



## Message from the Interim General Manager



Tom Cumpston

I first want to thank EID customers for your outstanding response to the district's recent stage 1 drought declaration. You helped achieve a 21-percent reduction in demand, and that was a major reason the

board of directors lifted the declaration at the end of May, as described on this page. Well done!

I also want to remind readers of a free program—the underground service alert (USA) system—that's open to anyone who is getting ready to dig on their property for any reason.

Here's how it works. At least 48 hours before you plan to dig, simply outline the digging area with white paint, or flour in dry weather, and then call USA at 811 (or 800-227-2600). USA will contact the utilities who serve your area—including EID. We will arrive to mark the location of our pipelines in the vicinity of your dig. Note that we don't mark the service lines leading from the meter to a building on the property; that's the property owner's responsibility.

These easy steps can avoid situations like a recent incident near Diamond Springs. A property owner who was expanding a driveway hit one of our pipelines with a backhoe, causing a break in the line. Several hundred customers were affected. We had to issue a boil-water alert, and our crews worked until after midnight on a Friday to complete a temporary fix. When replacement parts arrived, the customers received another boil-water alert and were without water during the few hours needed to finalize the repair.

The inconvenience to our customers can't be measured, but the costs of repairing the line can. And they have been passed on to the property owner.

Don't be that person. When it's time for property improvements, think USA and dial 811 before you dig!

## EID Board Ends Stage 1 Drought Declaration and Drought Rates

On May 27, the EID Board of Directors lifted the stage 1 drought declaration that was in effect across the district's service area beginning March 23. Board members thanked district customers for helping to achieve—by the end of May—a 21-percent reduction in demand from the past three-year average! The board also emphasized that even though the drought declaration has been lifted, wise use of water will help ensure adequate supplies into the future and save customers money.

The drought rates that went into effect concurrent with the drought declaration were also lifted.

The board's decision came after the Bureau of Reclamation, operator of Folsom Lake, announced it would allocate 100 percent of contracted water supplies to agencies that divert water from the lake for municipal purposes. EID holds such a contract for water delivered to the El Dorado Hills and Cameron Park areas.

In a news release, EID board president George Wheeldon said, "We did not know what the bureau was going to do about our water contract at Folsom. They were proposing a fifty-percent cut in our allocation from the lake when we declared the stage 1 drought in late March. That would have made it difficult for us to get through the year without asking our customers to conserve more than they usually do. Now that the bureau has announced its final allocations for 2009 and because of some spring rains and a very strong response by our customers, we're in better shape."

## Drought Management

Stage 0 ← WE ARE HERE

Stage 1

Stage 2

Stage 3

## State proposals could take EID's property tax revenue

As this newsletter went to print in late June, the state legislature was still grappling with how best to balance the state's budget. Throughout the debate, proposals surfaced that could affect EID's rates. The proposals mostly recommended either borrowing local property tax revenues from local government agencies, including EID, or shifting the revenues from water and wastewater districts to cover the costs of other services.

In short, if EID were to lose all of its property tax revenues—and some of the proposals are suggesting just that—it could mean a 30-percent increase in rates for drinking water, wastewater treatment, and recycled water services.

The EID Board of Directors has expressed strong opposition to the proposals through a resolution adopted in late May and in letters to and during face-to-face meetings with legislators.

Whether or not the legislature and governor agree on a budget before you receive this newsletter, we encourage you to read more about this important topic. Visit [www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org) or call 530-622-4513 or 916-965-0930 and ask for fact sheets and other materials related to the revenue proposals.

## Sly Park reservations go online

Every year, EID's Sly Park Recreation Area ranks among the most popular destinations in northern California's El Dorado County. Campers, hikers, boaters, anglers, equestrians, photographers, and all-around nature lovers enjoy spending time in this jewel amongst the pines.

Our many visitors have let us know what they think by voting Sly Park Recreation Area "Best Recreational Facility" and "Best Day Hike" as reported in the 2008 Readers' Choice survey published by the Mountain Democrat.

Today it's easier than ever to reserve your camping stay at Sly Park—and booking online saves you the \$8 reservation fee! Go to the Sly Park Recreation Area page on our website to reserve your camping stay.

Your reservation includes a campsite rental and first vehicle. Each campsite includes a picnic table, grill, and fire ring. Each site can accommodate up to eight people, so bring the family. Extra vehicles, pets, and boats are subject to additional fees, payable at the gatehouse when you arrive.

In making an online reservation, indicate location preferences, trailer size, and any additional requests in the "Additional information for Sly Park Recreation Area" box before submitting your request.

We hope to see you at the park!



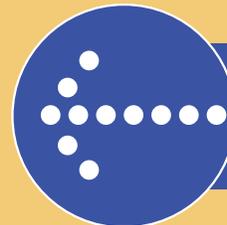
## Bill paying goes online too

EID introduces Online Billing: View and Pay, available now. You can sign up for this service on our website at [www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org). Here are important features of the new service.

- You can pay your bill with a Visa or MasterCard.
- You can choose to completely automate by signing up for a recurring payment.
- You'll receive an email notification when your statement is available.
- You will be able to view your three most recent statements at any time—the current statement and the two prior statements. When you first sign up, only the current statement will be available, but after you are on the system for a while, you will see all three.
- You will find details about how to read your billing statement and receive information from EID—including the Waterfront newsletter, the annual water quality report, and other important notifications.

This service will allow you to view your account at any time of the day or night. And, you have the option of continuing to receive paper bills or to go entirely paperless.

We'll see you online!



Access your account online today!

## Learn more about water-wise gardening practices

As the weather gets warmer, avoid the temptation of overwatering your landscape. Instead of watering for long cycles, try scheduling more run times with one to two hours in between. This allows the water from the previous cycle to soak in before you water again and avoids run off.

If you have access to the internet, visit the Regional Water Authority's "Water-Wise Gardening in the Gold Country Region" website. There you'll find tips on watering, plant choices, and more—all tailored for a variety of growing areas. Go to [www.rwa.watersavingplants.com](http://www.rwa.watersavingplants.com) or call EID's Office of Water Efficiency at 530-642-4126 and we'll send you the CD. We also have several complimentary publications available that highlight water-efficient landscaping and irrigation system designs. Call to request copies by mail or stop by our main lobby at 2890 Mosquito Road in Placerville.

### 2009 regular board meetings

	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
	13	10	14	14(W)	9	14
	--	24	--	26	23*	--

Board meetings occur on Mondays. The first October meeting will take place on a Wednesday. \* tentatively scheduled

Written and designed by the EID Communications Department