



EMWWD reports...

MAY 2009

EMWD IS ON WATER SHORTAGE WATCH!

In April 2009, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) implemented its Water Supply Allocation Plan with 10 percent mandatory reductions to be effective July 2009, and a 19.7 percent rate increase to be effective September 2009.

Since EMWD relies on MWD for up to 75 percent of its drinking water supply, the EMWD Board of Directors is now in the process of carefully reviewing MWD's Water Supply Allocation Plan and rate increase along with EMWD's local resources, consumption history, and budget. After reviewing all of the information, the Board will determine which **stage of EMWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan is appropriate as well as what action to take regarding the rate increase.**

What is EMWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan?

EMWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan is implemented during times of drought, supply reductions, failure of water distribution systems, or other emergency that causes a water shortage. EMWD's plan was recently updated in coordination with MWD's Water Supply Allocation Plan.

EMWD is currently in Stage 1 which calls for a voluntary 10 percent reduction in water use. Stage 2 calls for the mandatory elimination of all wasteful water use with penalties assessed for violations. Stages 3 – 7 require mandatory reductions of outdoor water use beginning at 25 percent with penalties incorporated into the tiered rate structure.

If mandatory reductions are implemented, how will they be enforced?

Currently, water budgets provide the maximum amount of water needed for indoor and outdoor use. However, if mandatory reductions in water use are determined by the Board of Directors to be absolutely necessary, residential and large landscape customers will be given smaller outdoor water budgets. This process allows EMWD to address a water supply cutback from MWD in a simple and equitable way that will encourage conservation proportionately to the severity of the water shortage.



EMWD is currently in **Stage 1** which calls for a **voluntary 10 percent reduction** in water use.

For more information regarding EMWD's **Water Shortage Contingency Plan**, please visit www.emwd.org.



Water Budget Information
 Indoor Allocation: 7 BU
 Based on Household Size: 3 people
 Outdoor Allocation: 8 BU
 Landscape Area: 2,443 sq ft

What's in 60 gallons per person, per day?

EMWD's indoor water budgets are based on 60 gallons per person, per day. So what does that mean? The list below is an example of water use ranging from 30.5 gallons per person, per day (for newer, more efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances) to 55.4 gallons per person, per day (for older, less efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances).

	Amount per person	Newer fixtures/appliances	Older fixtures/appliances*
Toilets	4 flushes/day	1.6 gallons per flush	3 gallons per flush
Showers	8 minutes/day	1.3 gallons per minute	2.5 gallons per minute
Faucets	8 minutes/day	0.8 gallons per minute	1.3 gallons per minute
Dishwasher	.14 load/day (1 load/week)	.71 gallons/day (5 gallons per load)	1.3 gallons/day (9.3 gallons per load)
Clothes washer	.28 load/day (2 loads/week)	6.6 gallons/day (23 gallons per load)	11.7 gallons/day (41 gallons per load)

Remember, these figures represent water use per person.

*Fixtures installed prior to 1992 may use even more water.

Look for New Info on Your Water Bill!

LOOK CLOSELY AT YOUR WATER BILL!

Now that water budgets and tiered rates are in effect, water bills have new information including household size, irrigated area, variances, and forecasted budgets. To see a sample water bill online with detailed explanations, visit www.emwd.org.

Water – Use It Wisely

"There are a number of ways to save water, and they all start with you. Every person is water-saving device #1"

One trick of the trade:

Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low water-use plant.

May is Water Awareness Month Water – Use it Wisely!

Water Awareness Month originated in response to California's statewide drought in 1987-1992. On February 27, 2009, California declared a statewide drought emergency with water reserve supplies even lower than the previous drought. Current conditions make this year's Water Awareness Month more important than ever.

What's your awareness about the critical nature of California's water supply? Did you know...

...environmental regulations severely limit the amount of water that can be delivered from Northern California?

...even if California experienced a hundred year storm right now, mandatory restrictions could still be implemented this summer?

...more than 50 percent of household water is used outdoors – particularly in the summer?

...California Friendly landscaping uses up to 50 percent less water – even in the summer?



California's Water Shortage... what EMWD is doing about it!



Many of EMWD's projects, programs and activities are centered on the goal of efficiently using water resources and reducing dependence on imported water supplies in order to continue providing our customers safe and reliable service at reasonable costs!

As water supply decreases, the cost of water increases. EMWD has already experienced a 14.5 percent cost increase this year from Metropolitan Water District (MWD) with future increases on the horizon along with other increased operating costs. EMWD depends upon MWD for up to 75 percent of its drinking water supply, or up to 100,000 acre feet* per year which supplies approximately 200,000 households per year.

EMWD's Landscaping Retrofit Project is a perfect example of EMWD's efforts to maximize water supplies – including recycled water which is used for landscaping at EMWD offices. The project replaced 57 acres of traditional landscaping – including 8.75 acres of turf grass – with water efficient landscaping and reduced EMWD's use of recycled water by approximately 87 percent! Part of the project includes a new Demonstration Garden.

The District's Recycled Water Program delivered nearly 28,000 acre feet in 2008 to golf courses, schools and agriculture customers. Every gallon of recycled water delivered is a gallon that doesn't have to be imported. In 2008, recycled water saved enough water to supply 56,000 households!

EMWD also maintains **two desalters** which make salty groundwater drinkable and produce approximately 3,000 acre feet per year. Another desalter is in the design phase. Additional **groundwater supplies** approximately 20,000 acre feet per year.

Water use efficiency programs and rebates resulted in saving approximately 2,800 acre feet in 2008.

In total, EMWD is producing/saving nearly 54,000 acre feet per year through local projects. That's enough water to supply 108,000 households and is more than 1/3 of EMWD's total water use.

EMWD is also striving to eliminate water waste throughout the service area with the **Water Use Efficiency Ordinance (Ordinance 72.24)**. Customers may be fined for runoff, hosing sidewalks/driveways, and daytime irrigation.

However, **the most effective water use efficiency tool for any water supplier is water budget-based tiered rates**. EMWD's water budgets will be customized for each customer to provide the water needed. The tiered rate structure is designed to reward water use efficiency and discourage water waste. Any mandatory cutbacks determined by EMWD's Water Shortage Contingency Plan will be implemented through water budgets. For more information, visit www.emwd.org and watch for important announcements in your water bills.

*One acre foot of water equals 325,851 gallons.



By maximizing local water supplies and minimizing water waste, EMWD is able to reduce its dependence on imported water from MWD.

Visit us on the Internet at
www.emwd.org

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

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EMWD Main Numbers

Toll free number within
Southern California
800-426-3693

Main Number
951-928-3777

Automated Billing Information

Call main number: 951-928-3777
then press 2

Job Hotline

Call main number, then ext. 3300

Community Involvement, Education

Call main number, then ext. 4226
CommInvolve@emwd.org

Conservation Hotline

Call main number, then ext. 4517

Water Quality

Call main number, then ext. 6337

Systems Outages, Trouble Calls

Call main number then ext. 6265
or 1-800-698-0400

CALIFORNIA'S WATER SHORTAGE... how did we get here?

California's water supply conditions
are in a critical stage, and EMWD
could implement mandatory water
use restrictions this summer.

How did we get here?

The State has experienced
three drier than normal seasons
for both rainfall and snow pack.
In addition, the Colorado River
Basin – which delivers a large
portion of Southern California's
water supply – is coming off of
its eighth year of drought.

California's weather drought
has been compounded with
a **regulatory drought**. Court
rulings to protect Delta smelt
and other fish have significantly
decreased water from the State
Water Project system in
Northern California – another
major supplier for Southern
California water.

Now add the water that is
wasted every day by consumers.
Typically, more than 50 percent
of household water is used
outdoors – particularly in the
summer – and up to one-half
of that is not necessary.

The consequence of these
combined factors is critically
low water reservoir levels
throughout the State. As a
result, on February 27, 2009,
a drought emergency was
declared in California. In
addition, mandatory cutbacks
in water use could be imple-
mented this summer as part
of EMWD's Water Shortage
Contingency Plan. For more
information, please visit
www.emwd.org and watch
for important announcements
with your water bills.

PHOTO COURTESY OF METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Weathering the economic storm

IN RESPONSE TO COST INCREASES AND THE STRAINED ECONOMY,
EMWD absorbed \$4 million this year in operational costs by trimming
the budget. The District also deferred \$180 million in construction
projects. EMWD continues to look at all areas of the budget in addition
to seeking grants, low-interest funding, and stimulus fund monies.