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EVMWD board president urges conservation

by Phil Williams, EVMWD President
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California is in the midst of a severe water shortage brought on by ongoing drought conditions, depleted reservoirs and court-ordered delivery reductions.

Metropolitan Water District of Southern California has slashed water deliveries, and major state reservoirs now are at a fraction of their full capacity. Meanwhile, energy costs for water districts are rising, and the threat of state penalties for excessive water use looms large. Clearly, the need for conservation is now.

The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) is implementing a new rate structure to encourage greater water efficiency. The board recently approved a “water budget” structure that will reward customers who already are efficient and encourage others to do so, while helping protect our precious water supply.

The new rate structure gives customers enough water to meet their needs indoors and out. The structure even increases customers’ water budgets in the five hottest months of the year. Customers who stay within their water budget should see only modest increases in their bills.

Customers who refuse to conserve, however, will pay a steep price for their wasteful water ways. Rates will double, triple and eventually quadruple as customers use increasing amounts of water. Thankfully, there’s no need for customers to pay those higher rates if they manage their water budgets wisely. The District has fairly determined the appropriate amounts of water customers need, based on property and family size along with weather conditions.

Additionally, the District also has a host of water-conservation measures to help customers reduce their water waste. Landscaping workshops are available to teach customers how to curb their outdoor water use, which typically accounts for at least half of most residential water use.

Rebates may be available for water-saving devices, such as MP rotator sprinkler heads and high-efficiency toilets. And the District’s dedicated full-time conservation specialist is ready to help customers by providing free water conservation audits, water-saving tips on landscaping and much more.

It’s time for everyone in California to be cautious about their water use, and EVMWD is helping its customers do that. By working together to conserve water, EVWMD and its customers can conserve and ensure a safe, reliable water supply today and far into the future.