



The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • September - October 2005

Water reliability: key EID priority

Reliable and affordable water supplies are top priorities for EID. How do we ensure water reliability for today, tomorrow, and during drought periods? Through several successful programs such as those described here.

Recycled water for irrigation — EID wins recycled water program of the year award



The new Suncoast Professional Center is the first building in El Dorado Hills Business Park to use recycled water for landscape irrigation.

WateReuse* named EID as the state's recycled water program of the year because of the District's innovation and leadership. Our recycled water program began in the mid-1970s and is growing stronger each day. Every drop of recycled water used to irrigate landscapes saves a drop of drinking water for use in homes and businesses. And in EID's service area, recycled water, where available, is now required for irrigating front and back yards.

Today we have more than 3000 recycled water customers, most of them homeowners, who use nearly 720 million gallons of recycled water each year. In the next decade we estimate that amount will more than double.

Recycled water extends our water supplies and provides more reliability during drought when less drinking water may be available.

* *WateReuse is a national organization dedicated to creating new sources of high-quality water through water reuse.*

Residential conservation — partners with homeowners and renters

EID's residential conservation program is tailored to customer needs. Over the past few years, the number and types of options for customers have increased and now include:

- Low-cost ultra low-flow toilets this spring's successful 'take a toilet home' program sold out in less than 2 hours.
- Rebates for ultra low-flow toilets — more than 4,100 replacements to date.
- Water and energy saving clothes washer rebate program — sold out in just a few months.
- No cost low-flow shower heads and faucet aerators.
- Water conservation home audits — more than 4,500 thus far.



Commercial conservation — partners with business

Our commercial conservation program also focuses on individual customer needs. In addition to thorough inside and outside water audits, it emphasizes:

- Conversion of outside landscaping to separate irrigation meters.
- Use of recycled water, where available, to irrigate landscaping.
- Restaurant audits to identify opportunities for saving water while continuing to meet health standards.

Agricultural conservation — partners with farmers

Born in the wake of severe drought in the mid-1970s, EID's "gold standard" Irrigation Management Services program celebrates its 30th year of operation this year. This innovative program:

- Includes more than 3600 acres planted primarily in fruits such as grapes used in the county's growing and award-winning wine-making industry.
- Saves 2000 acre-feet* of water each year through innovative irrigation scheduling based on state-of-the-art techniques for recording climate variations and soil moisture.
- Works in concert with growers to meet their individual needs.
- Helps maintain the rural characteristics of El Dorado County that contribute to economic diversity, open space, scenic beauty, and wildlife habitat.

* *An acre-foot is the equivalent of one foot of water on an acre of land.*

Drought preparedness – drought proofing for competing uses

When drought hits, it often brings uncertainty and anxiety over water supplies and use. This is especially true if water utilities and communities are not prepared to deal with the economic, environmental, and social effects that accompany prolonged dry years.

Over the past year and in partnership with the El Dorado County Water Agency, EID has been working with members of the community and national experts to develop a practical drought preparedness plan. Through four workshops just concluded in August, we now have a model that can help all county water districts better predict the effects of drought and take steps to counter them.

The workshops inspired creation of the community-based Drought Advisory Committee that will be instrumental in the preparation of forward-looking strategies and initiatives over the next year. Representatives from agricultural, recreation, business, and environmental groups will continue their work in collaboration with public agencies.

We believe the entire region will benefit from this important project and that it can become a model for the rest of the state.

Protection and development of new water rights

By law, EID must provide service to county-approved growth. Over the past few years, we have taken positive steps to ensure 54,500 acre-feet of water rights for EID customers. That's enough to meet current demand and growth previously approved by the county over the next decade. Several actions contribute to this important part of water reliability:

- Purchase of Project 184 hydroelectric power facility from PG&E — added 15,080 acre-feet of water supplies for EID.
- Long-term water supply contracts with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, slated to be completed by the end of 2005, for supplies in Folsom Lake.
- Purchase of Sly Park's Jenkinson Lake — converted 20,920 acre-feet of water supplies to EID.
- Restoration of Hazel Creek Tunnel — provides connections to deliver water during drought and emergencies.
- Temperature Control Device — environmental requirement to secure use of water supplies in Folsom Lake, partially funded by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Commercial customers can benefit from a variety of water efficiency programs

Commercial rebate programs for:

- Ultra-low flow toilets
- Commercial clothes washers
- Irrigation system upgrades

Complimentary commercial water surveys include:

- Low-flow high pressure pre-rinse spray nozzle installs for qualifying commercial kitchens
- Waterless urinals for qualifying businesses on septic systems
- Irrigation system evaluations
- Educational landscape software

Residential customers

Take a Toilet Home



This special one-day event takes place October 22 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at EID's customer service building, Niagra

Flapperless™ designed toilets are available for a \$25 cost share for standard models. Elongated and ADA models are available for \$40. To be eligible, fill out the pre-qualification form on-line (www.eid.org), or call to have one mailed (530-642-4126). You **must** pre-qualify. Supply is limited.

Note: There is a two-toilet limit per single-family dwelling including residential and multi-family dwellings.

For more information on these programs, call the Office of Water Efficiency 530-642-4126 or visit www.eid.org.