



News from EMWD

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For Immediate Release

Eastern Municipal Water District's Early Morning Tours are for the Birds

Perris, CA (October 23, 2009) – An early morning visit to the Eastern Municipal Water District's (EMWD) wetlands in San Jacinto provides a unique experience to view up to 120 species of birds including the White-Faced Ibis, Great Egrets and Canadian Geese.

Collaborating with the Audubon Society, EMWD is offering free tours of its wetlands on the first Saturday of the month from November through May. Designated tour dates are November 7, December 5, January 9, February 6, March 6, April 3 and May 1, all beginning at 8:00 a.m. Reservations are not required.

Tour Guides Sherri Stange and Steve Adkison of the San Bernardino Valley Audubon Society will give expert interpretation of the endemic and migratory birds at the wetlands. 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, "Partnering with the Audubon Society provides the ideal opportunity for EMWD to showcase the Hemet/San Jacinto multi-purpose constructed wetlands. Over the years, visitors have enjoyed the opportunity to view a significant variety of both residential and migratory birds, and have come to appreciate EMWD's sense of stewardship for water and habitat."

Individuals and families can take advantage of the opportunity to visit the wetlands at the San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility located at 770 N. Sanderson Ave in San Jacinto. For more information please call (951) 928-3777, ext. 4226.

The EMWD wetlands is used to further treat recycled water produced by the reclamation facility before it is distributed for irrigation to nearby farms and the San Jacinto Wildlife Area. It is generally not open to the public. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Visitors are asked to stay with the group for the two-hour tour. In case of rain, the tour will be cancelled.

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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 687,000 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. Nearly 80 percent of the freshwater supplied by EMWD comes from imported sources. EMWD operates four water reclamation facilities and treats some 46 million gallons of wastewater daily. More information can be found at EMWD's web site www.emwd.org.