



## **News from EMWD**

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### **Eastern Municipal Water District steps forward to implement a water budget-based tiered rate structure by March 2009**

*Water budget-based tiered rates would meet objectives for fairness, water use efficiency, and revenue stability.*

**Perris, CA (July 11, 2008)**—To encourage customers to use water wisely, the EMWD Board of Directors will consider options for implementing water budget-based tiered rates at the next Board meeting on Wednesday, July 16, 2008.

A water budget-based tiered rate structure differs from EMWD's current non-tiered (uniform) rate structure where customers pay the same amount of money per unit of water regardless how many units they use. A water budget-based rate structure provides customers with enough water to meet indoor and outdoor needs based on family size, lot size and weather conditions. If a customer uses less than the budgeted amount, they pay the base rate. If they use more than the budgeted amount, they pay a higher rate for the excess usage. This structure promotes fairness for customers who use water efficiently and penalizes customers who waste water.

EMWD is expected to move forward in implementing this type of rate structure with a two-phase approach. Phase I includes implementing a generalized water budget by March 2009 where indoor and outdoor water use is estimated for customer groups based on a predefined per person amount, average lot size, and average weather information. Phase II would implement individualized water budgets by January 2010 with indoor and outdoor water use estimated for each account based on actual household size, actual landscape size, and real time weather information.

Implementing water budget-based tiered rates is an important step toward providing customers with long-term water reliability. Uncertainties with imported water supplies – our largest source – continue to grow in complexity due to drought, regulatory requirements, and environmental factors, necessitating prudent use of this precious resource.

EMWD customers can also take advantage of free water surveys to identify water-saving options for residential homes and landscapes. EMWD also offers several rebate programs to help customers save water and money!

For more information, log onto [www.emwd.org](http://www.emwd.org) or call (951) 928-3777.

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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](http://www.emwd.org).*