



News from EMWD

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For Immediate Release

Emergency water supplies from EMWD helped fight Rosa Fire

Perris, CA (October 30, 2007)—Responding to the recent firestorm in San Diego and southern Riverside counties, a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection helicopter was able to pull water from an open reservoir at the Temecula Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility (TVRWF) Tuesday, Oct. 23. That facility is operated by Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD).

Throughout the day, the helicopter was able to use a hose to frequently refill its 360-gallon tank while in flight. An estimated 4,000 gallons were picked up from the plant to protect structures and prevent the spread of the Rosa Fire, which burned more than 400 acres. Two outbuildings were destroyed by that fire, and roads were reopened for residents Saturday, Oct. 27.

The open reservoir holds high-quality recycled water until it is normally used for irrigation, such as at golf courses, parks and for agriculture. The reclamation plant operates at up to 16 million gallons a day, and can store some 25 million gallons of recycled water onsite. The Temecula plant is one of four regional reclamation plants operated by EMWD.

During the day-long firefighting operation, EMWD staff diverted more water into one pond to maintain a greater depth so the helicopter could operate more safely and minimize picking up dirt or debris from the bottom of the pond.

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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 660,000 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.