



EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WINTER RESIDENTIAL SEWER RATES TO BE RELAXED 2012 sewer commodity rate to be set to lower of last two years' winter water usage

Placerville, Calif. — At its January 23, 2012 meeting, the El Dorado Irrigation District Board of Directors voted unanimously to direct staff to use the lower of the last two years—either 2011 or 2012—of winter water usage billing cycles to establish a customer's 2012 sewer commodity rate.

This one-time exception to the District's regulations, initiated by George Wheeldon, Division 4, has been made due to the unusually dry winter so far, as evidenced by the snow survey conducted by the California Department of Water Resources. Because of the dry conditions, some customers have found it necessary to increase their irrigation frequency.

"I think this is such an unprecedented event that we need to do something about this and make a one-time exception to our regulations. When you look at the historical rainfall dating back the last ten years in the month of December, it clearly shows that this year has been, by far, drier than any other year in recent history," said Wheeldon. "In 2003 we had 12.93 inches as compared to December 2011, where we only had 0.03 inches. As a result of these unusual circumstances, staff will be manually reviewing every single residential sewer account and will automatically enter the lower usage of the last two water years, unless there are unusual circumstances requiring staff to contact customers to obtain more information before a determination is made.

Residential wastewater rate calculations are performed annually, based on water consumption that occurs during a two-month winter billing cycle between November and February of each year. These calculations are based on winter water usage under the assumption that during the winter months, little outside irrigation is occurring. During last year's wet winter, this assumption was definitely true. But in this year's dry winter weather, many District customers, especially those in the lower elevations, have felt it necessary to irrigate and some weather-based irrigation controllers are calling for water for some plant types. For new customers, the lesser of the flat rate or first full billing cycle will be used until a winter billing cycle is established.

The District will notify customers of this one-time exception to the sewer rate-setting method in a variety of ways, including e-mails sent to those customers who have provided their e-mail address; notices in the Waterfront newsletter; notices on upcoming customer billing statements; automated calls to customer homes; and notices on the District's website. Customers may also contact customer services at 530-642-4000 for more information if they have questions.

This option applies only to customers who do not receive recycled water because these customers use recycled water rather than potable water for their outside irrigation needs.

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In other business, the Board—

- Received a report that due to a dramatic reduction in sewer spills since 2009, the District has terminated an oversight agreement with the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) three years ahead of schedule. The District executed the oversight agreement in 2010 to end CSPA's lawsuit alleging that the District was violating the federal Clean Water Act.
- Awarded a construction contract to T&S Construction Co. Inc. in the not-to-exceed amount of \$1,285,900 and authorized additional funding of \$319,000 for construction management and inspection by District staff, PG&E relocation, specialty inspection by consultants and project contingency, for a total funding request of \$1,604,900 for the Business Park 1 Lift Station Upgrade Project in El Dorado Hills.
- Approved a change order to Carlton Engineering in the not-to-exceed amount of \$66,742 and additional funding of \$98,217 for staff support for a total funding request of \$164,959 for the Flume 41 replacement project, which is part of the Project 184 water conveyance system. This change order incorporates improved design revisions that will ultimately reduce the overall cost to construct the project by an estimated \$550,000.
- Acknowledged the "Opportunity Site of the Year" award given to the District's Sly Park Recreation Area from Mother Lode Rehabilitation Enterprises, Inc. (MORE). Sly Park recreation staff partnered with MORE for implementation of its park recycling program. "This has been a win-win for all involved," said Cheri Jagers, park superintendent. "The MORE clients were excited to work at Sly Park and EID was happy to have such a great partner to get the much-needed job done. We look forward to working together in 2012."

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EID is a public agency dedicated to providing high quality water, wastewater treatment, recycled water, hydropower, and recreation services in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner.