



News from EMWD

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For Immediate Release

Water use efficiency ordinance revised by Eastern Municipal Water District

Perris, CA (February 6, 2009)—The reliability of water supplies in western Riverside County was enhanced Wednesday, Feb. 4, when Eastern Municipal Water District's board of directors revised its water use efficiency ordinance.

The latest revisions incorporate the district's water budget-based tiered rates structure as a method to enforce greater water efficiency and discourage water waste. Some of these requirements include repairing water leaks in a timely manner, and avoiding hosing down driveways and irrigating during daytime. Ordinance 72.24 is effective March 1, 2009, when tiered rates also become effective.

The ordinance also revised penalties against customers who allow water to run off their property and into streets. Single-family customers who allow water to run-off their property and into streets will receive two written notices before paying penalties. These penalties start at \$25 with the third violation notice within a year, down from \$100 currently. Subsequent violations against the same customers would result in surcharges of \$50 and \$100, down from \$200 and \$300.

The reduced surcharge on single family residents is because of the new tiered-rate structure incorporates higher charges for excessive and wasteful practices by single-family

residents. Penalties of \$100, \$200 and \$300 remain unchanged for water runoff by multi-family, commercial, institutional, industrial, agricultural, and landscape accounts.

Under the new rate schedule, large landscaping accounts with more than 3,000 square feet of irrigation and dedicated landscape meters are required to adhere to their water allocations on a monthly basis, rather than an annual basis. In 2008, some large landscape accounts exceeded their water budgets and are subject to about \$600,000 collectively for their excessive and wasteful irrigation practices.

It was also noted during board discussions that the elected officials of cities, park and school districts, and other large landscape accounts should be notified when invoices with excessive or wasteful tiers are sent out. Currently, only the customers on record receive the notices.

In the future, mandatory conservation measures may be necessary to comply with state or regional requirements.

As a reminder, information, services and other help is freely available for EMWD customers. To see a copy of Ord. 72.24 and for information about current conservation programs, go to <http://www.emwd.org/usewaterwisely/>.

For information on tiered rates and to access EMWD's water-budget calculator, go to http://www.emwd.org/water_service/UnderstandingTieredRates.html.

The water use efficiency ordinance was established in 1991 in response to several years of drought and Metropolitan Water District's implementation of a service interruption and conservation plan.

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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 675,000 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 46 million gallons of wastewater daily. More information can be found at EMWD's web site www.emwd.org.