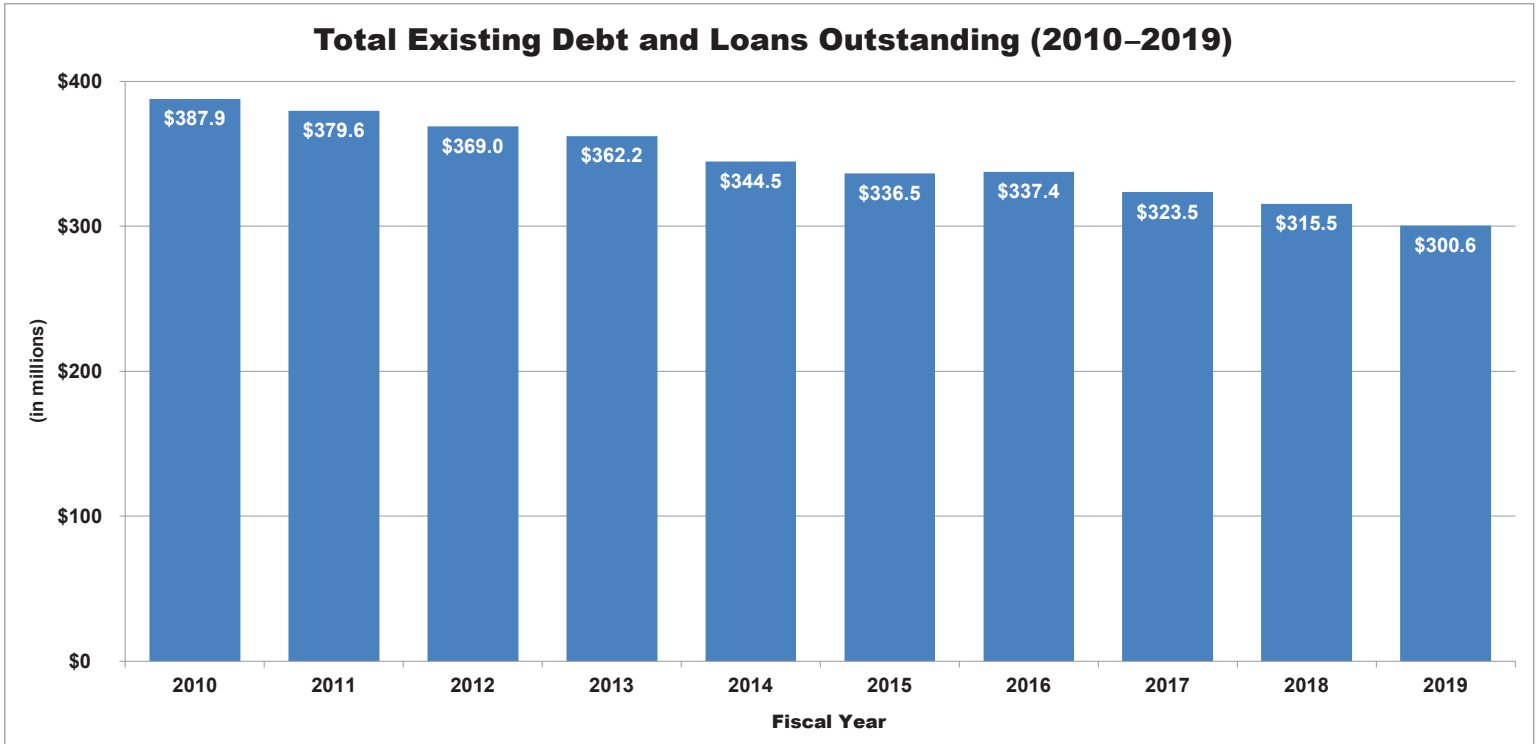
Two-Year Budget, Five-Year Financial Plan Approved

At its December 10 meeting, the El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors adopted the 2019–2020 operating budget in the amount of \$51.190 million for 2019 and \$53.238 million for 2020.

The Board voted to reduce a previously-approved rate increase of three percent for wastewater services down to a two percent increase, effective January 1, 2019. The previously-approved rate increases for water and recycled water services will remain at three percent effective January 1, 2019. There were no rate increases in 2018.

Customer bills that include 2018 consumption will be prorated at the old and new rates for the time periods indicated on your statement. Although the prorated charges will not show as a printed line item, the total amount due is the correct amount billed. For more details on the proration, or for any questions regarding your account, please contact EID’s utility billing group at (530) 642-4000 or billing@eid.org.

Total Existing Debt and Loans Outstanding (2010–2019)



2019–2023 Financial Plan

Long-term financial plans provide a blueprint that helps the District balance the financial needs of operations with the need for capital improvements.

The plan is used to establish necessary costs for operations and maintenance, debt service, and pay-as-you-go construction projects.

“The financial plan establishes the amount of total revenues needed to fund the operating costs, fund capital improvements and debt payments while also meeting bond covenants and maintaining adequate cash reserves,” said EID General Manager Jim Abercrombie.

Long-term financial plans are also used to plan, by year, rate adjustments (if needed) to meet the financial goals of the District through the use of small annual rate increases without creating rate shock with large, double-digit increases.

Additional financial plan goals include maintaining strong credit ratings and maintaining funding for critical asset replacement prior to end of life to avoid asset failures.

With multiyear financial plans in place, including rate increases showing the ability of a utility to meet its operational and financing obligations, the bond rating agencies gain confidence in the utility, rate its credit higher, and ultimately reduce the cost of borrowing.

“EID strives to contain costs at every possible opportunity while maintaining safe and reliable service levels,” said Abercrombie. “We aim to strike a balance with our operating budget and our long-term debt portfolio. We have been successful in reducing EID’s outstanding debt from almost \$388 million in 2010 to nearly \$301 million in 2019.”

► **TRANSPARENCY**, *continued from page 1*

board agendas, past minutes, current district budget information, and the most recent financial audit.

EID is a special district serving nearly 110,000 residents in northern California’s El Dorado County.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as water, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters in order to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

EID customer needs are as broad ranging as the area’s diversity. EID provides drinking water, sewer treatment services, and recycled water from wastewater treatment plants to irrigate front and back yards and public landscapes for homes, schools and businesses within its 220-square-mile service area. EID operates a hydroelectric power project that includes dams, reservoirs and 23 miles of flumes, canals, siphons and tunnels and that was relicensed in 2006 for 40 years. The district also owns and manages several outdoor recreation sites, including Sly Park Recreation Area in Pollock Pines and a 42-unit campground at Silver Lake along Highway 88.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

► **METERS**, *continued from page 1*

the digits of the meter’s measurement, which is used to generate the customer’s utility bill. The signal the water meter transmits produces radio frequency waves many times lower than many other everyday items found in homes, such as cell phones, baby monitors, and wireless routers.

Meters are read on a bi-monthly basis, by either radio or manual read, with 99 percent accuracy. Very rarely must a meter be estimated and only when the meter is inaccessible or unsafe conditions prevent our technicians from gaining access.

Most of the more densely populated western part of EID’s service area and accounts with sewer service are on the AMR system. As meters fail or are in difficult areas to access we upgrade them to the AMR system. All new installations are also part of the AMR system.

Routes on the AMR system only require the technician to drive slowly through the neighborhood, making obtaining the reads much more efficient. Meters that are manually read require the meter box be opened and the read manually entered into a hand-held device. The reads are then uploaded from the device to our billing system.

Once the meter data is uploaded, the data is reviewed by EID’s utility billing staff for unusual consumption levels. If the consumption for a particular account is unusually high based on historical usage, staff will send a technician out to reread the meter and check for visible leaks. Based on the results of this service check, customers are notified of possible leaks via door tags, letters, and—in some cases—phone calls to bring any issues to the customer’s attention as quickly as possible.

Turn off irrigation while it’s raining and for 48 hours following!



As this Waterfront goes to print, the winter is off to a great start with a good amount of rainfall, but conditions can change quickly.

Recent years have demonstrated how winter rain and snowfall can start strong and then turn completely dry. Using water wisely is important no matter the weather.

Please remember, state law and EID regulations prohibit the running of sprinklers during a rain storm.


So set your controller to off, install a weather-based sprinkler timer or rain sensor, and let Mother Nature take care of watering your landscapes this winter.

For tips and more information, go to www.eid.org/customers/water-efficiency

2019 REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
14	11	11	8	13	10	—	12	9	15 (T)	12 (T)	9
28	25	25*	22	28* (T)	24	22	26	23*	28	—	—

Board meetings generally occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Dates marked (T) are scheduled on Tuesdays. Dates with asterisk are tentative.

 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.