



Right-of-Way Reinforcement Program Water Transmission Lines Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Across El Dorado Irrigation District's (EID/District) 220-square-mile service area, there are approximately 88-miles of water transmission main lines, ranging in size from 16 inches to 72 inches in diameter, which convey source (raw) and treated water. There are many areas where these transmission lines are located in steep and/or wooded conditions. These factors complicate maintenance and challenge crews when performing planned or emergency repairs.

The original construction access roads and rights-of-way for these lines can be 50 to 70 years old. Over time, some of these hard-to-access areas have overgrown to the point of inaccessibility. During an emergency repair or regular maintenance of valves, lack of access further complicates operational challenges.

To address the challenges associated with overgrown vegetation, the EID Board of Directors authorized three positions dedicated to conducting vegetation management along rights-of-way.

Please read the following frequently asked questions for more information. If you have any additional questions, email ROWRProgram@EID.org.

- **What is the Right of Way Reinforcement Program?**

The purpose of the program is to provide timely removal of vegetation within the utility corridor to support operation, maintenance, and repair of the District's water transmission system. The specific program objectives are to:

- Maintains permanent access to EID's water conveyance system to allow for on-going maintenance and quickly conduct emergency repairs, when needed.
- Ensures the District can deliver safe, clean, potable water to meet customer needs reliably.
- Provides a wildfire safety benefit to the community by managing vegetation in the utility corridor that offers defensible space to allow fire firefighters access to limit wildfire spread during incidents.

- **What are rights-of-way?**

Rights-of-way and easements provide a permanent, limited interest in the land that enables a public utility like EID to install, operate, test, inspect, alter, repair, maintain, replace, and protect one or more pipelines within the designated easement. EID owns and operates drinking water transmission mains used to convey raw water to treatment plants and then treated potable water on to customers.

- **Why is it important to manage vegetation in pipeline rights-of-way?**

The District must protect and maintain its water transmission mains to be able to deliver safe, clean, and reliable water to our customers. Vegetation management activities protect pipelines from root damage and provide important access for repairs and maintenance to aboveground valves and other appurtenances/infrastructure.

- **What activities will occur in the utility corridor?**

Crews would remove trees and clear brush, shrubs, and other woody material within the utility corridor. Some areas of the pipeline alignment may require up to 60-feet of vegetation treatment to adequately protect facilities and provide safe access. However, EID crews will only treat vegetation within the right-of-way across private properties. Any vegetation treatments that are needed outside of existing right-of-way will be discussed and agreed upon by the property owners and EID staff prior to treatment activities.

- **What if I have trees or vegetation that I do not want removed from the right-of-way?**
 Prior to treatment activities, EID staff will meet and coordinate with individual property owners to determine the extent of the right-of-way on their property and review proposed treatments. On a case-by-case basis, EID will take into consideration landowner’s specific requests regarding treatments within the right-of-way and seek to accommodate those requests to the extent that EID can still achieve the objectives of the ROWR Program.
- **How can I find out if a transmission main pipeline crosses through my property?**
 Property owners that have water transmission lines traversing their land were mailed letters regarding the Right-of-Way Reinforcement Program. Contact EID staff directly with any questions.

 - Michael C. Baron, Environmental Review analyst, at (530) 642-4188
 - Aaron Dinsdale, EID Engineering Technician at (530) 642-4178
 - Or, email ROWRProgram@EID.org
- **How can I find out if there is an easement on my property?**
 Resources are available to property owners to find out if there is an easement on their property.

 - Review property title documents and/or contact the County Assessor’s office to check if there is a parcel map available for the property,
 - Or, contact EID staff, Aaron Dinsdale, EID Engineering Technician at (530) 642-4178 or email at ROWRProgram@EID.org for additional information.
- **Will this vegetation management program protect against wildfire?**
 While there is no guarantee of fire protection, clearing of vegetation in the right-of-way could act as a firebreak and assist firefighting personnel in their suppression or containment efforts.
- **How will I know if you are working near my property?**
 In advance of the work, District staff will make direct contact with each affected property owner via USPS and/or phone call to coordinate access, discuss any concerns, and answer questions.
- **Will EID be using a contractor for this work?**
 District staff will be performing this work. El Dorado Irrigation District field employees drive vehicles with the EID logo clearly marked on the side. They will either be wearing a blue or neon yellow shirt with an EID logo (they may be wearing a yellow safety vest as well). If asked, they will show you their EID identification badge (picture and name). They will be courteous, professional, and responsive.
- **How can I learn more about the Right-of-Way Reinforcement Project?**
 EID maintains a webpage that contains information, background, and environmental documents about the Right-of-Way Reinforcement Program at www.EID.org/ROWRProgram.

 - Visit the program webpage, sign up for email updates through eNews by selecting “ROWR Program” under news.
 - Contact the project team by email at ROWRProgram@EID.org.