



News from EMWD

Community Involvement Department

951/928-3777, ext. 4226

FAX 951/928-6171

Comminvolve@emwd.org

P.O. Box 8300

Perris, CA 92572-8300

For Immediate Release

Just because it's hot is no excuse to waste water

Perris, CA (July 18, 2006)—So, how hot was it? Last month's temperatures nationwide were the second highest on record for June. In fact, the entire first half of this year was the warmest of any first six months since 1895.

By the second week of July, water customers in Southwest Riverside County seemed to reflect that trend in their own watering habits. Beginning July 11, Eastern Municipal Water District customers used 169 million gallons, a new one-day record, and have continued that record-setting pace almost every day since.

“We and other water agencies are keeping up with the extremely high demands from our scorching weather,” said Tony Pack, EMWD general manager. “But as a precaution against the possibility of actual shortages, we’re asking our customers to voluntarily reduce how much water they use.”

EMWD typically supplies 150-160 million gallons a day during summer months, he said. “But for the past week, we have consistently been supplying water in the high 160s to high 170s,” Pack added. “We continue to serve everyone, but we’d appreciate not having to run our systems flat out.”

EMWD and other local water agencies have been advocating increased awareness of water supplies among residents and have been encouraging customers in a continuing “How Much Is Enough?” ad campaign to shift outside irrigation schedules to nighttime hours, four times a week, for no more than 15 minutes at a time.

Probably the simplest test customers can make is to see whether any water runs off their landscaping during irrigation. “If so,” he added, “you’re not only inefficient and spending more than you need to, you’re making it more difficult for us to replenish our supplies quickly.”

In EMWD’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan, there are several procedures for dealing with unusually high demands and emergencies. Some are voluntary, and in extreme cases, mandatory.

As a reminder, the following suggestions are the simplest for all residents and businesses to make:

1. Do not hose down driveways or any other hard surfaces except for health or sanitary reasons. Use a broom or blower instead
2. Irrigate lawns and landscape only between midnight and 6:00 am (unless hand watering).
Adjust automatic timer clocks accordingly
3. Adjust and operate all landscape irrigation systems in a manner that will maximize irrigation efficiency and avoid over watering or watering of hardscape and the resulting runoff
4. Refrain from using decorative fountains unless they are equipped with a recycling system
5. Where possible, install pool and spa covers to minimize water loss due to evaporation
6. Do not allow hoses to run while washing vehicles. Use a bucket or a hose with an automatic shutoff valve.

Business and other large customers with dedicated landscape meters are also encouraged to limit their water use to 80 percent of their optimum irrigation requirements based on weather and evaporation.

For suggestions how residents and businesses can help take advantage of conservation measures, or to review EMWD's extensive Water Shortage Contingency Plan, contact www.emwd.org.

EMWD is the freshwater, wastewater service and recycled water provider to a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley southward along the I-215 corridor to Temecula and eastward to Hemet and San Jacinto. Approximately 630,000 people live and work in this area. In addition to its own water customers, EMWD supplements water to eight local water agencies and municipalities that have their own water departments. EMWD operates four water reclamation facilities and treats some 43 million gallons of wastewater daily. More information can be found at EMWD's web site www.emwd.org.