



The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • May - June 2006

Message from the General Manager

Farming is as much about scheduling as it is about growing. That's why your District has been using new



Ane D. Deister

technology to help agriculture customers best determine when and how frequently to irrigate and how much water to use.

Our improved Irrigation Management Services program (IMS) provides a scientific resource for growers with a minimum of five acres under production at no charge. During irrigation season, which is now upon us, highly trained EID technicians, using sophisticated software, monitor nearly 300 agricultural sites. They then prepare reports that help growers set their irrigation schedules, manage deficit irrigation and automatically develop their water budgets.

EID has been providing irrigation services to farmers for almost 30 years. Over time, farming practices have changed and grape vineyards have taken hold, along with berries, apples, pears and other stone fruits. Modern farming requires real-time data and with EID Board members' approval we have developed an award-winning, best-in-class program that uses locally gathered weather data to help farmers establish efficient water budgets and irrigate strategically.

Today, our IMS program helps growers achieve greater than 80 percent irrigation water efficiency—even as they cancel up to two irrigations per season. That's efficiency. And that's EID.

EID offers complimentary water efficiency services

EID is celebrating its 11th year of providing valuable, complimentary water efficiency services. The most popular and successful service is the water survey program (see "Save water, save \$\$\$" below) that includes a complete evaluation of household water-using appliances and landscape irrigation systems. Water-saving devices such as low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and toilet water displacement devices are offered during the survey.

Also included as a part of the survey is a detailed report with water-saving recommendations, *Water-Wise Gardening in the Gold Country Region* software, and other water conservation publications.

Under our **residential/multi-family plumbing retrofit program**, EID and City of Placerville customers may also receive the water-saving devices from EID Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. by submitting a request online to www.eid.org or calling 530-642-4071.



Save water, save \$\$\$

Tim Heslin, EID's water "surveyor," can help you spot inefficient water practices in your home and yard and point out ways to save both water and money. To request a **complimentary** water survey, call 530-642-4071, or e-mail Tim at theslin@eid.org, or fill out and e-mail the survey request form under Water Efficiency on EID's website.

More water efficiency programs

Attention: restaurant and commercial kitchen owners—are you using a pre-rinse spray nozzle to pre-clean dishes? EID is offering high-pressure, low-flow pre-rinse spray nozzles with installation and a commercial water survey. For more details about this popular water saving program, visit EID's website at www.eid.org or contact EID at 530-642-4071.

Good news! The toilet rebate program has returned! Rebates up to \$75.00 are available to EID and City of Placerville customers who purchase and install up to two brand new toilets in homes built before 1992.

Energy Star® water-efficient clothes washer rebates. Now in its 4th year, EID is currently offering \$75 rebates on select ENERGY STAR® water efficient clothes washers to EID and City of Placerville customers.



To obtain information about the toilet rebate program or a list of qualifying machines and application forms with program rules, go online to our website or contact EID at 530-642-4126.

Employees recognized for hard work



(L to R) Gary Bischel, Rick Foster, Kirk Taylor, Kevin Jones, Dan Downey, Sheron Ayres, and Mike Marchand

At the March 27, 2006 EID Board meeting, seven employees received General Manager awards for their outstanding contributions during the past winter season.

The awards were earned by Kirk Taylor (Employee of the Season), Dan Downey (Manager of the Season), Mike Marchand (Supervisor of the Season), Kevin Jones and Sheron Ayres (Team of the Season), and Gary Bischel and Rick Foster (Team of the Season).

General Manager awards are given quarterly to recognize employees who go above and beyond the call of duty in their day-to-day work. For more about the recent recipients, visit www.eid.org and click on "More EID news."

Looking for a job?

Check our website for the latest openings: www.eid.org

EID Board meetings

May 8, 22
June 12, 26

COUPON

Sly Park Recreation Area
\$2.00 discount on day use fee
-or-
\$5.00 discount on camping fee

Good Monday through Thursday only, except holidays.
This offer cannot be used in conjunction with other discounts, season passes or sale items.

Valid until September 30, 2006 • Must present at Sly Park

Bass Lake event a big hit with kids



Green Valley Elementary School students plant native plants and shrubs at EID's Bass Lake tanks site in El Dorado Hills

El Dorado Irrigation District (EID), along with the American River Conservancy (ARC) and Green Valley Elementary School, joined forces to host a children's environmental awareness program involving approximately 240 second and fifth grade students. During the winter and spring months, Green Valley Elementary School students learned about their local ecosystem through the "NEST" (Nature Exploring for Students and Teachers) program that focused on watershed, habitat, and native plants and animals. The culminating event was a field trip to the site of EID's two 4 million-gallon Bass Lake tanks, where they planted native trees and shrubs. The project was developed by EID as a method to meet the project's California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) mitigation requirements.

On the day of the field trip, students not only planted native plants, but learned how EID makes water safe for drinking, heard from experts about water efficiency and the site's archaeological history, and participated in a nature hunt. The program will continue in the fall of 2006, allowing additional students from Green Valley Elementary School to participate. "The students and the staff of Green Valley Elementary School are excited about the opportunity to be involved in a community event of this magnitude," said Principal Darrien Johnson.

Despite the harsh weather conditions on both days, the students really enjoyed the program, according to Mary Lynn Carlton, EID's Public Information and Outreach Manager. One fifth-grader said, "This is the best field trip I have ever been on." Why? "Because it teaches us about the environment." A friend chimed in, "And, because we can get dirty!" "This is a great example of EID staff working together with schools and non-profit groups to improve our community and at the same time provide a learning opportunity for students," said Carlton.

Upcoming Events

Customer Appreciation Day
May 5, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Please join us for our annual Customer Appreciation Day, held in EID's front parking lot at 2890 Mosquito Road, Placerville.