

JULY 2000

# EMWD

## REPORTS...

### **Free home water surveys can save you money**

Have you heard that a leaky toilet can cost you \$22 or more a month?

Do you know that over-watering is the most common cause of lawn and plant diseases?

Are you aware that your automatic irrigation timer needs to be adjusted seasonally to compensate for weather changes? Do you know how to do it?

What about shrubs and other plants that need a different watering schedule from what your lawn needs?

If any of these questions surprise you or have you wondering about your own home, EMWD's free residential water survey program may be just what you need!

Our conservation program representatives are well-trained, experienced individuals who can help you

save money by solving your water over-use problems.

Residential water surveys are comprehensive, evaluating the way you use water both indoors and in your yard.

Inside, our specialists help identify leaks, check toilets for correct operation, and spot wasteful practices you can change. They also check to be sure your water meter is functioning correctly.

Outdoors, where most families use half or more of the water they buy, the survey includes a check of your irrigation system for malfunctions or improper settings, sprinkler coverage, and seasonal clock settings. We'll also help determine soil content so

*Continued on page 4*

### **Rates stay the same for fifth straight year!**

Once again, EMWD has held the line on water and sewer rates in its new, annual budget that took effect July 1st and runs through June 30, 2001.

Water rates will remain unchanged for the fifth consecutive year, while sewer rates will stay at current levels for the fourth year in a row.

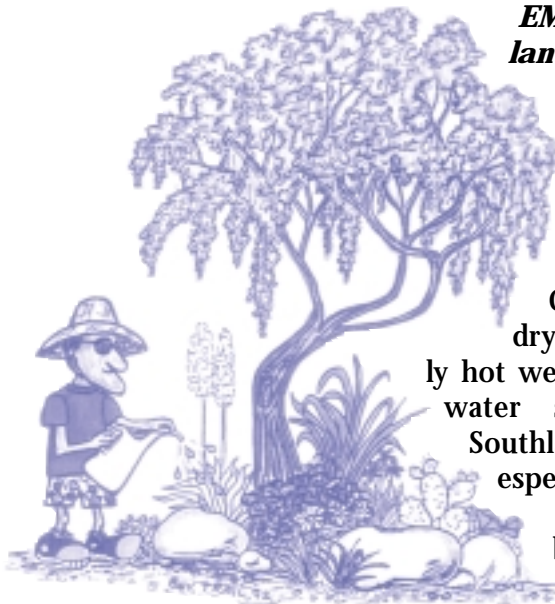
Continued emphasis on operating efficiencies and careful planning are credited with keeping rates in check despite unusually hot, dry weather and the resurgence of development and increased demand throughout EMWD's service area.

Eastern provides water, wastewater service and recycled water to a 555-square mile area of western Riverside County from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto.



*Our area's  
unusually warm dry  
winter... make  
the workshops  
especially timely*

## **“New, improved” landscape workshops are back**



**EMWD's extremely popular landscape workshops will be back again this fall.** The free sessions are held every two years to help customers have beautiful yards while conserving precious water.

Our area's unusually warm, dry winter and the exceptionally hot weather this summer, straining water supplies throughout the Southland, make the workshops especially timely.

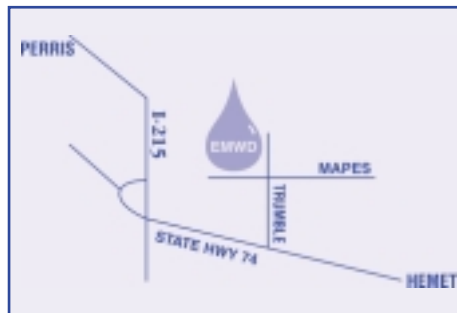
This year, however, there'll be a different twist to the workshops. Each of the four Saturday morning sessions will be devoted to a different, single topic. Mark your calendar now for these informative programs:

sions will be devoted to a different, single topic. Mark your calendar now for these informative programs:

- Sept. 9 Basic irrigation, drip irrigation, selection and design
- Sept. 23 Soils, fertilizers, automatic timers, watering schedules
- Oct. 7 Plant identification — drought-tolerant plants
- Oct. 21 Composting and green-waste recycling

All sessions will be held at EMWD's headquarters in Perris, at 2270 Trumble Road, off Highway 74 east. See the accompanying map. Doors will open at 8:30 for light refreshments, with presentations beginning at 9 a.m. and concluding by noon.

Check your August EMWD bill mailing for reservation information and additional details.



## ***Pesticide ban leads to disposal warning***

***A popular TV show a few years ago traced the unexpected, often unintended “Connections” between mankind’s inventions and their later impact.***

Today, an act as simple as pouring the wrong thing down the drain can make similar, unintended connections.

A good example is the quandary we all face when we hear some household substance has been taken off the market for safety or health reasons.

Take, for instance, the U.S. EPA’s recent ban of the common pesticide dursban.

How can we safely get rid of the supply we have of that item?

Modern wastewater treatment plants like those operated by EMWD function primarily through a biological process that disposes of the sewage. A large amount of a pesticide or other harmful substance arriving at the plant through the sewer system over a relatively short period can literally *Continued on page 4*

*It’s a lot easier than  
you may think to  
safely dispose of  
these materials.*

## ***The Conservation Hot Line***



We’re pleased to see a steady increase in the number of customers who are calling our “Conservation Hot Line”. Each month, Bill and Stacy, our conservation specialists, record useful tips that are appropriate for the season to help you save money by saving water.

For July, they will be talking about proper lawn watering practices that will be best for your yard while also being the most water-wise. More than half the water used by residential customers is used for outdoor irrigation, and most of that goes on lawns. So learning how to effectively get by with less is important.

In August, the hot line topic will be the upcoming water-wise gardening workshops that are described elsewhere in this edition of “EMWD reports...” We hope you will be able to attend.

To call the Conservation Hot Line, dial (909) 928-3777, then press 3 on the main menu and follow recorded instructions.



**WATER DISTRICT  
PHONE NUMBERS**

**EMWD**  
**Main Number**  
(909) 928-3777

**BILLING INQUIRIES**

In Perris and Sun City  
call main number  
Elsewhere (toll free)  
1 - (800) 426-3693

**JOB INQUIRIES**

Call main number, follow  
recorded instructions

**CONSERVATION  
INFORMATION**

Call main number,  
then press 3

**COMMUNITY  
INVOLVEMENT,  
EDUCATION**

Call main number,  
then ext. 4226

**WATER QUALITY**

Call main number,  
then ext. 6238

**SYSTEM OUTAGES,  
TROUBLE CALLS**

Call main number, then  
ext. 6265 or (toll free)  
1 - (800) 698-0400

CLIP and SAVE

**“Water Surveys” . . . Continued from page 1**

watering schedules match the soil’s ability to absorb water. Our specialists will discuss water-wise lawn maintenance and offer tips on landscaping that uses less water.

You’ll also receive a variety of free water-wise gifts including a bucket, low-flow showerhead, other items and helpful brochures.

If you are an EMWD retail water customer (meaning that you receive a monthly bill from us), you can take advantage of this money-saving program absolutely free. Just call (909) 928-3777, Ext. 4387 anytime to schedule an appointment.

**“Pesticide Bans” . . . Continued from page 3**

“kill” a treatment plant, in some cases.

That can cause massive environmental problems, great inconvenience for an entire community, and eventual sewer rate increases to pay the bill.

It’s a lot easier than you may think to safely dispose of these materials.

Residential holders of banned substances can take those materials to a household hazardous waste collection facility in their community or wait for a hazardous substances collection event. Information about collection facilities and events in Riverside County can be obtained by calling (909) 358-5256.

That’s also a good way to dispose of those partial cans of old paint and other things that accumulate in garages and under sinks.

Businesses should return banned substances to their suppliers.

Remember, it is very important that you dispose of these materials correctly. Never simply pour them down the drain or out on the ground.

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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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