



The Waterfront

2018 Water Quality Reports Available

Each year, EID provides its customers with an annual water quality report (sometimes referred to as a consumer confidence 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 2018.

Where Your Water Comes From

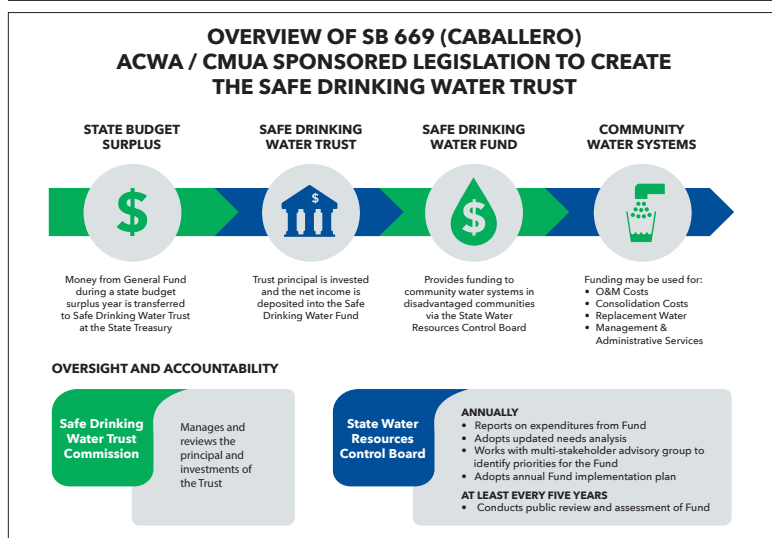
EID maintains three water systems and has rights to approximately 75,000 acre-feet of water from various sources in the Sierra Nevada foothills (an acre-foot equals one acre of land covered by a foot of water; there are 325,851 gallons in an acre-foot). Jenkinson Lake, at the center of Sly Park Recreation Area in Pollock Pines, provides nearly one half of our main system's water supply.

The **main water system** runs from El Dorado Hills to Pollock Pines and encompasses the majority of EID's service area, providing water to 41,089 service accounts. The **Outingdale system** provides water from the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River to 189 service accounts in the small community of Outingdale, approximately 15 miles southeast of Placerville. The **Strawberry system** provides water from the upper South Fork American River to 142 service accounts in the community of Strawberry located approximately 40 miles east of Placerville along Highway 50.

For more information about the sources of your water, read the 2018 water quality report for your community by going to the EID website using 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.



To learn more about the potential water tax and the option of a water trust, go to <https://watertaxfacts.org/>

Water Trust Is Better Option

As part of his budget recommendations in January, Governor Gavin Newsom proposed to revive the water tax as a means to

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2019 Forebay Dam Activities

Heading into its third and final year, the Forebay Dam Modification Project is in the home stretch. This year will see the final elements come into place to complete the project.

Activities planned for 2019 include temporary reservoir lowering (not fully draining as in fall 2018) that will occur one or more times in 2019.

During the May – October period, the primary construction activity will consist of excavation, processing and hauling of earth material from the borrow area to the dam, and construction of the new stability buttress.

During the April – July period, modifications to the spillway will occur in the vicinity of the dam.

In the fall, the Day Use Area improvements will be performed including making the site more level, repaving the parking lot, and improving parking and accessibility.

Prior to project completion (scheduled for later in the fall), the trail along the reservoir will be restored.

see FOREBAY, page 3



Message from the General Manager

Diligence and Continuing Fiscal Responsibility

Jim Abercrombie

As I write this column, EID and its employees are at the tail end of an outstanding winter weather season. According to the California Department of Water Resources, the watershed where we get our water supply from is at 165% of normal for late April.

The powerful storms of February brought many feet of snow that presented challenges to District operations throughout our service area. Along with that much-needed reservoir of snow that we rely upon, the heavy storms also brought hundreds of trees down across our canal and flume system and other facilities, as well as washed out roads and high flows into our wastewater system.

Due to long hours of a dedicated workforce, EID personnel were able to keep the important infrastructure that our customers rely on each and every day up and running.

Now with the warmer weather of spring, District staff continues with yearly plans to implement long term fixes to those facilities that were damaged, but also to move forward with our continuing capital improvement plan (CIP) projects.

The CIP is the annually updated five-year blueprint for keeping EID's more than one-billion-dollar system of infrastructure in good working order. And we will see an enormous project come to a close in 2019.

The Forebay Dam Modification Project is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. Started in 2017, the large and complex project culminates with the dam's 10-foot rise this year, adding precious storage and needed flexibility into the water system.

The project was a requirement of the ever more stringent state and federal regulations that monitor dams in California. But with the changes EID has invested in, the new dam will present an ongoing benefit of increased emergency storage capacity and increased hydroelectric revenue over the next century and beyond.

Continuing Fiscal Responsibility

This year EID will also update the comprehensive cost-of-services study that was undertaken by an independent firm in 2010.

This is an important update because it allows us to reexamine rate structures and EID's ability to operate in a fiscally responsible manner regardless of the economic cycle—all the while continuing to comply with all federal and state laws and regulations.

And after ten years, it's important for us to examine the assumptions we've made about revenue requirements, the cost to provide our services, and EID's rate structures. Our customers and community rely on EID to ensure that our services are adequately funded and fairly priced. The aim is to run a resilient agency that continues to provide reliable, high quality and safe water, wastewater, recycled water, hydroelectric generation, and recreation services to our customers in a sustainable and fiscally responsible manner.

In the years since the Great Recession of 2008–2009, EID has made important investments in our complex and costly infrastructure. We have used low-interest debt that has helped us tackle long-deferred projects that can be equitably repaid over decades by the customers who will benefit from long-lived projects that will last 50 years or more.

Even though we needed low-cost debt to help finance large projects, we have never wavered from the responsibility to manage the debt wisely. The face value of EID's debt peaked at \$392.2 million by the end of 2009. Through disciplined management, that amount has decreased every year through the end of 2018.

Total debt as of December 31, 2018, was \$310 million—a reduction of \$82 million over that period. In fact, in January 2019, EID paid off an additional \$14.5 million in debt.

EID's total debt to total net capital assets is 43.4%, which Standard & Poor's rates as "moderate" for US water and sewer utility enterprises.



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see GM MESSAGE, page 4

Do You Know Where Your Water Meter Is?

Clear access to EID water meters is essential. It's essential for EID personnel who need to obtain meter reads as well as EID staff who may need to turn your water off in case of an emergency. This is especially vital if you do not have your own shut off valve after the meter.

More than half of EID's water customers have radio read meters, and more are upgraded every year. Meters that have been upgraded to radio read are not often physically inspected by EID staff unless there is an issue transmitting the reading or when the meter or service line requires repairs. Often these boxes can be overgrown with vegetation, obscured by bushes or landscape bark, or even obstructed by vehicles or trailers.

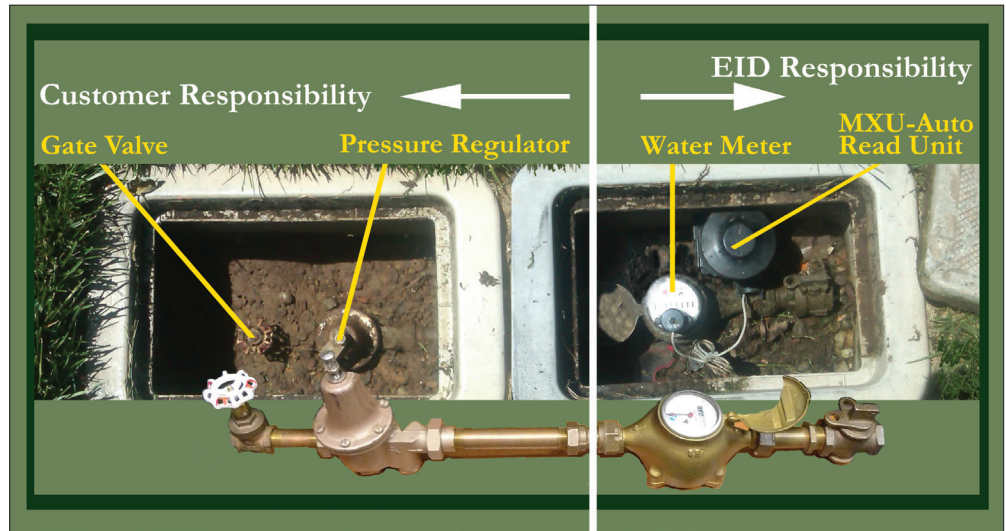
Location and Customer Responsibility

Water meters are installed inside concrete or plastic meter boxes and usually are placed close to the street so they can be easily read by an EID technician, however in rural areas the meters may be offsite on a neighboring parcel. The pressure regulator and gate valve is situated on the customer side of the meter.

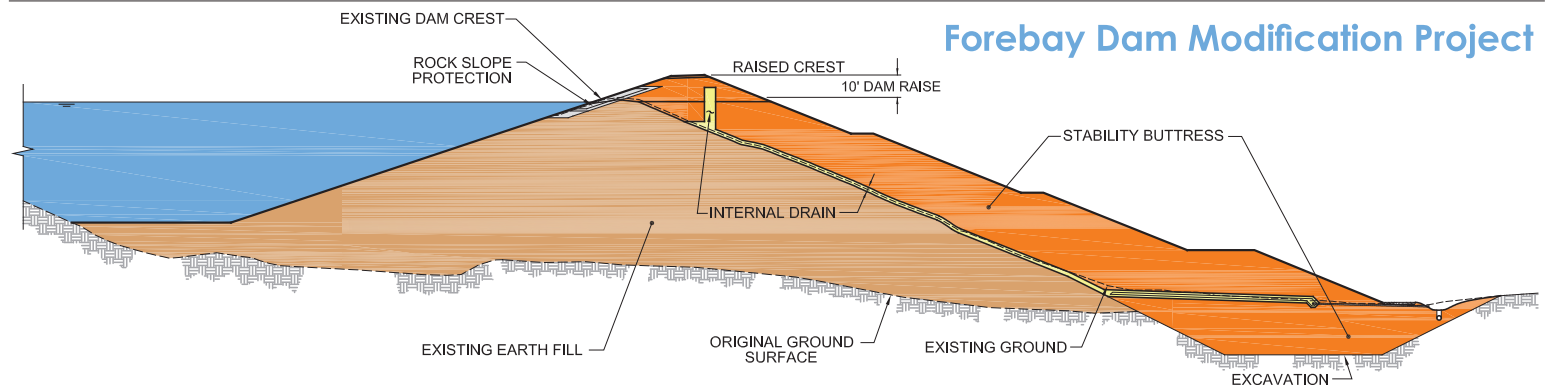
It is the customer's responsibility to keep the area free of vegetation. Keeping your meter and regulator boxes clear of debris and vegetation will help you in case you need to turn off your water.

If you are unable to locate your meter, please contact us at 530-642-4000 or billing@eid.org. Meters often have GPS coordinates associated with their locations in addition to basic meter directions and one of our customer service representatives can help.

To find more information about how to read a water meter, how you can use your water meter as a leak detector, how to turn off water in an emergency, and much more, go to EID's website at www.eid.org and click on the "Customers" tab.



This photo represents a standard set up and your specific set up may look slightly different or you may not have a second box. Keeping these boxes clear and accessible is a benefit for both EID and our customers. Customers can also use meters to easily perform a leak check (see <https://www.eid.org/customers/maintenance/how-to-check-for-a-leak>) in addition to shutting off the water in case of an emergency.



► FOREBAY, continued from page 1

The project area, including El Dorado Forebay Dam day-use areas, will remain completely closed to the public during construction activities. In addition, traffic control and temporary lane closures may be necessary to safely conduct construction activities in the vicinity of the El Dorado Forebay Dam and surrounding areas. Construction equipment and other work vehicles will be crossing and entering the roadway at various locations around the project area.

“Raising a dam is a complex and time-consuming project,” said EID General Manager Jim Abercrombie. “Now that

the project is in its final year, the end is in sight. EID staff and workers onsite have appreciated the patience and understanding of the Pollock Pines community throughout the duration of the project. With the project completed by the end of 2019, EID's entire service area will begin to benefit from the modified facility for generations to come.”

For detailed information about the project, go to the EID website at www.eid.org/about-us/project-updates/forebay-dam-project.

► **WATER TRUST**, *continued from page 1*

help poor and small water districts provide safe drinking water.

During the Legislature’s last session, the proposal to tax water bills throughout the state met with significant opposition.

EID supports the statewide need to improve water systems in districts that have little revenue. But the state’s General Fund should be the source of revenue, not a special tax on water use. Local agencies would incur significant administrative and technology expenses associated with implementing new systems used for collecting water tax revenues from local water bills.

In February, Senate Bill 669 (Caballero, D-Salinas) was introduced to address this need and would establish a Safe Drinking Water Trust.

Funding for the trust would be from the General Fund and net income earned from the trust would be transferred to a Safe Drinking Water Fund, which the State Water Resources Control Board would administer.

EID joins the Association of California Water Agencies (which represents more than 400 water purveyors across the state) and the California Municipal Utilities Association in supporting this approach for helping disadvantaged communities.

If you do not have an email on file with your EID account, please consider sending us an email at billing@eid.org with your account information and we’ll update your account. You can also give us a call to 530-622-4513 or 916-965-0930 or go to our website at www.eid.org/customers to update your contact information by completing the form under My Account.

We use these email addresses to communicate important messages like action on the water tax, potential water outages, and other important communications.

We will never share your email with third parties and will aim to only share important messages that bring increased information to our customers.

EID SUPPORTS THE STATEWIDE NEED TO IMPROVE WATER SYSTEMS IN DISTRICTS THAT HAVE LITTLE REVENUE. BUT THE STATE’S GENERAL FUND SHOULD BE THE SOURCE OF REVENUE, NOT A SPECIAL TAX ON WATER USE.

LOCAL AGENCIES WOULD INCUR SIGNIFICANT ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNOLOGY EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTING NEW SYSTEMS USED FOR COLLECTING WATER TAX REVENUES FROM LOCAL WATER BILLS.

► **GM MESSAGE**, *continued from page 2*

Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s upgraded the District rating from A+ to AA- and A-1 to Aa3 credit rating tier, respectfully, and then reaffirmed these enhanced credit ratings as part of the major transactions in 2016. The upgraded credit ratings lowered the District’s true interest costs by increasing the premiums at which the bonds sold.

This saved additional money by allowing the District to forego municipal bond insurance to enhance the bonds’ ratings, and to reduce the premiums. Debt compared to net assets shows EID’s debt load is reduced and the credit rating upgrades confirm EID’s success in meeting our guiding principle of fiscal responsibility.

Fiscal responsibility is not just an empty concept at EID. We understand the responsibility we have to our ratepayers and community when we undertake expensive projects, no matter how important they are to keeping our services resilient and strong.


We hope to continue to make smart use of low-cost debt as we manage our service needs going forward.

And EID staff will not waver in planning responsibly and acting diligently in everything we do, whether in response to short term emergencies or long term capital projects.

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.