

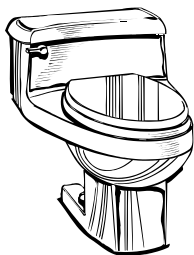
EMWD reports



VOL. 8, NO. 5
MARCH 2000



*2,000 in 2000
is the theme of
this year's
Ultra-Low-Flush
toilet giveaway!*



EMWD will celebrate the first “Water Awareness Month” of the new millennium by giving away 2,000 water-stingy, ultra-low-flush (ULF) toilets in May.

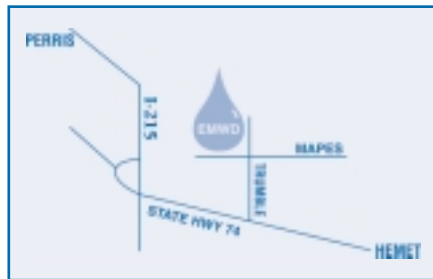
This is the ninth year of the program, and we’ll be offering twice as many of the high quality units as last year, completely free to Eastern’s residential water customers.

Distribution will be on a first come, first served basis **one day only, Saturday, May 6** from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Gates could close earlier if all units have been given away.

The event takes place at EMWD’s Operations and Maintenance Center, 2270 Trumble Road, near the intersection of I-215 and Hwy. 74 (east) at the southern edge of Perris. See the accompanying map.

All single-family customers receiving water bills directly from EMWD qualify. To participate, customers must bring a **current EMWD water bill and a photo I.D.**

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*Time flies:
EMWD serves
region for
half-a-century.*

Do you remember what you were doing 50 years ago?

If you lived in the region now served by Eastern Municipal Water District, chances are you might have been hauling water by truck to your ranch or getting drinking water

by the bucketful from a tanker circulating through your community.

In the 1940s, western Riverside County and much of southern California was reeling from the effects of a punishing drought. Wells went dry, streams disappeared, and there wasn’t

much to do about it in this arid region.

Many farms, ranches and small towns literally resorted to hauling in their water. Those who couldn’t afford to do so perished. It wasn’t a pretty picture.

Thanks to the vision

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“...EMWD was established to connect with Metro-politan Water District’s Colorado River Aqueduct and distribute imported water to the area...”

Time Flies . . . *Continued from page 1*

of a group of area leaders, however, EMWD was established to connect with Metropolitan Water District’s Colorado River Aqueduct and distribute imported water to the area for the first time. At an election in October of 1950, formation of the district was approved by an incredible 98 percent of the voters.

With initial funds of \$75 in the bank, the young agency found a way to serve its first water in 1951. About 80 percent of the water served in those days was for agriculture. As the area changed, today about 80 percent of the water EMWD serves goes to homes and businesses.

By the 1960s, it was apparent that wastewater had to be considered an important balancing element in the water equation, and EMWD led the

way to get state law changed so municipal water districts could operate wastewater treatment plants.

That led to the initial uses of highly treated, recycled water in the region, and that freed up more fresh water for human use. Shortly thereafter, Eastern sponsored legislation that made federal dollars available to build small water reclamation projects in regions like ours.

Throughout the years, Eastern Municipal Water District has been a visionary organization that has found countless innovative ways to meet the water needs of the region.

As we begin our second 50 years, we are committed to being equally creative and dedicated to meeting the water needs of a region that is expected to double in population within 20 years. ▲

Y2K MORE LIKE Y-OKAY

It’s old news by now. The transition to the Year 2000 went so smoothly that most of us had to watch the extraordinary, globetrotting New Year’s programs on TV to realize anything special was happening.

Here at EMWD, a special duty staff of nearly 60 people waited for something to happen, *anything*...and they waited, and they waited.

Within the Eastern Municipal Water District water and wastewater systems, New Year’s Eve 1999 turned out to be one of the quietest nights of the year.

There were absolutely no computer-related problems affecting service to any of our customers. Since then, we’ve found about a dozen minor glitches that were quickly and easily fixed in a wide variety of non-critical programs.

We appreciate your patience as we prepared for the big event. We appreciate your confidence as we waited it out together.

Best wishes for a wonderful new century! ▲

MTBE is the alphabet stretching nickname for a substance that is added to most gasoline sold in California to reduce air pollution. It's a federal requirement.

The process of "oxygenating" gasoline is effective in producing cleaner engine exhaust. MTBE is the most commonly used mixture to achieve mandated levels.

Unfortunately, in recent years it has been discovered that this substance is as bad for water as it is good for air! You may have seen a report about it on CBS-TV's "60 Minutes" in January.

Thankfully, it hasn't yet been detected in the water served by Eastern Municipal Water District, and we're watching closely.

Methyl tertiary butyl ether is the real name for this stuff, and knowing that helps you understand why it's called by its nickname. It has contaminated drinking water in areas throughout California, and elsewhere in the nation, by leaking from underground storage tanks and as an element of unburned fuel from many two-stroke engine watercraft. Even airborne auto exhaust can deposit MTBE on surface water.

Governor Davis has issued an executive order directing producers to remove MTBE from all

gasoline sold in California by the end of 2002. However, that can only be done if the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (the EPA) grants the state a waiver of federal requirements.

State officials, and water agencies throughout California, are doing all they can to persuade EPA Administrator Carol Browner to grant the waiver.

With the growing needs for water throughout the state, we simply can't afford to lose any more valuable sources of water to MTBE contamination. ▲

Alphabet soup

in your

drinking

water

CONSERVATION TIPS

As the spring garden season approaches, be sure to



take advantage of the helpful tips to be found on EMWD's recorded conservation hotline, 928-3777, Ext. 4517. Here are the topics to be presented for the next two months.

March: Preparing your garden for spring.

April: Recorded message with information about the ultra-low-flush toilet giveaway program that will take place in May.



**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 ext. 4387

CONSERVATION TIPS

Call main number,
then ext. 4517

**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

“2000 in 2000” . . . Continued from page 1

such as a driver's license on the day of the event.

Only one ULF toilet will be given to each household. However, those who have received toilets in previous years are eligible to get another this time around.

Recipients must agree to **return their old toilets** that are being replaced by the ULF units to EMWD two weeks later, on Saturday, May 20.

New toilets come in white only. Removal of the old toilet and installation of the new one is solely the customer's responsibility. Many plumbers do the job for a modest charge.

Each new toilet comes in two sections, packed in cardboard boxes. Student volunteers will be available to help load the units into customers' vehicles. Their high schools will receive student body financial contributions as payment for their help.

For additional information about the toilet giveaway program, listen to the recorded message on our conservation hotline, 928-3777, Ext. 4517, beginning April 1.

EMWD has given over 10,500 ultra-low-flush toilets to customers during the first eight years of the program. The new units use only 1.6 gallons of water per flush, compared with older toilets that consume between 3.5 and 7 gallons with each use.

Since the toilet is the biggest water-consuming appliance in most homes, those with the ULF toilets will save money on future water bills.

Funding contributions from The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Lower Colorado Region of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation made it possible to make 2,000 units available this year. ▲

Vol. 8, No. 5, March 2000

Published every other month by
EASTERN MUNICIPAL WATER
DISTRICT • 2270 Trumble Rd.,
P. O. Box 8300, Perris, CA
92572-8300.

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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