



# The Waterfront

El Dorado Irrigation District • January–February 2008

## Message from the Interim General Manager



As all of us who are privileged to live in this region know, even when it rains hard for a day or two, we might very well be in the throes of a drought.

**David Witter** That's why EID urges water conservation and overall drought preparedness as fulltime household, business, and agriculture strategies. It may rain on and off for days, but if it doesn't snow—and that snow pack isn't dense enough to provide for ample runoff when the spring thaw arrives—we may still find ourselves uncomfortably dry.

This is simply one of the realities of foothill life. And I'm proud to say that the District's customers seem to recognize and appreciate this. El Dorado County residents know how to conserve water because they live close enough to nature to understand its uncertainties.

When people who live in cities turn on their kitchen, bathroom, or garden faucets, they can sometimes lose sight of the fact that water isn't a "given." In fact, it's a precious commodity. It needs to be respected: treated, stored, and never wasted.

By the time you read this, all of us will have a better idea of what we may be facing this year in terms of rainfall and runoff. Regardless of what we learn, I want you to be reassured that EID has plans and strategies in place to deal with shortages or climate changes—just as your efforts have reassured all of us at the District that our customers are responsible and responsive to the sometimes fickle demands of nature.

Your support and cooperation are what made it a pleasure to accept my position as Interim General Manager. I look forward to serving you.

## Awards highlight commitment to customers, community

Looking back, 2007 has been a year of change and growth. One thing hasn't changed, however—the work that we do every day and all year to benefit our customers is interconnected and continues to be noticed.

Back in February, EID received the *Golden Orb* from PG&E in recognition of the previous year's "outstanding achievement" in our demand reduction programs. By reducing our energy demand during peak-use periods, we help to reduce the chance of brownouts or other interruptions, and we save on our electric bill.

Our demand reduction programs were honored again in mid-November, when EID received an award for "vision and leadership in raising the awareness and urgency of climate change" during the California Water Policy 17 Conference. This award recognizes our ongoing energy efficiency initiative that includes the demand reduction program and other high-profile programs and projects—such as drought preparedness and solar power generation—to reduce both the consumption and cost of energy across the District.

## Employee honors benefit the District

**Elizabeth Wells**, co-manager for engineering in the wastewater/recycled water division, has been nominated to serve on the board of trustees of the California Section of the national WaterReuse Association. Her two-year term begins in April. The California Section's focus is to promote responsible stewardship of California's water resources through safe, practical, and beneficial use of recycled water.

And **Dana Strahan**, co-manager for operations in the drinking water division, was invited to serve on the California Department of Public Health's Grade T5 Water Treatment Operator Certification Panel. T-5 is the most advanced certification for drinking water treatment operators, and the panel that administers the exam includes experts like Dana from across the state.

These honors reaffirm the dedication Elizabeth and Dana bring to their work. And they ensure that EID will be well represented in two important industry arenas.

## Thank you for your responses!

Hundreds of EID customers responded to the customer survey we included in the November/December bill. You told us that your top priorities are reliable water supplies, water quality, and drought preparedness. These and other issues will be at the forefront of our strategic planning workshop in early February, and we look forward to sharing with you a summary report on actions from the workshop.

## Water efficiency = money savings!

Winter is a great time to look for ways to conserve water and save money the whole year round. Call us at 642-4071—or go online to [www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org)—to schedule a complimentary water survey today!

## Looking back, moving forward



Ane D. Deister

Time is such a relative thing. To a child, six years may feel like an eternity. To an adult, they can seem like the blink of an eye

With the conclusion of my six-year tenure at EID, I'm mindful of how many things we accomplished and how many friends I've made, but also how quickly the time flew. By the time you read this, I'll have begun the next step in my career as an officer and vice president at Brown and Caldwell, the highly respected, national environmental engineering firm. My first major task will be to serve as the restoration administrator for the federally sanctioned settlement agreement—between Friant Water Users Authority and the Natural Resources Defense Council—to restore the San Joaquin River and salmon fisheries. It promises to be exciting and challenging, just as my job with EID has been.

I'm very proud of the progress we've made over the past several years to improve customer service at all levels, secure water rights as part of our overall strategy to ensure a reliable water supply, and place your District on more solid financial footing

Needless to say, I didn't do this alone. I've worked with a wonderful, forward-looking and vigilant Board of Directors, as well as some of the most dedicated employees I've ever met in my 30-year career. I'll miss them.

More to the point, I'll miss the interaction I've been privileged to enjoy with so many of you. Without your support and watchfulness, questions and comments, feedback and encouragement, EID simply could not have become a national role model for the water industry, which it most certainly is.

Thank you for the honor of serving you during this delightful blink of an eye.

## EID in the community: staff and families join Placerville parade

As a very dry fall comes to an end, EID employees and their families struck up a chorus of "Let it snow!" from Broadway to the end of Main Street during the Placerville Holiday Parade on December 2. Dressed in bright red "got water" shirts and Santa's elf hats, they tossed candy and sang out season's greeting to the large, standing-room-only crowd that lined the city's streets and enthusiastically applauded parade participants—from car clubs and equestrian groups to marching bands, the county library's Bookmobile, girl and boy scouts, and

a host of other entries, including EID's two floats.

"This was a great opportunity for our employees and their children to be part of a long-standing community tradition," said **Tricia Bridges**, who organized EID's participation in the parade. "And I was pleased to see the joy on the faces of parents and youngsters alike and to experience the warm reception from the crowd on a chilly day. We're already looking forward to next year."



### EID Board Meetings

January 14 and 28, February 11 and 25, March 10 and 24

We encourage you to visit our website at [www.eid.org](http://www.eid.org) to see the full Board calendar for 2008.