

# El Dorado Irrigation District News from The Water Front

January-February 2004

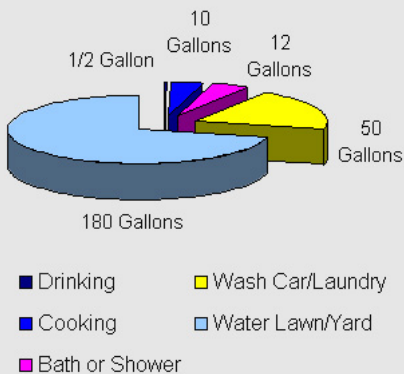


## MEET THE NEW BOARD

### Water Factsoids

- Three percent of the water on Earth is freshwater and only 1 % is available for human consumption.
- Bottled water may cost up to 1000 times more than municipal & may not be as safe.
- Two-thirds of the water used in an average home is used in the bathroom.
- Typically 4 to 6 gallons of water are used for every toilet flush.
- On the average, a person uses 2 gallons of water to brush his or her teeth per day.
- A 10-minute shower uses about 55 gallons of water.
- A leaking faucet can waste up to 100 gallons of water a day.

### How Much Water Do We Use?

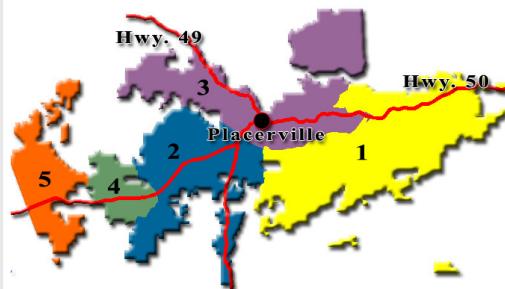


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[www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org)



From left to right: George Wheeldon, Bill George, Harry Norris, Honorable Douglas C. Phimister, George Osborne, and John Fraser after the new Board was sworn into office December 1st, 2003. "This should be an easy transition because the new directors have been attending meetings and studying EID procedures", says EID's General Manager Ane Deister.

### Board of Directors Division Boundaries



- Division 1: George W. Osborne
- Division 2: Vice President, John P Fraser
- Division 3: William L. George
- Division 4: President, George A. Wheeldon
- Division 5: Harry J. Norris

### Get Involved!

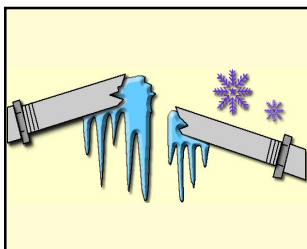
We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled board meetings. They are held the first and third Monday of each month at 2890 Mosquito Road in Placerville. Scheduled meetings are posted in the Mountain Democrat newspaper, on our web page ([www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org)), or please call (530) 642-4000 for more information.

### New Bond Rating Saves \$30 Mil

Standard and Poor's and Moody's upgraded EID's bond rating from BBB to category A saving the District millions of dollars through lower bond insurance and interest costs. The recent acquisition of additional reservoir capacity, an experienced management team dedicated to long-term planning, and good overall water supply were some of the several reasons for the upgrade cited by rating agencies. Finance Director Dee Brookshire reported the savings of \$29-30 million is a direct result of the rating upgrade and is good news – for the District and ratepayers. In addition, more than \$4 million more was realized in premiums on the financing issues which will mean later borrowings will be less. Last October, the Board of Directors approved the issuance of a \$6 million bond to fund the purchase of Sly Park, and another \$166 million to finance needed capital improvement projects. The 5-year, \$256 million Capital Improvement Program will help the District upgrade infrastructure and satisfy State and Federal regulations.

### Preventing Frozen Water Pipes

Frigid temperatures & gusty winds can cause one of winter's worst woes - frozen water pipes. Take these simple precautions to prevent this expensive inconvenience:



- Turn off outside water faucets
- Patch cracks in doors, windows & walls near pipes
- Make sure heat can circulate around pipes
- Insulate pipes and faucets in unheated areas
- Avoid leaving your water running overnight
- Check insulation around pipes regularly
- Never shut off your heat completely
- If pipes freeze, turn water off at main shut-off valve

~ Keeping our customers informed is the best way to maintain a safe supply of drinking water ~

**PUBLIC NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS  
OF EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
SURFACE WATER TREATMENT REGULATIONS  
AND HEALTH ADVISORY**

El Dorado Irrigation District provides complete treatment for its water supply in modern water treatment plants that utilize filtration and disinfection before it is distributed to its customers. This full-level treatment ensures that the water is safe and healthy as it enters the District's distribution system. However, the distribution system includes a number of treated water reservoirs that are open and uncovered. 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 meet all current State and Federal health standards. Reports of the increased monitoring will be sent quarterly to District customers beginning in the Fall of 1998.

The State Department of Health Services, Office of Drinking Water, has found the District to be in violation of the State Surface Water Treatment Regulations because of the uncovered storage reservoirs. Consequently, the District is required to provide this notice to its customers and to include the following language:

**Since pollution events in the water system 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 immunocompromised 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.**

In addition, the District has been found in violation of the State of California Surface Water Treatment Regulations because of surface water drainage into the uncovered reservoirs. Consequently, the District is required to provide this notice to its customers and to include the following language that is mandated by the regulations:

"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 you students (and parents if they are minors), employees, or tenants.

Some customers within the City of Placerville that are billed by the City for their water service receive water directly from the El Dorado Irrigation District system. These customers are therefore, affected by this notice. El Dorado Irrigation District will send this notice to those City customers that are affected. If you are a City of Placerville water customer and you would like additional information, please call the Water Treatment Plant Supervisor at (530) 642-5229. If you are an El Dorado Irrigation District customer and would like additional information, please call the Customer Service office at (530) 642-4000.

**EID-UPDATE ON RESERVOIR LINE  
AND COVER PROGRAMS**

This is the twenty-fourth notice that EID has sent you regarding our efforts to line and cover or replace our open treated water reservoirs. The Department of Health Services Compliance Order, specifies that EID notify their 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 uncovered treated water reservoirs have the "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 and Outingdale. The El Dorado Hills service area is also not affected by the Order, however, the upper area of Serrano and Serrano's Club House are served treated water, which has the potential to come from uncovered reservoirs. With this potential, customers in these areas will continue to be subject to the Order.