

Conservation plans: agricultural customers prepare to save water

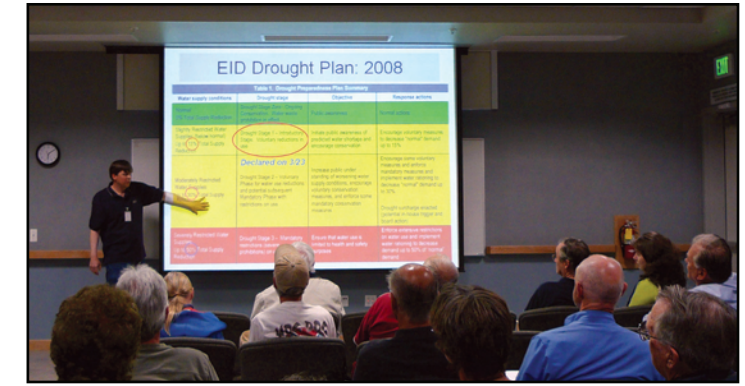
When the EID Board of Directors declared a Stage 1 drought on March 23, staff immediately set into motion a series of actions that will last until the declaration is lifted.

Kirk Taylor, who coordinates the District's irrigation management service (IMS) program, beat everyone else to the punch. According to the District's drought policies, all agricultural customers—including customers in the domestic irrigation rate class—who do not participate in the conservation-oriented IMS program are encouraged to submit a conservation plan for their landscapes during a Stage 1 drought. Not knowing whether drought would be declared but wanting to be prepared, Kirk began late last year to compile materials and organize workshops—held March 25 and April 1 of this year—to help the affected customers complete their conservation plans and file them with the District.

“The intent of the water conservation plans is to give our agricultural customers a chance to think about how they water now and what they can do to reduce their water use during dry times and drought,” Kirk explained. “So we created a template for the conservation plan and invited our non-IMS agricultural customers to attend workshops to walk through the template. We had 139 people show up, and the plans are starting to come in.”

The plans, due by May 1, will be updated every five years.

For more about the voluntary actions that EID is asking all of its customers to take during the Stage 1 drought, visit www.eid.org, call 530-622-4513 or 916-965-0930, or write:



EID's Kirk Taylor explains actions for customers and the District to take during drought at the March 25 agricultural conservation plan workshop.

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