



The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • November - December 2004

CUSTOMER SURVEY UPDATE

EID thanks all customers who filled out the customer survey mailed with the September/October bills. The response so far is much higher than anticipated, and surveys are still arriving. Your ratings and comments are being compiled for presentation and discussion at the District's strategic planning meeting in January 2005. We will include a summary of the responses in the January/February edition of *The Waterfront*.

On the Way — \$15 Million for System Improvements and Projects

EID is set to receive \$15 million in federal funding for important projects and improvements to the District's system. The funds are being made available through the Water Supply, Reliability and Environmental Improvement Act, also known as the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, and the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

"We appreciate the leadership of Congressman John Doolittle in Washington to secure these funds, which in turn will reduce costs and save money for our customers," said EID GM Ane Deister. She noted



EID's Sly Park will benefit from recently authorized funding under the federal Water Resources Development Act.

that the CALFED program authorizes \$9 million for work related to EID's Alder Creek Drought Preparedness and Conservation Project Feasibility Study and for the design and construction of a temperature control device at Folsom Lake to help regulate water temperatures for fish.

"In addition," Deister said, "the \$6 million in WRDA funds will support much-needed improvements at our popular Sly Park Recreation Area and the Deer Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. We are very pleased by this news."💧

In an Emergency...

Pipeline breaks, outages and "boil water" advisories periodically occur in our water system. In the event of one of these *water emergencies*, you will be alerted through our automated telephone messaging system. Please make sure that the District has your current telephone number on record, as this is our most direct means of getting necessary information to you. As always, we will continue to contact local media and post any relevant information on our website at www.eid.org.

Pleasant Oak Main Reconstruction Accelerated

EID's Board of Directors has endorsed an emergency plan to speed up reconstruction of the Pleasant Oak Main pipeline. An increased number of breaks in the deteriorating techite sections of this major artery required quick action to protect public health and safety. The emergency declaration allows the District to combine the design and construction phases of the project, saving time and, potentially, costs. All necessary steps will be taken to ensure that environmental requirements are met under the accelerated schedule.

It's time to winterize your irrigation system:



- 💧 Make adjustments to automatic controllers to reflect Daylight Saving Time and changes in moisture conditions.
- 💧 If you are shutting down your irrigation system for the season turn off both the control valve and the water supply shut off valve. Bleed the lines to prevent breakage from freezing.
- 💧 Insulate and cover irrigation control valves to avoid damage from freezing temperatures and ultraviolet rays.

Residential sewer customers: 2005 sewer rates are based on your water usage for the months of November through February – even more incentive to conserve!



PUBLIC NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS OF EL DORADO IRRIGATION

EID UPDATE ON RESERVOIR LINE AND COVER PROGRAMS

The Department of Health Services requires that EID notify its customers quarterly of the District's progress to make reservoir improvements. EID water delivered to you is tested regularly and all laboratory tests meet State and Federal health levels. However, the concern of the State and EID is that the customers served by the EID two remaining uncovered treated water reservoirs are subject to a "potential" for a health hazard, and you are encouraged to read the information in the State mandated notice. Certain consumers should consider taking the individual protective measures that are described in **bold** print in this notice.

Areas within EID's water system that are *not* affected by the State's Compliance Order include Pollock Pines, Cedar Grove, Sierra Springs, Lakewood Sierra, Gold Ridge Forest, Sly Park Hills, Camino, City of Placerville, Swansboro, Rancho Del Sol, Lotus/Coloma, Gold Hill, Strawberry, Outingdale and El Dorado Hills are *not* affected by the Order. To check whether you are receiving water from the open treated reservoirs, please check the customer service section of EID's website at www.eid.org or call us at (530) 622-4513.

SURFACE WATER TREATMENT REGULATIONS AND HEALTH ADVISORY

El Dorado Irrigation District provides complete treatment for its water supply in modern water treatment plants that use filtration and disinfection before it is distributed to its customers. This full-level treatment system ensures that the water is safe and healthy as it enters the District's distribution system. The distribution system initially included 16 treated water reservoirs that were open and uncovered. Today, only one remains. Design of the remaining two are in progress and scheduled for completion in the next two years. Because of these unprotected reservoirs, the stored water is vulnerable to sources of contamination. Although the water receives additional disinfection at the open reservoirs, this treatment cannot be relied upon to assure absolute safety of the water at all times.

The District is making a concerted effort to prevent pollution of the water at its open reservoirs. This effort consists of a number of mitigation measures which include daily security patrols, cleaning of the reservoir sites, repair of fencing, drainage improvements, posting of signs, increased chlorination treatment, increased water quality testing, and system operational changes. These measures will greatly reduce the possibility that serious pollution will enter the water supply. EID water quality test results have consistently met all current State and Federal health standards.

The State Department of Health Services, Office of Drinking Water requires the District to provide this notice to its customers and to include the following language:

“Since pollution events in segments of the water system served by uncovered reservoirs could occur and because these events are random and unpredictable, certain consumers should consider taking individual protective measures. Consumers that should take special precautions include pregnant women, elderly persons, and those people that may have an abnormally weak immune system response. These immuno-compromised individuals include people infected with the HIV virus, organ transplant patients, and cancer patients who are receiving radiation or chemotherapy treatments. Parents and guardians should also take special precautions with infants, young children, and all others who may not be capable of comprehending the significance of this notice.

The recommended protective measure is to use commercial bottled water or to heat the tap water to a rolling boil for one minute before using it for any purpose that may result in ingestion of the water. The water may be used without restrictions for bathing, showering, and laundry.

The State of California Department of Health Services (DHS) sets drinking water standards and has determined the presence of microbiological contaminants are a health concern at certain levels of exposure. If water is inadequately treated, microbiological contaminants in that water may cause disease. Disease symptoms may include diarrhea, cramps, nausea, and possibly jaundice, and any associated headaches and fatigue. These symptoms, however, are not just associated with disease-causing organisms in drinking water, but also may be caused by a number of factors other than your drinking water. DHS has set enforceable requirements for treating drinking water to reduce the risk of these adverse health effects. Treatment such as filtering and disinfecting the water removes or destroys microbiological contaminants. Drinking water which is treated to meet DHS requirements is associated with little to none of this risk and should be considered safe.”

ATTENTION: School administrators, owner/ operators of residential property, and owner/operators of business property are obligated to ensure that copies of this notice are provided to each user of your facility within 10 days. The most appropriate methods of notification may include, but are not limited to, the sending of a letter to each water user and the posting of a notice at each site where drinking water is dispensed. The State of California stipulates that you can be civilly liable up to \$1,000 per day for failing to provide this notice to your students (and parents if they are minors), employees, or tenants.