Jenkinson Lake Forecast

Jenkinson Lake is EID’s primary drinking water storage reservoir. Ensuring adequate storage in the lake helps us to weather dry years. The red line in the chart tracks the 1976–1977 drought, one of the worst droughts in history. By February of 1977, EID customers needed to reduce water consumption by 70 percent—essentially to health and safety levels. Those were draconian measures that many residents still remember to this day.

The 2013–2014 water year (water years run from October to end of September) is now among the driest on record in the state. And the snowpack in the central Sierra is currently at 22 percent of normal (as of April 22). That means less runoff to fill reservoirs.

EID wants to maintain enough carryover storage in Jenkinson Lake to help buffer against another potentially dry winter. The yellow line is current capacity. The blue line is the forecast with 30 percent customer conservation, the purple with 15 percent, and the orange is no conservation at all. If the 2014–2015 water year is dry, we will need as much water as possible in Jenkinson Lake. Conserving 30 percent now has the potential to head off the extremely severe cuts we saw in 1977. We don’t want to go there again.

IRRIGATION, continued from page 1

Have a look at the Q&A on page 3 for some practical advice for figuring out how much water your lawn needs. Here are some additional helpful hints for efficiently watering your lawn that are especially important during drought:

• Reduce the number of days you water per week, reduce the minutes of watering per day, or reduce both. During drought conditions, lawns can survive on a lot less water. The lawn won’t look its best, but it will survive.

• Water in the early morning hours when there is usually less wind.

• Instead of watering for a short amount of time each day, water for longer periods of time, 2 times a week to allow the water to sink in to the root zone on your grass.

• Avoid watering runoff, especially on sloped lawns, by turning off the sprinklers for 15 minutes halfway through your complete watering time to allow the water to soak deep into the soil.

• Eliminate overspray—don’t allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway, or sidewalk. Adjunct them so water lands only where it’s needed, not the paved areas.

• Increase the mowing height for your grass. This helps increase the water-holding capacity of the soil.

• Avoid fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizing increases your lawn’s need for water.

• Replace or repair broken sprinkler heads as needed.

Depending on the type of grass you have and the season, you may need to apply more or less water. A week of windy weather or temperatures over 100 degrees can influence how much water your lawn will need. The best way to determine the water requirements for your lawn is to look at the type of grass you have (cool season grasses vs. warm season grasses) and the efficiency of your irrigation system. The UC Guide to Healthy Lawns includes an online irrigation calculator that can help you determine a watering schedule tailored to your lawn based on where you live, your sprinkler output, and the type of grass you have.

Go to EID’s drought information web page for the link to the UC Guide to Healthy Lawns as well as many more water efficiency and drought resources.

Residental Lawn Irrigation

If you live in a home with an average-sized lawn, you are likely using at least half of your water outdoors. Many people give their lawns too much water in normal years—not only is that wasteful, but it can also damage your lawn and leave it more susceptible to pests and disease. In times of drought, it’s especially important to be as water efficient as possible. Under EID’s current Stage 2 drought warning, customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water usage by 30 percent. Understanding how much irrigation you need outside can help you find significant water savings.

MANDATORY WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT FROM APRIL 22

Due to the severity of the ongoing drought and the continued high usage of water by the District’s customers, the EID Board has implemented mandatory watering restrictions that went into effect on April 22. These new mandatory water restrictions are in place for Residential, Recycled, Commercial/Landscape (CIL), Small Farm, and Recreational Turf water customers. Exemptions are allowed for non-residential customers if a detailed conservation plan is submitted to the District that demonstrates a minimum 30% water savings over the customer’s average 2011–2013 use. Complete information is available on our website.

The watering restrictions are as follows:

• Outdoor irrigation is limited to the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 am.

• Watering is permitted for anyone during Stage 2 drought.

Residential Lawn Irrigation

If you live in a home with an average-sized lawn, you are likely using at least half of your water outdoors. Many people give their lawns too much water in normal years—not only is that wasteful, but it can also damage your lawn and leave it more susceptible to pests and disease. In times of drought, it’s especially important to be as water efficient as possible. Under EID’s current Stage 2 drought warning, customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water usage by 30 percent. Understanding how much irrigation you need outside can help you find significant water savings.

MANDATORY WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT FROM APRIL 22

Due to the severity of the ongoing drought and the continued high usage of water by the District’s customers, the EID Board has implemented mandatory watering restrictions that went into effect on April 22. These new mandatory water restrictions are in place for Residential, Recycled, Commercial/Landscape (CIL), Small Farm, and Recreational Turf water customers. Exemptions are allowed for non-residential customers if a detailed conservation plan is submitted to the District that demonstrates a minimum 30% water savings over the customer’s average 2011–2013 use. Complete information is available on our website.

The watering restrictions are as follows:

• Outdoor irrigation is limited to the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 am.

• Watering is permitted for anyone during Stage 2 drought.

Residential Lawn Irrigation

If you live in a home with an average-sized lawn, you are likely using at least half of your water outdoors. Many people give their lawns too much water in normal years—not only is that wasteful, but it can also damage your lawn and leave it more susceptible to pests and disease. In times of drought, it’s especially important to be as water efficient as possible. Under EID’s current Stage 2 drought warning, customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water usage by 30 percent. Understanding how much irrigation you need outside can help you find significant water savings.

MANDATORY WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT FROM APRIL 22

Due to the severity of the ongoing drought and the continued high usage of water by the District’s customers, the EID Board has implemented mandatory watering restrictions that went into effect on April 22. These new mandatory water restrictions are in place for Residential, Recycled, Commercial/Landscape (CIL), Small Farm, and Recreational Turf water customers. Exemptions are allowed for non-residential customers if a detailed conservation plan is submitted to the District that demonstrates a minimum 30% water savings over the customer’s average 2011–2013 use. Complete information is available on our website.

The watering restrictions are as follows:

• Outdoor irrigation is limited to the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 am.

• Watering is permitted for anyone during Stage 2 drought.

Residential Lawn Irrigation

If you live in a home with an average-sized lawn, you are likely using at least half of your water outdoors. Many people give their lawns too much water in normal years—not only is that wasteful, but it can also damage your lawn and leave it more susceptible to pests and disease. In times of drought, it’s especially important to be as water efficient as possible. Under EID’s current Stage 2 drought warning, customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water usage by 30 percent. Understanding how much irrigation you need outside can help you find significant water savings.

MANDATORY WATERING RESTRICTIONS IN EFFECT FROM APRIL 22

Due to the severity of the ongoing drought and the continued high usage of water by the District’s customers, the EID Board has implemented mandatory watering restrictions that went into effect on April 22. These new mandatory water restrictions are in place for Residential, Recycled, Commercial/Landscape (CIL), Small Farm, and Recreational Turf water customers. Exemptions are allowed for non-residential customers if a detailed conservation plan is submitted to the District that demonstrates a minimum 30% water savings over the customer’s average 2011–2013 use. Complete information is available on our website.

The watering restrictions are as follows:

• Outdoor irrigation is limited to the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 am.

• Watering is permitted for anyone during Stage 2 drought.

Residential Lawn Irrigation

If you live in a home with an average-sized lawn, you are likely using at least half of your water outdoors. Many people give their lawns too much water in normal years—not only is that wasteful, but it can also damage your lawn and leave it more susceptible to pests and disease. In times of drought, it’s especially important to be as water efficient as possible. Under EID’s current Stage 2 drought warning, customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water usage by 30 percent. Understanding how much irrigation you need outside can help you find significant water savings.
Bond Refinancing Saves District $17 Million

During its March 10, 2014, meeting, the EID Board of Directors received an update on the success of the District’s recent bond refinancing. EID Director of Finance Mark Price noted that the results of the February 13, 2014, bond refinancing were outstanding. “The results exceeded all of our expectations in reduction of debt as well as net present value savings,” he said.

The District reduced its outstanding debt as a result of this bond refinancing by $11.4 million and saw a present value savings of $17.2 million.

“EID’s track record in the capital markets has been stellar,” said Dave Houston, managing director and head of the water group at Citigroup Global Markets. “In the first 20 minutes, we generated more orders than we had bonds available.”

Moody’s Investors Services issued an A1 rating with a stable outlook and Standard & Poor’s issued an A+ with a stable outlook. “These ratings show that EID is a safe and secure investment and this good news bodes well for the District,” said Houston.

“This is a tremendous savings for EID and our ratepay—$17 million saved in refinancing the debt is huge,” said Board President Alan Day.

“We have a really solid financial plan,” said General Manager Jim Abercrombie. “You can see that in the market and in the savings to our ratepayers. Going forward we need to focus on the financial plan and make sure it is sound and continues to meet the debt service coverage.”

Q&A: Customer Questions About the Drought

In this edition of the Q&A, EID Director of Communications and Customer Services Mary Lynn Carlton talks with EID Meter Services Supervisor Jim Pritchard (center) and Water Use Efficiency Technician Bill Cassidy about the District’s new water-saving restrictions. The following are some of our customers’ frequently asked questions.

How long should I water my grass?

There are a number of variables that affect this answer, including: the root zone, soil composition, slope, type of sprayer nozzle used, even the foot print of the yard and irrigation design all play major roles in determining how long to water. The best way to start is to time your water run time you currently use, and from there, work towards two main objectives: 1) water to the plant’s root zone; and 2) have no water runoff. Use the following steps to accomplish these two objectives.

• Step 1 — Run your irrigation system for whatever length of time you would normally water the grass during the heat of summer.

• Step 2 — Wait 10 or 15 minutes after irrigation stops, and then turn the system back on for any suitable device to cut out a plug of grass. Look for the root zone, which is how deep the roots go into the soil (likely less than 2.5 inches); AND how far down the soil is moistened.

• Repeat steps 1 and 2 as necessary until the soil is moistened to the same depth as the root zone, keeping track of the total minutes. This is how long you should water.

• Step 3 — Now that you have determined how long you need to run your irrigation system, you will want to make sure no water runs off when you irrigate.

For example, if you found the need to run the zone for 20 minutes, but water starts to run off after 10 minutes, you will need to “cycle and soak.” This simply means you set your timer to run for 10 minutes, and after a half-hour to an hour break, apply the remaining 10 minutes. Some yards may be able to absorb the water during the entire time without doing a cycle and soak, while others may need to break up the cycles even further, i.e. four run times of five minutes each for this example.

Should I water longer on the days I am allowed to water than I normally would?

No, the mandated irrigation schedule pertains to all customers. Non-IMS residential customers should follow the irrigation schedule listed below. Non-IMS agricultural customers should follow the irrigation schedule in their Drought Action Plan for the stage we are currently in. Agricultural customers already abide by the irrigation requirements set forth in their Drought Action Plan for the stage we are in. If you have a weather-based irrigation controller which controls your watering cycles? Does this mandated schedule apply to me? Yes, you have to set your weather-based controller to match our mandated schedule. The controller can be programmed to restrict water use on certain days.

Are potted plants on my deck and my vegetable garden affected by the mandated irrigation schedule? If your potted plants are on a drip watering system, then you must comply with the mandated schedule. If they are not, then you are not required to comply to the mandated schedule. All vegetable gardens must be irrigated according to the mandated schedule. I understand that the District allows exemptions to the mandated irrigation schedule for non-residential customer accounts. Tell me more about that. Yes, this is an option for non-residential customers—Commercial/Infrastructure (CII), Recycled, Recreational Turf, Small Farm—if a detailed conservation plan is submitted to the District’s Water Efficiency division that demonstrates a minimum 30 percent water savings over the customer’s average 2011–2013 use. Customers must comply with the mandated schedule, however, until the District determines that the conservation plan is acceptable, confirms the actual conservation and then grants an exemption.

You don’t mention Agricultural customers in this category as a group that is eligible for an exemption. Are they? Ag customers already abide by the irrigation requirements set forth in our Drought Action Plan for the stage we are currently in (Stage 2), as many participate in the Irrigation Management Service conservation program. Non-IMS agricultural customers must also submit a conservation plan to be granted an exemption.
Bond Refinancing Saves District $17 Million

During its March 10, 2014 meeting, the EID Board of Directors received an update on the success of the District’s recent bond refinancing. EID Director of Finance Mark Price noted that the results of the February 13, 2014, bond refinancing were outstanding. “The results exceeded all of our expectations in reduction of debt as well as net present value savings,” he said.

The District reduced its outstanding debt as a result of this bond refinancing by $11.4 million and saw a present value savings of $17.2 million.

“EID’s track record in the capital markets has been stellar,” said Dave Houston, managing director and head of the water group at Citigroup Global Markets. “In the first 20 minutes, we generated more orders than we had bonds available.”

Moody’s Investors Services issued an A1 rating with a stable outlook and Standard & Poor’s issued an A+ with a stable outlook. “These ratings show that EID is a safe and secure investment and this good news bodes well for the District,” said Houston.

“This is a tremendous savings for EID and our ratepayers—$17 million saved in refinancing the debt is huge,” said Board President Alan Day.

“We have a really solid financial plan,” said General Manager Jim Abercrombie. “You can see that in the market and in the savings to our ratepayers. Going forward we need to focus on the financial plan and make sure it is sound and continues to meet the debt service coverage.”

Q&A: Customer Questions About the Drought

In this edition of the Q&A, EID Director of Communications and Customer Services Mary Lynn Carlton talks with EID Meter Services Supervisor Jim Pritchard (center) and Water Use Efficiency Technician Bill Cassidy about the District’s new watering restrictions. The following are some of our customers frequent questions.

How long should I water my grass?

There are a number of variables that affect this answer, including: the root zone, soil composition, slope, type of spray nozzle used, even the foot print of the yard and irrigation design all play major roles in determining how long to water.

The best way is to start by setting your timer (or whatever run time device) to cut out a plug of grass. Look for the root zone, which is how deep the roots go into the soil (likely less than 2.5 inches); AND how far down the soil is moistened.

• Step 1 — Run your irrigation system for whatever length of time you would normally water the grass during the heat of summer.

• Step 2 — Wait 10 or 15 minutes after irrigation stops, and then stand in your yard to check the soil moisture (or for a more suitable device) to cut out a plug of grass. Look for the root zone, which is how deep the roots go into the soil (likely less than 2.5 inches); AND how far down the soil is moistened.

• Repeat steps 1 and 2 as necessary until the soil is moistened to the same depth as the root zone, keeping track of the total minutes. This is how long you should water.

• Step 3 — Now that you have determined how long you need to run your irrigation system, you will want to make sure no water run off when you irrigate.

For example, if you found the need to run the zone for 20 minutes, but water starts to run off after 10 minutes, you will need to “cycle and soak.” This simply means you set your timer to run for 10 minutes, and after a half-hour to an hour break, apply the remaining 10 minutes. Some yards may be able to absorb the water during the entire time without doing a cycle and soak, while others may need to break up the cycles even further, i.e. four run times of five minutes each for this example.

Should I water longer on the days I am allowed to water?

No. If you have taken the steps above, watering longer will only waste your money and precious water resources.

• Step 4 — Water only on your watering days.

For example, if you found the need to run the zone for 20 minutes, but water starts to run off after 10 minutes, you will need to “cycle and soak.” This simply means you set your timer to run for 10 minutes, and after a half-hour to an hour break, apply the remaining 10 minutes. Some yards may be able to absorb the water during the entire time without doing a cycle and soak, while others may need to break up the cycles even further, i.e. four run times of five minutes each for this example.

Infrastructure Project Would Save Water

In early April, the Mountain Counties Water Resources Association hosted a meeting concerning state grant funding available for expediting from Sites. One such project EID has identified involves piping the 3-mile-long Main Ditch that brings water from Forebay reservoir in Pollock Pines to the Reservoir 1 Water Treatment Plant in Camino.

EID’s Main Ditch is just that—an open ditch that deposits large amounts of dirt and debris at the water treatment plant, which in turn requires extra cleaning and filtration measures. And water also naturally seeps into the ground and evaporates along the way.

By piping the ditch, EID will save up to 1,300 acre-feet (over 423 million gallons) of water per year, boost hydroelectric revenue by around $300,000, and have higher quality water reach the treatment plant.

“We feel this project is a strong contender for grant funding,” said EID Director of Engineering Brian Mueller. “The water savings and ancillary water quality and revenue benefits make it highly beneficial for EID and our customers.”

Debts from the open ditch collects at the plant intake

About the Drought

As mentioned on the front page, the EID Board enacted mandatory watering restrictions that went into effect on April 22 due to a second year of critically dry weather. The District is currently in a Stage 2 Water Supply Warning status and we are asking customers to voluntarily reduce water usage by 30 percent.

“We at this point, it is really up to you, our customers, to conserve and preserve our water supply.” —Jim Abercrombie

The District is asking for a 30 percent reduction of water usage from the past three-year average. Despite this request, during the last two months water usage has continued to increase, jumping recently to high of 14 percent over the last three-years average, measured on a weekly basis. Because of this, the Board felt it was necessary to immediately implement these water-saving restrictions. It is critically important that the District have enough carryover water, approximately 25,000 acre-feet, in its supplies from Sly Park’s Jenkinson Lake, in order to prepare for another dry winter in 2015, should it occur. See the story on the back page about Jenkinson Lake capacity forecasting.

For those customers who have already conserved and reduced their usage, I say “thank you.” For those who can do more, please do. Your largest savings may be in the way you irrigate their usage, I say “thank you.” For those who can do more, please do. Your largest savings may be in the way you irrigate.

After two months of intensive outreach efforts to customers in the form of newsletters, automated telephone calls, emails, news releases, media interviews, direct mailed postcards, community meetings, website posting, social media postings, and more, to encourage customers’ active cooperation in meeting this goal, it became clear that the conservation goal was not being met.

No watering is allowed on any day between 10:00 AM and 7:00 PM due to high evaporation potential. No Monday watering is permitted for anyone during Stage 2 drought.

Does the mandated irrigation schedule pertain to animals and livestock watering?

No, it applies only to irrigation watering. I have a weather-based irrigation controller which controls my watering cycles? Does this mandated schedule apply to me?

Yes, you have to set your weather-based controller to match our mandated schedule. The controller can be programmed to restrict water on certain days.

Are potted plants on my deck and my vegetable garden affected by the mandated irrigation schedule?

If your potted plants are on a drip watering system, then you must comply with the mandated schedule. If they are not, you are not required to comply to the mandated schedule. All vegetable gardens must be irrigated according to the mandated schedule.

I understand that the District allows exemptions to the mandated irrigation schedule for non-residential customer accounts. Tell me more about that.

Yes, this is an option for non-residential customers— Commercial/Landscape (CII), Recycled, Recreational Turf, Small Farm—if a detailed conservation plan is submitted to the District’s Water Efficiency division that demonstrates a minimum 30 percent water savings over the customer’s average 2011–2013 use. Customers must comply with the mandated schedule, however, until the District determines that the conservation plan is acceptable, confirms the actual conservation and then grants an exemption.

You don’t mention Agricultural customers in this category as a group that is eligible for an exemption. Are they?

Ag customers already abide by the irrigation requirements set forth in our Drought Action Plan for the stage we are currently in (Stage 2), as many participate in the Irrigation Management Service conservation program. Non-IMS agricultural customers must also submit a conservation plan to be granted an exemption.

2 Bond Refinancing Saves District $17 Million

3 Q&A: Customer Questions About the Drought
Jenkinson Lake Storage Forecast

Jenkinson Lake is EID’s primary drinking water storage reservoir. Ensuring adequate storage in the lake helps us to weather dry years. The red line in the chart tracks the 1976–1977 drought, one of the worst droughts in history. By February of 1977, EID customers needed to reduce water consumption by 70 percent—essentially to health and safety levels. Those were draconian measures that many residents still remember to this day.

The 1973–1974 water year (water years run from October to end of September) is now among the driest on record in the state. And the snowpack in the central Sierra is currently at 22 percent of normal (as of April 22). That means less runoff to fill reservoirs.

EID wants to maintain enough carryover storage in Jenkinson Lake to help buffer against another potentially dry winter. The yellow line is current capacity. The blue line is the forecast with 30 percent customer conservation, the purple with 15 percent, and the orange is no conservation at all. If the 2014–2015 water year is dry, we will need as much water as possible in Jenkinson Lake. Conserving 30 percent now has the potential to head off the extremely severe cuts we saw in 1977. We don’t want to go there again.

IRRIGATION, continued from page 1

Have a look at the Q&A on page 3 for some practical advice for figuring out how much water your lawn needs. Here are some additional helpful hints for efficiently watering your lawn that are especially important during drought:

- Reduce the number of days you water per week, reduce the minutes of watering per day, or reduce both. During drought conditions, lawns can survive on a lot less water. The lawn won’t look its best, but it will survive.
- Water in the early morning hours when there is usually less wind.
- Instead of watering for a short amount of time each day, water for longer periods of time, 2 times a week to allow the water to sink deep into the soil.
- Eliminate overspray—don’t allow sprinklers to water your street, driveway, or sidewalk. Adjust them so water lands only where it’s needed, not the paved areas.

- Avoid fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizing increases your lawn’s need for water.
- Replace or repair broken sprinkler heads as needed.

Depending on the type of grass you have and the season, you may need to apply more or less water. A week of windy weather or temperatures over 100 degrees can influence how much water your lawn will need. The best way to determine the water requirements for your lawn is to look at the type of grass you have (cool season grasses vs. warm season grasses) and the efficiency of your irrigation system. The UC Guide to Healthy Lawns includes an online irrigation calculator that can help you determine a watering schedule tailored to your lawn based on where you live, your sprinkler output, and the type of grass you have.

Go to EID’s drought information web page for the link to the UC Guide to Healthy Lawns as well as many more water efficiency and drought resources.

Residential Lawn Irrigation

If you live in a home with an average-sized lawn, you are likely using at least half of your water outdoors. Many people give their lawns too much water in normal years—not only is that wasteful, but it can also damage your lawn and leave it more susceptible to pests and disease. In times of drought, it’s especially important to be as water efficient as possible. Under EID’s current Stage 2 drought warning, customers are asked to voluntarily reduce water usage by 30 percent. Understanding how much irrigation you need outside can help you find significant water savings.

Mandatory Watering Restrictions in Effect April 22

Due to the severity of the ongoing drought and the continued high usage of water by the District’s customers, the EID Board has implemented mandatory watering restrictions that went into effect on April 22. These new mandatory water restrictions are in place for Residential, Recycled, Commercial/Landscape (CIL), Small Farm, and Recreational Turf water customers. Exemptions are allowed for non-residential customers if a detailed conservation plan is submitted to the District that demonstrates a minimum 30% water savings over the average customer’s 2013-2014 use. Complete information is available on our website.

The watering restrictions are as follows:

- Outdoor irrigation is limited to the hours of 7:00 pm to 10:00 am. On your scheduled days you could water from midnight to 10:00 am and then again from 7:00 pm to 11:59 pm.
- Residential-lawns are based on street address
- Watering days are based on street address ending number (even or odd)

El Dorado Irrigation District

The Waterfront

Mandatory Watering Restrictions in Effect April 22

WATERING SCHEDULE

ONCE A WEEK from 11/16 to 4/15

Even: Sunday only

TWICE A WEEK from 4/16 to 6/15 and 9/16 to 11/15


THREE TIMES A WEEK from 6/16 to 9/15

Even: Sun., Weds. & Fri. Odd: Tues., Thurs. & Sat.

Street addresses ending on even (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) and odd (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) numbers

No Residential Irrigation

Residential customers are not allowed to water for any reason during Stage 2 drought. For more drought information and tips for water conservation, please visit www.eid.org/drought and share this resource with your friends, family, and neighbors.