



Are you aware?

May is Water Awareness Month, which serves as a reminder that solid, consistent water conservation habits are crucial to ensuring a secure water supply for the future.

Local water supplies are already being stretched thin due to high demands and low precipitation in Southern California. EMWD relies heavily on more costly imported water from Northern California to meet its customers needs.

It is important for residential and commercial customers to make every effort to conserve water in order to build up valuable local water supplies and help stabilize costs.

Ride the conservation wave

EMWD recently launched its "Ride the Conservation Wave" campaign. "Wipeout," EMWD's water savvy surfer, is here to help customers get to know what "riding the wave" is all about. The conservation "wave" consists of a variety of programs and resources to help you save water, including:

- Free home water surveys
- Free low-flow showerheads at EMWD headquarters, weekdays 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Free water-wise gardening workshops and tips
- Free water-wise brochures at EMWD's headquarters
- Residential and commercial rebate programs
- Commercial "water budget" program
- Free water-efficiency workshops for landscape maintenance personnel



So, get ready to "wipeout" water waste and catch the conservation wave today by visiting EMWD's website at www.emwd.org and clicking on Conservation Corner, or call us at (909) 928-3777, ext. 4221 for more information.

Students display artistic ability in "Water is Life" poster contest

Each year, EMWD sponsors a poster contest for students in grades K-6. The annual theme, "Water is Life," gives budding artists the chance to illustrate the importance of water conservation.

The posters are judged on theme, expression, originality, creativity, neatness and artistic execution.

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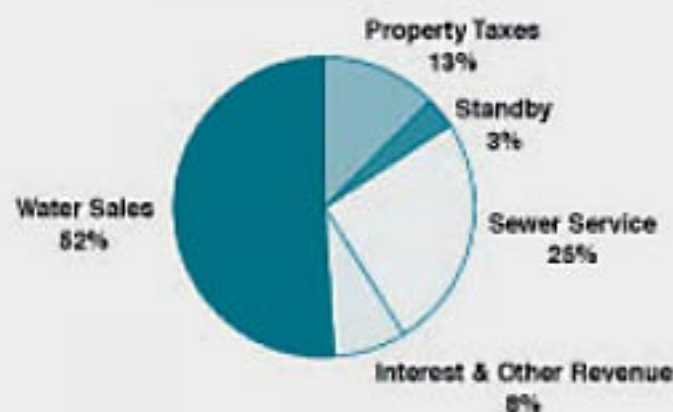
Property tax revenues help provide valuable services to EMWD customers

Each year, EMWD receives a portion of the property taxes paid by homeowners in our service district. Last fiscal year, EMWD received \$14.5 million dollars from property taxes to maintain and improve existing water and wastewater facilities. This fiscal year, EMWD is expecting to receive nearly \$16.5 million.

In January, the Governor's preliminary budget called for a \$1.3 billion dollar shift from local government to the State. Approximately \$100 million of that total was targeted to come from Special Districts, like EMWD. Under this scenario, EMWD would lose over one million dollars. However, other proposals being presented could increase this amount significantly.

EMWD relies on several sources of revenue to manage its water and sewer systems:

Fiscal Year 2003



EMWD uses property tax revenues for projects that benefit customers such as infrastructural investment, studies and research.

If property tax revenues are shifted to the State, EMWD will lose part of its share of the expected \$16.5 million dollars in property taxes, resulting in possible rate increases, higher fee assessments, and

reduced services. EMWD customers would continue to pay their property taxes without increased benefits and services that are provided to them by EMWD.

Try California-friendly landscaping

You can cut outdoor water use by 10 to 50 percent with California-friendly landscaping, a style based on sensible design, water-wise plants, good soil preparation, efficient irrigation and regular maintenance.

People often get turned off to the idea of water-wise landscaping because they think their only option is to plant cacti. While cacti can be beautiful, there are many other things you can do to have a water efficient landscape:

- Look for the "Native and California Friendly" tag. It identifies plants that are well adapted to our area and thrive on little water once they are established.
- Research plants' needs by turning to such resources as the *Smart Western Garden Book* or www.bewaterwise.com
- Group plants with similar water needs (hydrozoning).
- Know your soil. Examine soil frequently, making sure it is not too wet or too dry.
- Mulch all exposed planting areas. This discourages weeds, helps hold moisture in the soil, keeps the ground from overheating and visually enhances planters.
- Use appropriate irrigation. You will save hundreds of gallons of water and your plants will be healthier.
- Adjust watering schedules with the weather and seasons.
- Automatic sprinklers don't mean "no maintenance!" Check your sprinkler heads periodically for broken, misdirected, tilted, plugged or blocked heads. All of these situations can cause dry spots in your lawn.
- Deep soak your lawn. Try watering multiple start times, between midnight and 6 a.m. This will allow water to percolate deep into the soil, allow you to water less frequently, establish a deeper root system and avoid quicker evaporation.
- Water only the target area. Avoid sprinkling driveways, sidewalks and the sides of the house.

- Avoid runoff. Don't apply water faster than the soil can absorb it.
- Read your water meter. Read your meter before watering each zone. Then you can decide how best to conserve water around your yard.

Where can I get more information?

EMWD, in partnership with Metropolitan Water District, offers an abundance of resources to educate customers about water wise landscaping.

- **Free home water survey**
Let us help you find ways to save water in your home. Go to www.emwd.org and click on "Conservation Corner" or call (909) 928-3777, ext. 4221.
- **Free brochures**
Visit Eastern Municipal Water District headquarters in Perris for FREE brochures on conservation and landscaping.

- **Landscape watering calculator**
Learn how to create a custom watering schedule. Go to www.emwd.org and click on "Conservation Corner."
- **Be Water Wise**
Get tips on saving water and California-friendly landscaping. Go to www.bewaterwise.com. This site contains photos and descriptions of hundreds of plants!

- High-efficiency clothes washer (HECW) Up to \$110 rebate... HECWs can save as much as 15 gallons of water per load and cut down on electrical energy and detergent use.

Call (909) 928-3777, ext. 4517 or log onto www.emwd.org and click on "Conservation Corner."

The following is a list of rebates available to BMD business customers:

- Ultra low flush toilets and urinals (ULFT) Up to \$180 rebate... Uses 20,000 gallons less water annually and can save more than \$75 per year per fixture.

- Waterbroom \$100 rebate... Can be used instead of a hose to wash down sidewalks, poolside, and work areas, saving up to 35,000 gallons of water per year.

- Cooling tower conductivity controllers \$500 rebate
Can cut water costs up to 40 percent.

- Pre-rinse kitchen sprayers \$50 rebate...Can save an average of 300 gallons of water per day and more than \$500 per year in water and energy costs.

- Guest towel and bed linen placards FREE!
Save water, energy, detergent, and labor costs by asking guests to use their towels and linens more than one day.

- High-efficiency clothes washers \$400 rebate...
Save up to 90 percent on water and energy costs.

- X-ray film processor recycling system \$2,000 rebate
Reduces water usage up to 98 percent!

For more information, call 1-877-728-2282 or log onto www.emwd.org and click on "Conservation Corner."

Stop flushing away \$\$\$, save with rebates.

You can save water and your pocketbook with residential and commercial rebate programs made available by EMWD in cooperation with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.



EMWD offers the following rebate programs to residential customers:

- Ultra-low-flush toilets (ULFT)
Up to \$75 rebate...
ULFT fixtures use as much as 10,000 gallons less water annually than older models and save, on average, \$30 per year.

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EMWD reports...

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www.emwd.org

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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 in the 909 area code
(toll free)

1-800-426-3693

Automated Billing Information
Call main number, then press 8

Job Inquiries
Call main number, follow
recorded instructions

Conservation Information
Call main number, then press 4

Community Involvement, Education
Call main number, then ext. 4226

Water Quality
Call main number, then ext. 6347

System Outages, Trouble Calls
Call main number, then ext. 6265

OT: 1-800-698-0400

"Water is Life" poster contest continued from the first page

The winning students, as well as their teachers, are honored at city council and school board meetings throughout EMWD's service area during Water Awareness Month in May.

Each student submitting a poster receives a certificate of participation. Top posters are submitted to Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles for consideration in its "Water is Life" calendar.

EMWD is proud to announce the "Water is Life" poster contest sweepstakes winners for this year:



Michael Herezi, 6th grade,
Thompson Middle School, Mrs. Randel
Murrieta Valley Unified School District



Summer Furzer, 4th-C grade,
Callie Kirkpatrick School, Mt. Vogel
Menifee School District



Carina Cortez, 3rd Grade,
Edward Hyatt Elementary, Mrs. Vinyard
San Jacinto Unified School District

