



## ***News from EMWD***

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### **For Immediate Release**

## **Controlled burn to be seen in western San Jacinto Valley**

**Perris, CA (September 13, 2007)**—A large plume of smoke is expected to be seen in the San Jacinto Valley during the early morning hours of Thursday, September 20.

Weather conditions permitting, the smoke will result from a controlled burn of dried bulrush and other vegetation at Eastern Municipal Water District's multi-purpose, constructed wetlands. They are adjacent to EMWD's San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility, 770 N. Sanderson Ave. A smoke management plan will minimize smoke, odors and particulates, and has been planned in cooperation with the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The wetlands were built in partnership with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the early 1990s as a unique demonstration project in wastewater treatment, recycled water reuse, environmental enhancement, wildlife habitat creation and public education. The unique project in San Jacinto typically helps to cleanse one to two million gallons of secondary-treated recycled water a day.

The vegetation acts as an effective, natural filter for nutrients in the treatment process. Over time, the vegetation had become so lush, it interfered with the treatment process.

A controlled burn is “the environmentally friendly way to remove tons of vegetation that have been drying for months,” according to Jayne Joy, EMWD’s director of environmental and regulatory compliance. “If it were to be harvested mechanically, it would be very expensive, and we’d still have to dispose of the grasslike stalks anyway,” she said.

A controlled burn of the wetlands was last conducted in 2002. It will be restored and in operation again by fall.

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*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 650,000 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](http://www.emwd.org).*