



The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • March–April 2008

Message from the Interim General Manager



Many of you will recall that last October we included a strategic planning survey with your billing statement asking you to help us set our priorities for 2008.

David Witter We received an almost 7.5-percent return, which any pollster will tell you is a very encouraging response. Sometimes, even a one-percent response is considered a success, since all of us lead busy lives and don't need yet one more form to fill out.

We asked you to rank several of EID's services in terms of which are most important to you on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest level of interest.

Your top three priorities were water quality (4.4), adequate water supplies (4.37), and drought preparedness (3.84). These issues are also at the top of our list, and so it was gratifying to learn that the District and our customers are on the same wavelength.

Ordinarily, we would have announced these results at our annual public strategic planning workshop, which is routinely held in January or February.

But the EID Board and I felt that the workshop should be delayed this year until a permanent General Manager is hired. We want to be sure that our new GM has the opportunity to help build the agenda for the workshop and set priorities for the rest of the year.

I hope you enjoy learning what you and our other customers consider important, and many thanks to all of you who were able to participate in the survey.

EID Board adopts drought preparedness plan; reservoir line-and-cover program given a thumbs up

EID has a drought preparedness plan in place and will complete a follow-up implementation plan this year that state officials say is the first of its kind in California.

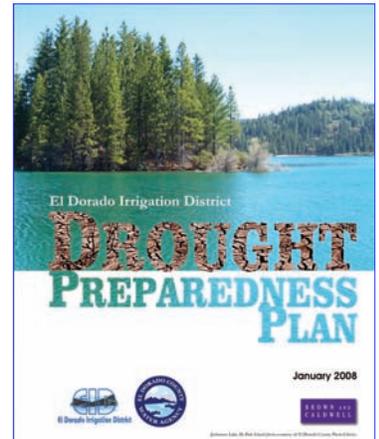
The District has also reduced its use of chlorine as a disinfectant in drinking water, thanks to EID's aggressive, decade-long line-and-cover program, which has converted open reservoirs to covered storage tanks.

The drought preparedness plan—unanimously adopted by the District's Board in February—provides specific steps to take in the event of a dry season, or dry seasons, to better manage demand and stretch supply during drought. Board President George Osborne called the plan “a critical part of our strategic initiative to provide reliable service even in times of water shortages.”

Interim General Manager David Witter added that having a very specific series of initiatives in place to deal with an always-looming possibility is “just common sense. And the implementation plan, due later this year, will ensure that the initiatives are carried out.”

The Board and staff have praised EID customers for playing a tremendous role in not only conserving water but also for volunteering their time and expertise to serve on committees that have studied the drought issue. President Osborne made a point of thanking members of the citizen advisory committee that included representatives from the El Dorado County Water Agency, which helped prepare the plan. The plan includes state-of-the-art computer modeling—in essence, mathematical formulas that predict a variety of scenarios—that takes into account potential challenges posed by climate change.

Meanwhile, EID has reduced chlorine use in its drinking water by nearly two thirds over the past 10 years—a measure that has also reduced costs even though the price of chlorine has almost doubled over the same period of time.



Click on the document library icon on our website at www.eid.org to download a copy of the drought preparedness plan.

2008 Regular Board Meeting Calendar

Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
10	7	12	9	14	11	8	6	10	15
-	28	28 (W)	23	-	25	-	27	24*	-

Board meetings normally take place on Mondays. The May date marked (W) will be held on a Wednesday.

* tentatively scheduled

Of flappers and faucets: a tale of two leaks

It turns out flappers aren't just representations of the Jazz Age. Today, maybe right now, your flapper could be allowing water to leak away, unnoticed, from your toilet tank and down the drain.

The flapper is the small rubber piece that seals the water in the toilet tank and opens to release water for the flush. Over time, a flapper valve can degrade or warp. As it does, small and sometimes undetectable quantities of water seep past the imperfect seal. And the loss starts to add up. In fact, a toilet with a constant leak can waste about 22 gallons of water per day, which translates into 8,000 gallons a year.

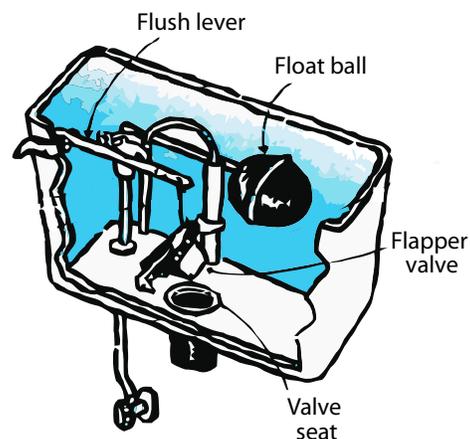
What about that leaky faucet? A few drips of water are easy to ignore. But just seven drips per minute means you're losing a gallon of water per day, or up to 31 gallons per month. And if you have less detectable leaks, how much more is being lost?

You can use dye to detect leaks in your toilet. And sometimes replacing a washer will take care of that faucet leak. But for a really good look at your water system, we recommend you schedule a complimentary EID water survey with **Tim Heslin** or **Bill Cassady**. Inside the house, they will run water through your faucets, showers, and sinks, looking for leaks and excessive use to figure out how you can save water. If there is a need, they can provide and install low-flow showerheads, replace leaking toilet flappers, and put in low-flow faucet aerators—all at no cost to you.

But it doesn't end inside the house or office. Toilets and faucets are not the only places we lose water. The team will also check your irrigation system, testing each station for leaks or other problems, always suggesting efficient practices. Irrigation control valves and control panel programs are examined. Are you over-watering? Are you maximizing your existing scheduling? These are questions that Tim and Bill can answer, saving you water and money.

Sign up for your water survey today and let the savings begin. Just call 530-642-4071 or register online at www.eid.org by clicking on the water efficiency icon and then "schedule water survey."

Inside the toilet tank



Tim Heslin holds up two of the devices he uses to test water pressure and irrigation coverage.

Spring and summer are coming...

It's time to start planning your summer outings, so check out our camping facilities at Sly Park and Silver Lake.

Sly Park Recreation Area

Make your camping reservations for the upcoming season. Boat rentals begin Memorial Day weekend, weather permitting.

Silver Lake West

The campground will open once the snow has melted. Check our website for updates.

For more information about EID's recreation facilities, call 530-644-2545 or browse our website at www.eid.org.

Images: (Top) A view at a day-use area on the shore of Jenkinson Lake in Sly Park Recreation Area. (Below) Kayakers enjoy the serenity of Silver Lake.



Career opportunities

Are you looking for a career? Check the employment page on our website for the latest openings.

www.eid.org

On the website...

Take a moment to browse through our document library and archive of news releases to read about the many activities going on in the District.

Click on "District News" in the left column to read feature stories highlighting people and projects.