



The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • July – August 2007

Message from the General Manager

Talking about smart water use



Ane D. Deister

Maybe the words “conservation” and “conversation” look so much alike because they’re related. You can’t protect natural resources unless a dialogue takes place. And that dialogue, like the purest water, is most effective when running.

That’s why EID is focused on taking the “water-wise” message to not only our adult customers but also to the children and teenagers whose future will become their present in the blink of an eye. We show them—through exhibits, events, and printed materials—that just because it happens to rain sometimes doesn’t mean that having an adequate and safe supply of water just “happens.”

A constant in all of our presentations is that water is something we will always need even when the weather doesn’t cooperate by providing it. We need to make efficient use of what we get—an especially important reminder in dry years, but one that shouldn’t be neglected in wet ones.

In short, water conservation is, now and always, an essential conversation. For information on our water-efficiency programs, please see the articles in this newsletter and visit our expanded and user-friendlier website: www.eid.org.

What is a water survey and why should I schedule one today?

Tim Heslin hears this question almost every working day. And as EID’s water efficiency specialist, he has an eye for detail. Sleuthing out ways to conserve water—and save customers money—is one of his specialties.

During a water survey, Tim visits your home or business and checks out your system, inside and outside.

Inside, he runs water through your faucets, showers, and sinks, looking for leaks and excessive usage to figure out how you can save water. If there is a need, he can provide and install low-flow showerheads, replace leaking toilet flappers, and put in low-flow faucet aerators, all at no cost to you.

Outside, Tim checks your irrigation system and tests each station for leaks or other problems, always suggesting efficient practices. He inspects irrigation control valves and your control panel program to help answer some important questions. Are you over-watering? Are you maximizing your existing scheduling?

“Leaks can be hidden and irrigation schedules can be confusing, but fixing leaks and adjusting irrigation schedules can save a lot of water,” Tim says. “When we can do that and help our customers continue to cut their water use, we all become good stewards of this valuable resource. It doesn’t hurt that it can save money, too.”

“Your water meter is the first line of defense for leak detection.” Tim Heslin

What a water meter does so well—measure water usage—is precisely why it can be such an effective leak detector. Each of Tim’s water surveys begin with an explanation of how you can read your water meter and check for leaks.



Top: Tim performs a flow test on a showerhead to determine if it is low flow.

Middle: Reading the water meter provides valuable information for detecting leaks.

Below: Checking the water pressure is important. It must fall within the recommended guidelines to ensure the best service.

Sign up for a complimentary water survey for your home or business today!

Call 530-642-4071,
e-mail theslin@eid.org, or fill out a request on our website at www.eid.org.

EID talks irrigation and water efficiency at Farm Day 2007



Kirk's questions elicit a torrent of eager responses.

If you already know that blueberries need to be irrigated 40 times throughout the growing year, you must be a grower, an extremely informed consumer, or one of the lucky attendees who heard EID's Irrigation Management Service (IMS) coordinator **Kirk Taylor** make that point at Farm Day 2007.

The May 10 event, which featured 34 booths and learning stations, drew roughly 800 third-graders from 11 local elementary schools to the El Dorado County fairgrounds. It's an annual educational extravaganza designed to show kids where their food, fiber and shelter come from—all of which involve water.

Taylor discussed, in kid-friendly terms, EID's IMS program. He explained how farming can be as much about scheduling as it is about growing, which is why the District has been using new technology to help agriculture customers best determine when and how frequently to irrigate, as well as how much water to use.

During irrigation season, Taylor and growers in the IMS program use sophisticated software to "read" information from nearly 300 site-specific stations on ag lands. The information helps growers set their irrigation schedules and strategize on how to manage deficit irrigation and automatically execute their water budgets.

But back to those blueberries. Taylor gave the kids a wonderful comparison: while that juicy treat needs to be irrigated about 40 times a year, Christmas trees usually can get away with only three or four waterings. But everyone knows which tastes better!

EID in the community



The District's booth at mid-June's El Dorado County Fair featured information about our complimentary water surveys, fun educational materials to help you start saving water, and recreation opportunities. And as always, the booth provided customers and EID staff a chance to meet each other and trade questions and answers.

EID's History In Motion Exhibit at Placerville's June 10 Founders' Day event. The exhibit features authentic machinery from the early 20th century that helps tell the story of the important role of water in the development of El Dorado County and how "old-fashioned" technology still helps power the District's hydroelectric facilities today.

Did you know?

If you turn off the water while you brush your teeth you can save up to 4 gallons per minute. That's 200 gallons a week for a family of four!

2007 Board Meetings

July 9 and 23 September 10 November 14 and 26
August 13 and 27 October 10 and 22 December 10