



News Release

For Immediate Release

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Recycled water to be shared by three agencies

Temecula, CA (March 26, 2009)—Three water agencies today agreed to a plan for sharing recycled water beneficially in Southwest Riverside County. They also agreed to share the expense for any recycled water that is conveyed through the Temecula Valley Pipeline for use in the Wildomar area or discharged into Temescal Creek.

The agencies, Eastern Municipal Water District, Rancho California Water District and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, have each expanded their wastewater treatment facilities and their recycled water customer base, and felt the need to formalize their responsibilities and shared expenses. Former agreements and memoranda of understanding became outdated as the agencies have continued to expand their recycled water operations.

“This cooperative agreement helps each of our agencies manage our water resources more efficiently,” Ron Sullivan, EMWD board president, said. “Irrigation for golf courses and other landscaping is more reliable now that we can make our plans more formally.”

EMWD operates the 12 million-gallons-a-day (mgd) Temecula Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility and the 17-mile Temecula Valley Recycled Water Pipeline, which

discharges near Lake Elsinore at Temescal Creek. RCWD operates its 5-mgd Santa Rosa Water Reclamation Facility, while EVMWD sends some of its wastewater to that plant as well.

“This is a great example of how agencies can work together to get every drop of value out of every drop of water produced locally,” according to EVMWD board president Phil Williams. “Eastern and Rancho are helping us recycle our water and deliver it to our customers.”

Both RCWD and EVMWD own some capacity in EMWD’s pipeline and related facilities, and need to be able to serve more recycled water customers. In time, the pipeline will transport 30 million gallons a day as the supply of wastewater increases. The ability to effectively manage recycled water is critical for all three agencies as water imported from the Metropolitan Water District faces increased regulatory restrictions and rising costs.

“By finding ways to work cooperatively together, the three agencies can save money for our ratepayers and improve the level of water supply reliability in the entire region,” said Ralph Daily, RCWD board president.

EMWD generally sells about 70 percent of the recycled water it produces, depending on the season and whether pipelines are available to serve potential customers. In 2008, they sold 28,000 acre feet. RCWD currently sells 4,400 acre feet per year, and has plans to significantly expand its recycled water network to serve other demands in its service area as more recycled water becomes available.

Under this new agreement, the wholesale price per acre foot for recycled water—\$180.50—is subject to periodic adjustment.

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Eastern Municipal Water District 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 675,000 people live and work in this area. In addition to its own water customers, EMWD supplements water to eight local water agencies or 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.

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District provides service to more than 133,000 water, wastewater and agricultural customers in a 96-square-mile service area in Western Riverside County. The District is a sub-agency of the Western Municipal Water District and a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Visit the EVMWD website at www.evmwd.com for additional information.

Formed in 1965, Rancho California Water District supplies an area consisting of approximately 150 square miles. The District serves the area known as Temecula/Rancho California, which includes the city of Temecula, parts of Murrieta, and other contiguous lands. The District is separated into two divisions: the Santa Rosa Division generally west of I-15 and Rancho Division generally east of I-15. The District currently provides sewer service to the Cal Oaks and Bear Creek areas.