



News from EMWD

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For Immediate Release

Birding season begins at Eastern Municipal Water District's wetlands

Perris, CA (November 29, 2006)—Early risers will find some good opportunities to catch a glimpse of ibises, egrets, and blackbirds, and perhaps up to 120 other species at Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) wetlands in San Jacinto.

In partnership with the Audubon Society, EMWD is offering free tours of its wetlands on the first Saturday of the month from December through May. Designated tour dates are December 2, January 6, February 3, April 7 and May 5, all beginning at 8:00 a.m. No reservations are needed.

Tour guides will be Sherri Stange and Steve Adkison of the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society. The Audubon Society's mission is to "conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity." The Audubon Society helps people of all backgrounds and ages to learn about sustaining important bird populations through community education programs.

According to Malea Ortloff, EMWD education specialist, "We're excited about this continuing partnership with the Audubon Society because they share our goal of fostering a sense of stewardship for water and habitat. With Sherri's and Steve's vast knowledge of birds, we're able to offer extraordinary guided tours of this unique wildlife area."

Individuals and families can take advantage of this opportunity to visit the EMWD multi-purpose, constructed wetlands at the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility, 770 N. Sanderson Ave. For directions, visit www.emwd.org and click on “Map to our location, “ then find “EMWD Wetlands Research Facility.” Or call (951) 928-3777, ext. 4226.

The EMWD wetlands are generally not open to the public. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Tours will be canceled on rainy days.

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EMWD serves a 555-square mile area from Moreno Valley to Temecula, and from Hemet and San Jacinto to Good Hope and Mead Valley. 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 45 million gallons of wastewater daily. More information can be found at EMWD’s web site www.emwd.org.