



# The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • September – October 2006

## Message from the General Manager

### Celebrating the District's longevity



**Ane D. Deister**

At the July 24 Board meeting, the District had the pleasure of honoring Lois Meyer, who worked at EID from 1941 to 1963. Through her outstanding record of dedication and accomplishments over 22 years, Lois set an extremely high bar for all who have followed.

We are especially pleased that Lois joined us this year, which is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of Jenkinson Lake in Sly Park Recreation Area. As we mark that historic occasion, we are indeed privileged to be able to pay tribute to one of the people who turned that dream into reality.

People like Lois helped build the District into what it is today. They provided the solid foundation that has shaped our direction.

When I think of our early EID employees, who were really pioneers, I am reminded that without their foresight and hard work, the District would not be the multi-faceted organization that it is today, offering water, wastewater treatment, hydropower generation, recycled water, recreation, and water efficiency services and programs to our customers and communities.

As we near EID's 81<sup>st</sup> anniversary on October 5, I thank our customers, other agencies, local businesses, and civic organizations who have supported us over the years. Most of all, I extend my appreciation to past and present EID employees who have fulfilled and are still fulfilling the District's mission through a commitment to excellent service. Our employees' success is multiplied many times over through the benefits they make happen day in and day out across our service area and beyond.

## Sly Park waterline project: new benefits and some temporary limitations on use

On September 5, 2006, construction began on a new waterline for Sly Park. This project will result in many improvements to the park and benefits for our visitors, including:

- reliable delivery of water
- even higher quality drinking water
- water for future shower installations, fire hydrants, and fire suppression
- water conservation
- sanitary improvements



Sly Park Recreation Area.

During construction, which will continue until May 2007, there will be some limitations on use of the park. Please keep the following in mind when planning your visit.

- **Camping:** available ONLY Friday through Sunday; campers must vacate the park no later than 6:00 p.m. on Sundays.
- **Day use:** available Friday through Sunday throughout the park; on weekdays, the main day-use area and the main boat ramp will be available.
- **Boat launching:** available Friday through Sunday at both ramps; Monday through Friday, boaters can launch at the main boat ramp only.
- All **trails:** open throughout the term of the project.
- All **group areas:** open throughout the term of the project.

Please contact Sly Park staff at 530-644-2545 for more information and updates. Maps that show the progress of the project will be available at the gatehouse.

## Independent auditor says EID in "very solid financial condition"

At their June 26 meeting, EID Board members received good financial news in the form of the 2005 Annual Audit. "You are in very solid financial condition," said Joe Richardson of Richardson & Company, the District's outside auditing firm. "Your debt-to-equity ratio is excellent. I think you have done a good job, and it goes beyond the audit report."

The audit, which encompassed a wide range of major issues such as construction projects, deposits, and federal awards, "found no material discrepancies," according to Phil Knapik, head of EID's Finance and Management Services department.

"I am pleased with the good work the staff is doing to ensure the District's financial viability," said Board President Harry Norris. "It's what our customers expect from us, and the external audit clearly shows that we are doing our job."

### Upcoming EID Board meetings

- September 11 and 25
- October 11 and 23

## California's Water on KVIE Channel 6 in September

You've seen him (and possibly remember his exuberant Tennessee twang) leading us on wide-eyed tours appreciating California's cultural and landscape treasures in the PBS series, *California's Gold*.



Huell Howser

Now, Huell Howser is diving into *California's Water*, a series that explores California's water resources and the complex system of natural and man-made features that has allowed growing communities, productive farms, industry, and ecosystems to co-exist in a state that receives little or no rain for months at a time.

EID is proud to join with the Regional Water Authority as a sponsor of this series, along with other members of the Association of California Water Agencies. Watch for these upcoming episodes.

- "The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta" September 3, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.
- "The Flood Fight of 2006" September 10, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.
- "Storing Water" September 24, 2006 at 5:00 p.m.

Visit [www.acwanet.com](http://www.acwanet.com) for more information.

### Only Tap Water Delivers



**Do you know how often you turn me on?**

If only your water faucet could talk. It might remind you how often you turn it on for safe water to drink and to wash your clothes, take a bath or shower, and prepare food. It might also remind us all that the water pipes below our streets and roads make the everyday convenience of water possible.

Our water bills pay to keep tap water safe, reliable, and there for us—whenever we turn it on.

EID and the American Water Works Association remind you that tap water is healthy for you and your family. It also fights fires 24/7 and makes a big contribution to our local economy and the quality of life we enjoy in El Dorado County every day.

This message was adapted from AWWA's "Only Tap Water Delivers<sup>SM</sup>" campaign.

**Did you know?** The cost for a 12-ounce bottle of water at a local convenience store can run from about 99 cents to more than a dollar. For 99 cents, you can drink 825 gallons of healthy tap water from EID.

Written, edited and designed by Mary Lynn Carlton, Jesse Saich, and Deanne Kloepfer.



## EID's Weed Eaters

Kiko goats pause from work at EID's Reservoir 10.

Approximately 20 goats could be seen dotting the hillside surrounding EID's Reservoir 10, located off Mother Lode Drive in Placerville this past June. The small herd of Kikos was doing vital work for the District—eating weeds and unwanted vegetation.

Weed abatement and vegetation control is important to ensure safe, undisrupted access to District facilities. During the long, dry summers when unwanted vegetation provides plenty of potential fuel for fires, controlling growth serves as necessary protection.

This is where the goats come in. "Will work for food" is an apt motto when considering the service these goats provide. "Kikos are well known for their hardiness and aggressive browsing—vital qualities in a successful weedeater!" said Julie Austin, co-owner of Goat Central out of El Dorado. Provided with plenty of water and a guardian in the form of an attentive Pyrenees/Akbash dog, the goats are left to munch their way through the terrain.

EID hired the goats to clear areas around reservoirs and other facilities. The goats do not replace other methods of weed abatement, but they do play an important role in sustainable land management.

Most forms of vegetation management such as spraying herbicides or mechanical removal and shredding are temporary; weeds come back year after year, requiring regular use of risky chemicals or many employee-hours to remove them manually. Goats offer a "greener" and more sustainable solution. According to Ms. Austin, "A herd of goats will strip the land bare and the weeds will come back. However, over repeated seasons—and visits by the goats—the seed bank will reduce."

As the seed bank reduces, fewer and fewer unwanted plants spring up in following seasons.

"The goats are better than herbicides for this job," said Radenko Odzakovic, Water Treatment Supervisor in EID's Drinking Water Division. "Herbicides and drinking water do not mix, so we try to be a little more creative."

Mr. Odzakovic has noted an added benefit to the use of goats: "The soil is better! In go the weeds, and out comes fertilizer to condition the soil."



The goats thrive on their work.

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Julie and Roy Austin own and operate Goat Central and provided the workers for projects at EID sites throughout June and July.



Your money might be going down the drain!  
A water survey will identify where you can save money.  
Contact Tim Heslin at [theslin@eid.org](mailto:theslin@eid.org) or 530-642-4071 and schedule your complimentary survey today!