

Winter Season Eases Regional Drought Conditions

With record-setting rain and snowfall throughout the state resulting in drastically improved water supply conditions, the Board of Directors on February 15, 2017, voted to reduce EMWD's drought status to a voluntary water use reduction.

Stage 2 of EMWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan allows for Tier 3 water use pricing, which had been suspended since June 1, 2015. In addition, variances for refilling pools/spas and establishing new landscapes will be permitted again.

Since June 2015, EMWD customers have cumulatively saved 28,000 acre feet of water when compared to pre-drought consumption figures. One acre foot is approximately 326,000 gallons - or enough for two households for a year.

EMWD appreciates its customers doing their part to help California get through its record-setting drought through their ongoing commitment toward water use efficiency.



WHAT'S INSIDE?

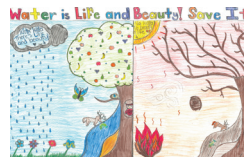
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Water is Life Poster Contest Finalists - Pick Your Favorites!

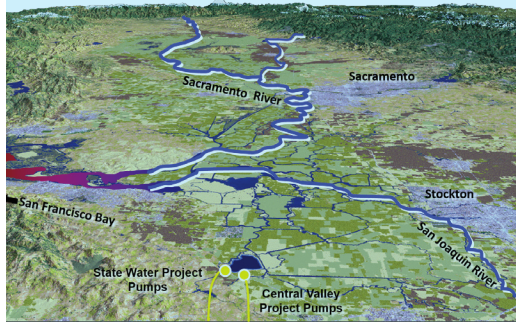
With so many amazing submissions in our annual Water Is Life poster contest, EMWD is asking for your help.

From now until April 21, EMWD customers may log on to www.emwd.org/pick5posters to help select the top five winners from 18 finalists within EMWD's service area. The posters were designed by students from Transitional Kindergarten through fifth grade and 10 school districts and private schools are among the finalists. EMWD partnered with Rancho California Water District on the program.

More than 21,000 entries were submitted as part of the program. The top five as chosen by the public will be submitted to The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California for potential inclusion in their annual Water Is Life calendar. The winners will be recognized during a special ceremony on April 27, 2017.



Aging System Needs a California WaterFix



More than 25 million Californians are at least partially dependent on water delivered through the State Water Project system. But due to environmental risks and an outdated conveyance system, the reliability of those water supplies are continually in jeopardy.

Water from the State Water Project flows through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta – known as the hub of California’s water system. But even during years of heavy rainfall, state water contractors face pumping restrictions because of the Delta Smelt, an endangered fish. There is also the risk that any of the 1,100 miles of levees in the Delta may breach during an earthquake, potentially shutting off our water supply and creating water quality issues.

Governor Jerry Brown has been active in advocating for the California WaterFix, which would involve the construction of two underground conveyance tunnels with intakes in the northern Sacramento River that would take water to the existing State Water Project pumps. By having the intakes further north, the system will avoid the Delta Smelt and subsequent pumping restrictions, as well as ensure continued reliability in the event of a major earthquake in the region.

EMWD encourages its customers to learn more about the California WaterFix and its benefits at www.californiawaterfix.com.

BEES ARE OUR FRIENDS

Have you heard the latest buzz about what EMWD is doing to “bee” an environmentally friendly agency? EMWD has adopted a new policy to protect and relocate bee hives and live swarms that may be found at EMWD facilities or within customers’ water meter boxes.

Bees are responsible for the pollination of about \$15 billion worth of crops each year in the United States, including about 130 fruits and vegetables. A healthy bee population also ensures more abundant crops, which means fewer trees are needed to produce the same amount of harvest. This helps ensure long-term water savings while protecting our ecosystem.



EMWD REPORTS

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CONTACT US

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ext. 6265 or 800.698.0400

Public and Governmental Affairs:
ext. 3430
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30902-I-0082



Spring 2017 Event Calendar

March 25, 2017 from 8 am to 10 am:

**Complimentary Bird Walk at the
Hemet/San Jacinto Multi-Purpose**

Constructed Wetlands (770 North Sanderson

Avenue, San Jacinto). Join us and share the opportunity

to view hundreds of ibises, egrets, blackbirds, and many

**other migratory and resident birds in their natural habitat. Don't forget
your camera and submit photos in our Bird Walk Photo Contest. For more
information, visit www.emwd.org/birdtours.**

April 1, 2017 from 9 am to 1 pm - Water Saving Saving Garden Friendly Plant Sale

Home Depot in Hemet (3400 W. Florida Avenue, Hemet)

May 6, 2017 from 9 am to 1 pm: Water Saving Garden Friendly Plant Sale

Home Depot in Perris (3150 Case Road, Perris)

**Save water and beautify your landscape with special offers from The Home Depot on
Water Saving Garden Friendly plants. These plant sales are a cooperative public-private
partnership brought to you by your Inland Empire family of water agencies, The Home
Depot, and its vendors.**

April 29, 2017 from 11 am to 3 pm:

**Community Water Festival in the City of Murrieta (41810 Juniper Street, Murrieta). Free
to the public. First 100 will receive a special gift.**