

From elementary school to high school... water is part of the curriculum

If you have children or grandchildren in elementary school, chances are good they will be able to teach you about the importance and science of water.

During January and February, EMWD is sponsoring "The Water Connection," a special environmental education program performed at schools by two talented actors who incorporate music, juggling, magic and audience participation.

Your students will be learning the concepts of water conservation, the importance of water recycling and the basics of pollution prevention. They may also be inspired to enter EMWD's annual poster contest in the spring.

Some examples from last year's poster contest will be included on an upcoming 2004 Water is Life calendar, produced by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Three students from EMWD's service area were selected among 133 entries from 23 MWD member and retail water agencies.

Those students include José Figueroa, then a second-grade student at Hyatt Elementary, San Jacinto Unified School District; Summer Lynn Furzer, a former third-grader at Callie Kirkpatrick Elementary, Menifee School District, and Jennyfer Ortiz, at the time, a sixth grader at A Street Elementary, Perris School District.

To see their artwork and all of EMWD's most recent winning posters, log onto www.emwd.org and click on WATER EDUCATION for details.

And for those and older students, this is also the time of year when science projects begin. Rather than wait until the last minute, eager science students can turn to EMWD for free science fair handbooks and other related materials. EMWD's website also includes details on this program.

EMWD serves 10 school districts and many private schools with a variety of programs, including the poster contest, classroom presentations, facility tours and other cooperative educational efforts.

Students and teachers help us fulfill our education mission: "To foster understanding of water and wastewater, and to promote wise water use among the future leaders of our community." We know water will always be in the curriculum, no matter what their age.

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Students from 40 schools served by EMWD will learn about water through a combination of environmental education and vaudeville, in a program known as "The Water Connection."

EMWD safety culture earns star-quality status

In October, EMWD employees and guests celebrated EMWD's Cal/STAR recertification for its safety culture. The California Division of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (Cal/OSHA), a division of the State Department of Industrial Relations, first awarded the Cal/STAR rating to EMWD in 1999. Cal/STAR is special recognition granted by Cal/OSHA to companies that excel in their commitment to health and safety practices.

General Manager Anthony J. Pack presided as the master of ceremonies, congratulating District employees on their continued exemplary safety practices. EMWD stands out as the first public agency to receive the prestigious Cal/STAR Safety recognition. EMWD employees have also been called upon to visit and counsel with other organizations to help them boost their safety programs.

According to Pack, "We have not experienced a serious accident since we entered this program. We have never had a fatality at Eastern Municipal Water District in the millions and millions of hours that we've worked. That applies to our contractors, too."

Kelly Foster, on behalf of the IBEW Local 1436, and Judy Adams and Doug Hefley, on behalf of the EMWD Joint Labor-Management Safety Committee, commended employees for their continued efforts to maintain a superior safety culture. According to Adams, "Safety is integrated into everything we do. We have lots of programs to keep us aware. A lot of it is in our routine. It's part of the culture, part of our work day."

Supervisors Marion Ashley and Jim Venable presented a proclamation to EMWD on behalf of the County Board of Supervisors, recognizing EMWD's Cal/STAR achievement.

Because of the Cal/STAR designation, EMWD assumes greater responsibility to foster a safety culture that results in continuing safety and health improvements. EMWD

customers benefit from the Cal/STAR designation because reduced costs for workers' compensation, insurance and medical care are reflected in lower, more stable water and sewer rates.



Riverside County Supervisors Marion Ashley (Division 5), left, and Jim Venable (Division 3), right, show support for EMWD's employees and their safety program with EMWD General Manager Anthony J. Pack.

EMWD was the first public agency in California to receive the Cal/STAR recognition.

Breathe easier

Improving air quality is a high priority for EMWD. Through a \$78,000 grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management



District, 13 heavy-duty diesel vehicles have been retrofitted with special catalytic converters and particulate traps.

The traps are expected to cut particulate emissions by 85 percent or more.

Throughout Riverside County, EMWD and other local government agencies were able to retrofit 58 heavy-duty diesel vehicles through this program.

Kuebler appointed as ACWA Region 9 Vice Chair

Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) Treasurer, Joseph Kuebler, was appointed Vice Chair for Region 9 of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) on December 5, 2003 in San Diego.

ACWA is an industry advocate for California's public water agencies, providing representation in Sacramento and Washington D.C. on legislative, regulatory and broad policy issues affecting the water industry. ACWA's Region 9 consists of Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

Kuebler has served as treasurer for EMWD's board of directors since May of 1996, and has extensive experience in the fiscal and hydrological fields.

He is currently president of Kuebler, Prudhomme & Company, one of southwest Riverside County's largest CPA practices. They serve a large client base of companies in the real estate development, engineering, medical, retail and agricultural industries.

Kuebler has represented EMWD at numerous ACWA Conferences as well as other civic and industry functions.

EMWD and more than 440 other water agencies are members of ACWA and promote the policies and operations

of ACWA that provide solutions and services necessary to the efficient operation of all water agencies in California.



Joseph Kuebler



How about some after-the-holiday savings \$\$\$ High-efficiency clothes washer and ultra-low flow toilet rebates:

The need to conserve water is critical to ensuring an adequate supply for our future. A shortage of water is a worldwide problem. In our own area, the population is expected to double by the year 2020. In an effort to conserve water and secure our precious water resources, EMWD offers rebate programs on ultra-low-flow (ULF) toilets and high-efficiency clothes washers to its residential customers.

For the past four years, EMWD customers have been rebated up to \$75 each on 4,149 ULF toilets. Each customer that participated in this rebate program saved approximately 11,315 gallons per year (per retrofitted toilet). This

translates to savings of approximately \$30 per year on a residential water bill.

For the past three years, EMWD has rebated up to \$110 each on 666 high-efficiency clothes washers. Each customer that participated in this rebate program saved approximately 7,000 gallons of water per year. This equals approximately \$20 per year on a residential water bill. In addition to great water savings, the high-efficiency clothes washers are more affordable than ever before, save on electricity and use a third of the laundry detergent as a standard clothes washer.

Why not grab some of these savings for yourself? Participating in the rebate program is simple. Call our Conservation department's 24-hour rebate line at (909) 928-3777, ext. 4517 to learn more about the water saving rebate programs and to get a list of makes and models of washers that qualify for the rebate. Applicants need to sign up for the rebate program before purchasing the fixtures or appliances, and must purchase brands and models that are on our approved list.

Start putting \$\$\$ back into your piggy bank after the holidays by calling today!

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EMWD reports... is designed to keep
EMWD's customers and the public
informed of matters affecting them.

Forward your comments to the EMWD
Community Involvement Department at
the mailing address above.

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EMWD Main Number (909) 928-3777

Billing Inquiries in Perris and
Sun City call main number

Elsewhere (toll free)
1-800-426-3693

Automated Billing Information
Call main number, then press 8

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Call main number, follow
recorded instructions

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Call main number, then press 3

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Call main number, then ext. 4226

Water Quality
Call main number, then ext. 6337

System Outages, Trouble Calls
Call main number, then ext. 6265
or 1-800-698-0400

Rates and the new year

Water and sewer customers will see slight increases in the price of their water and the sewer service. The increases vary from community to community according to costs, but amount to a few cents per billing unit. Typical residential water customers might see their monthly water bills increase by approximately \$1.

Sewer rate increases will average about a nickel a day, or about \$1.50 a month.

New rates are effective January 1 and will be reflected in bills received during February.

To put this into perspective, water customers can buy about five gallons for one cent—that's still a bargain.

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Summer Lynn Furzer, Callie Kirkpatrick
Elementary, Menifee School District



Jennyfer Ortiz, A Street Elementary,
Perris School District



José Figueroa, Hyatt Elementary, San
Jacinto Unified School District

A new calendar from
Metropolitan Water
District features posters
from three students in
EMWD's service area.

Did you know?

Recycled water is wastewater that is cleaned for re-use, usually for purposes such as irrigating landscapes and refilling aquifers. There are over 300 producers of recycled water in California, and Eastern Municipal Water District is the fourth largest!

Largest recycled water producers in California:

1. The Bureau of Sanitation/City of Los Angeles
2. County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles
3. The City of Bakersfield
4. Eastern Municipal Water District