



News from EMWD

Community Involvement Department
951/928-3777, ext. 4226
FAX 951/928-6171
rountrer@emwd.org
P.O. Box 8300
Perris, CA 92572-8300



For Immediate Release

EMWD Receives Grant to Help Schools Use Water Wisely

Perris, CA (October 20, 2009) —

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) was successful in acquiring a \$300,000 CALFED Water Use Efficiency grant from the Bureau of Reclamation for a Public School Retrofit Program. EMWD will use the grant funding for the installation of retrofit devices, replacing inefficient devices with water efficient devices at schools. EMWD has identified schools that were built prior to 1992, and has offered the program to eleven schools, one in each School District EMWD serves.

Currently, eight schools have taken advantage of the survey offered and audits have been completed to determine the devices that should be replaced. Audits taken have confirmed approximately 670 water wasting devices to be replaced saving more than 400 acre feet over the lifetime of the products. It is anticipated that replacement will occur over the next several months and be complete by early next spring.

“EMWD relies heavily on imported water,” said Ron Sullivan, EMWD Board of Directors President. *“As we continue to develop opportunities for water-use-efficiency, it is important that we provide assistance to our public sector customers.”* By participating in this program, schools have an opportunity to reduce their water consumption. Improving water use efficiency at these schools has direct impact on the California Bay-Delta by reducing demand on the State Water System.

The CALFED Water Efficiency grant funds agricultural and urban projects that focus on improving ecosystem health, water supply reliability, and water quality of the Bay-Delta or help reduce Southern California's dependence on Bay-Delta water. *“After a long period of drought and increasing environmental pressures on the Bay Delta system, EMWD's Public School Retrofit Program is a great example of how local partnerships can make a difference statewide,”* says Deb Whitney, Water Conservation Specialist for the Bureau of Reclamation. *“Innovative programs such EMWD's set the example for others to follow.”*

The Bureau of Reclamation's grant funding will be combined with monetary contributions from EMWD's Special Projects Budget and Metropolitan Water District's Save-a-Buck program, by way of rebates for water efficient devices. The total cost of the program is \$670,000.

For more information about EMWD's conservation programs, please visit us on the web at <http://www.emwd.org/conservation/index.html> or by phone, 951.928.3777 ext 4221.

###

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.