

# Reports...



*Region celebrates Water Awareness Month, Drinking Water Week*

*District ready to meet growth, replacement demands in region*

The hot, dry months of summer aren't far away. That makes the month of May an ideal time for Eastern Municipal Water District and its customers to join others all over California in celebrating Water Awareness Month.

The week of May 7-13 is also the national observance of Drinking Water Week.

Living as we do on the fringes of the Great Southwestern Desert, most folks in these parts recognize how critical a reliable supply of high quality water really is. The purpose of Water Awareness Month and Drinking Water Week is to remind us all how important it is to use water wisely.

Water conservation is critical to our region's ability to meet continuing and increasing water supply needs.

Despite holding rates steady, Eastern Municipal Water District is ready to meet the demands of replacing or upgrading older parts of its system, as well as to serve increasing population and business activity expected in the next few years.

The District currently operates more than a billion dollars' worth of water, wastewater and recycled water facilities serving 430,000



*Water Awareness Poster by Taylor Turner of Linda Brandt's 1st grade class at Val Verde School in Perris*

people in 555 square miles of western Riverside County.

EMWD has not raised its water rates since 1996 nor increased sewer rates since 1997, and no increases are expected this year.

However, over \$170 million worth of EMWD infrastructure improvements have been identified for possible construction during the next five to seven years along the I-215 corridor from

*Continued on page 2*

*Continued on page 4*

*“It can take  
eight to 10  
years to plan  
and build a  
major project”*

*District ready... Continued from page 1*

Moreno Valley southward to Temecula, and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto.

The good news is that Eastern has anticipated this growth and has been able to set aside the necessary funds in order to minimize its need to finance these projects with bonds. The District’s financing strategy makes the best use of customers’ dollars and minimizes rate increases or other costly financing methods.

Recent news reports have noted that water and wastewater agencies nationally will need to invest a trillion dollars in facilities over the next 20 years due to replacement costs of aging pipe and other infrastructure. Without federal government financing, these reports go on to say, consumer water and wastewater rates could double.

That’s not going to happen at EMWD!

Eastern has identified 42 potential major water and wastewater improvement projects to meet projected requirements in its service area. Still other projects are under consideration or are not large enough to make the “major projects” list.

It can take eight to 10 years to

plan and build a major project. The District works hard to make sure it is planning the right improvements to keep pace with demand as well as the need for upgrade or replacement of facilities that serve current customers.

One especially far-sighted project Eastern is preparing to build is a desalter on its Sun City property to treat previously unusable, brackish water from several wells in the area. The project is expected to clean up local aquifers and provide about 3,000 acre-feet of new domestic water for distribution throughout the domestic water system, enough for 6,000 households. Additional desalters may be in the District’s future.

Population of western Riverside County, where EMWD provides water, wastewater and recycled water service, is expected to double in the next 20 years. Solid planning and preparation now will ensure the District can continue to serve all its customers in the future.

And, thanks to a tradition of careful stewardship of its ratepayers’ money, rates won’t skyrocket to pay for those improvements. ▲

EMWD's special phone line with recorded conservation information continues to provide useful information to our customers.

During May, one of our conservation specialists, Stacy, will discuss procedures for return of old toilets following the May 6th one-day distribution of new, 1.6-gallon, ultra-low-flush toilets.

Our other conservation specialist, Bill, will provide the June message on how to get the most out of your irrigation system while conserving water for the summer.

For the conservation tips, call 909-928-3777, Ext. 4517 anytime day or night. ▲

**Routine flushing will prevent** sediment from building up, prolong the life and efficiency of your hot water heater, and prevent water quality problems in your home's hot water system.

Here's a step-by-step guide to flushing a water heater. Please note, however, that if you have an older water heater that has not been maintained regularly, the bottom valve may already be corroded, making it impossible to shut the valve after flushing.

If you are in doubt or you do not feel comfortable servicing your own water heater, contact a licensed plumber for assistance.

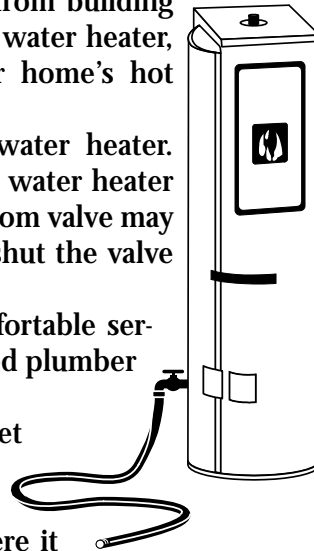
- First, hook up a garden hose to the faucet located at the bottom of your hot water heater.

- Next, place the other end of the hose where it can drain to the gutter, sink or, if convenient, a flower bed. Remember, though, that the water will be hot.

- Third, turn on the valve slowly and allow it to drain until the water coming out of the hose is no more than luke warm and/or is clear. This should not take longer than a few minutes.

- Finally, turn off the valve and remove the hose.

That's all there is to it, and your water heater will thank you by affording you additional years of trouble-free service. ▲



*Your water  
heater needs a  
spring cleanup,  
too!!*



**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

*“Region celebrates...” Continued from page 1*

Eastern’s eighth annual ultra low flush toilet giveaway on May 6th will contribute further to about 5,000 acre feet of avoided water consumption for which the District’s conservation program has been responsible. This year’s program will make a total of more than 12,000 toilets the District has given away since the program began in 1993.

Other Water Awareness Month activities include the culmination of EMWD’s annual elementary school “Water is Life” poster contest. Prizes to winners are being presented at city council meetings and school board meetings throughout the District’s service area during the month. More than 3,000 entries are expected in the contest.

In addition to conservation, reliability is critical to our regional water service. Most of EMWD’s water is imported from the Colorado River and from northern California because of the shortage of usable groundwater in our area. With the Metropolitan Water District, Eastern is working hard to continue guaranteeing those supplies. Of course, efforts continue, too, to find and develop more local water sources.

The quality of your water is just as important as having it available. EMWD is proud of the fact that its water meets or beats all federal and state standards, as well as voluntary “suggested” levels, for the more than a hundred constituents found in water.

That doesn’t happen without a lot of dedicated effort at the laboratories, water filtration plants, wells, distribution systems and other facilities that contribute to keeping your drinking water safe and pure.

As we enter the summer season, remember how precious your water supply is. Use it wisely. ▲

Vol. 8, No. 6, May 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.

**EMWD**

*Board of Directors*

- DIVISION ONE:  
*Rodger D. Siems*
- DIVISION TWO:  
*Richard R. Hall*
- DIVISION THREE:  
*Clayton A. Record, Jr.*  
Vice President
- DIVISION FOUR:  
*Marion V. Ashley*
- DIVISION FIVE:  
*David J. Slawson*  
President
- DIRECTOR OF THE  
METROPOLITAN WATER  
DISTRICT:  
*Clayton A. Record, Jr.*