all learned water-saving tricks indoors, around the corner,” said Saich. “We have
“We are asking our customers to keep
to conserve water. While we are moving away from state-mandated conservation, certain wasteful practices remain prohibited, including:
• Irrigating lawns in a way that causes
• Watering with 48 hours of pre-
• Hosing off sidewalks and driveways.
• Washing automobiles with hoses that do not have a shut-off nozzle.
• Using non-recirculating water fountain or other decorative water feature.
• Using potable water to irrigate turf in street medians.

“We are asking our customers to keep these water-saving practices in place since the next dry year may be around the corner,” said Saich. “We have all learned water-saving tricks indoors, come to appreciate water-wise landscaping, and have honed our thrifty irrigation techniques outdoors, so while we need not sacrifice, there is also no need to return to the old days of water use.”

Investments in infrastructure pay off with increased water supply reliability Together with our customers, our agency has wisely invested in developing, main-
taining, and managing drought-resistant water facilities. The district will benefit from the purchase and rehabilitation of Project 184, and for over ten years, we have owned our primary drinking water reservoir at Sly Park’s Jenkinson Lake. Vigilant legal defense of EID’s Permit 2112 supplies has also been important in solidifying our water supply.

The following future investments in our community infrastructure will help ensure our mission to safely and reliably deliver water to our customers and commu-

ty remains strong into the future. Forebay Dam Modifications—Forebay dam modifications are necessary to sat-
tify federal and state regulatory require-
ments. This project will include safety improvements and increase storage capacity—increasing emergency storage water from less than one day to six days. Increased hydraulic
to increase hydroelectric revenue by approximately $200,000 per year in normal water years.

“The project reduces the potential for contamination, elim-
inates leaks, and increases hydroelectric revenue. Piping the ditch adds long-term resilience to EID’s water system that will continue to pay dividends long after the project has returned our community’s investment,” said Cumpston. “These multiple benef-

The Waterfront ONGOING DROUGHT RESILIENCE

On May 18, the State Water Resources Control Board ap-
proved modifications to its emergency conservation regulation to reflect improved water supply conditions and allow for more local decision making. The original regulation was adopted in May 2015 and required local water agencies to meet state-imposed water use reduction standards ranging from 4 percent to 36 percent. For EID, the imposed reduction standard was 28 percent at first, but was later reduced to 24 percent.

How did EID’s customers do during the drought? EID’s custom-
erns answered the call to conserve, and then some. Throughout the period of mandatory conservation, our customers cumula-
tively exceeded mandates. As of August 19, our customers have continued to achieve significant conservation with a cumula-
tive 27 percent reduction in comparison to the 2013 base year specified by the State Water Board. The modified regulation is consistent with directives included in Gov. Jerry Brown’s May 9, 2016, executive order related to long-term water conservation goals in the California Water Action Plan such as “making conservation a way of life” and managing for dry periods.

But does that mean the drought is over? No, the drought is not over. While El Niño storms in January and early March boosted storage in key Northern California reservoirs and im-
proved the conditions in EID’s service area, statewide drought is not over. Some areas of the state continue to experi-
ence water supply challenges, and it is possible that extreme dry conditions could return during the next winter year.

This past winter, the snowpack that we rely on as our first line ‘reservoir’ of water melted at an unusually rapid rate. This

EID, REClamAtion InK contRact foR PRojEct 184 WatER

On Aug. 2, 2016, the Bureau of Recla-
mation and El Dorado Irrigation Dis-

tinct entered into a Warren Act contract for 17,000 acre-feet per year of EID’s Project 184 supplies (Water Rights Permit 21112) from Folsom Reservoir. The contract will be in effect through February 2030 and is the result of EID’s 25-year effort to secure this new water supply for its customers.

“This long-sought contract is the cul-
mination of years of dedicated work by both parties,” said Acting EID General Manager Tom Cumpston. “Access to this water from Folsom Reservoir reflects EID’s robust water portfolio and enhances dry-
year water reliability for EID’s customers and the wider community. At the same time, Reclamation has negotiated con-
tact terms that protect both its Folsom Reservoir customers and the environment downstream of the dam.”

Drew Lessard, Area Manager for Recla-
mation’s Central California Area Office, which manages Folsom Reservoir, stated, “Recla-
mation is pleased to enter into this contract with EID, which will help ensure critical supplies for their water users through 2030.”

EID’s operation of its federally licensed Project 184 hydroelectric project makes the Permit 21112 supplies available; however, permit conditions require that the water be diverted at Folsom Reservoir and that EID enter into a Warren Act contract with Reclamation for the diversion.

Deliveries under the long-term Warren Act contract will be limited to 8,500 acre-feet per year until EID completes the installation of a Reclamation-approved fully operational temperature control device at EID’s raw water pump station, at which time the contract will allow diversion of the full 17,000 acre-

Board meetings generally occur on the second and fourth Monday of each month. The date marked (T) take place on a Tuesday. Dates with an asterisk are tentative.

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California law, the City of the El Dorado Irrigation District offers all public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily accessible to everyone, including individuals with disabilities. If you are a person with a disability and require information or materials on an alternative appropriate format; or if you require any other accommodation, please contact the ADA Coordinator at the phone number below or at least 72 hours prior to the meeting in which you desire to receive services. Advance notification within the time frame will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. The ADA Coordinator can be reached by phone at (530) 642-4613 or e-mail at adacoordinator@edid.org

See page 4 RESILIENCE page 4
Service that you expect and deserve.

new water supplies and a right-sized capital improvement plan, we’re ready to keep providing the dependable, drought-resistant

conservative, more sustainable, and developed financial plans that feature modest, regular rate increases instead of the periodic

Before 2010, water rates had only risen six times in 22 years. The district examined past practices and threw out its overreliance

working hard to keep this momentum going.

value savings to EID of over $1.7 million. We will pay a true interest cost of only 1.28% on this debt!

The debt issuance allowed the district to refinance principal that remains outstanding from a 2009 borrowing. The various

S&P Global Ratings and Moody’s Investors Service rated the transaction, as well as

EID’s underlying creditworthiness, at AA- and Aa3, respectively. These ratings are one level higher than our prior A+ and A1

round of debt refinancing that saved some money.

billion dollars’ worth of vital infrastructure, we have put the district’s finances in order.

EID finances are stronger today than ever before. Through prudent and conservative finan-
cial planning and debt management, sustainable low—single-digit rate increases, and a right-
sized capital improvement program that identifies the investments needed to sustain nearly a billion dollars’ worth of vital infrastructure, we have put the district’s finances in order.

And Wall Street agrees. Two major ratings agencies recently upgraded the district’s credit ratings and under these favorable investment conditions, EID successfully closed a round of debt refinancing that saved some money.

The debt issuance allowed the district to refinance principal that remains outstanding from a 2009 borrowing. The various

maturity dates of the debt remained virtually unchanged in this refinancing, and the full retirement of the debt was actually

accelerated a few months earlier. Taking principal and interest payments into account, refinancing this debt provided a total net present value savings to EID of over $1.7 million. We will pay a true interest cost of only 1.28% on this debt!

EID has come a long way in recent years to introduce resiliency not only in our water supplies, but also in our finances—and we’re working hard to keep this momentum going.

Before 2010, water rates had only risen six times in 22 years. The district examined past practices and threw out its overreliance

on new connection fees that were so abundant before the 2008/2009 financial crash. Out of that period EID has become more

conservative, more sustainable, and developed financial plans that feature modest, regular rate increases instead of the periodic

“rate shock” corrections of the past.

Sustainable investment in our community infrastructure is vital for the district as we face the challenges ahead of us. With these new water supplies and a right-sized capital improvement plan, we’re ready to keep providing the dependable, drought-resistant service that you expect and deserve.

**Piping Project Gets Million-Dollar Federal Grant**

At its July 25 meeting, the EID board of directors voted to enter into a grant agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Rec-
lamation in the amount of $1.0 million for the Upper Main Ditch Piping Project. This grant funding marks five years of successful applications for grant awards from local, state, and federal agencies, as well as conservation charges EID imposed on the developer of El Do-
rado Hills’ Carson Creek subdivision. In total, over $3.56 million in outside funding has been acquired to offset project costs.

“The Reclamation grant, along with other outside funding, ac-
counts for approximately 40 percent of the total project cost,” said Tom Cumpton, EID’s acting general manager. “In addi-
tion, piping the ditch is a water efficiency action that helps us meet the Governor’s mandate to reduce per capita water use by 20 percent by 2020—and we must meet that mandate to remain eligible for state grants and low-cost loans.”

The data collected consists of a unique meter number and the digits of the meter’s measurement, which is used to generate the customer’s utility bill. The signal the water meter transmits produces radio frequency waves many times lower than many other everyday items found in homes, such as cell phones, baby monitors, and wireless routers.

Meters are read on a bi-monthly basis, by either radio or manual read, with 99 percent accuracy. Very rarely must a meter be esti-


mated and only when the meter is inaccessible or unsafe condi-
tions prevent our technicians from gaining access. Most of the more densely populated western part of EID’s service area and accounts with sewer service are on the AMR system. As meters fail or are in difficult areas to access we upgrade them to the AMR system.

New installations are also part of the AMR system. Routes on the AMR system only require the technician to drive slowly through the neighborhood, making obtaining the reads much more efficient. Meters that are manually read

require the meter box be opened and the read manually entered into a hand-held device. The reads are then uploaded from the device to our billing system.

Once the meter data is uploaded, the data is reviewed by EID’s utility billing staff for unusual consumption levels. If the con-
sumption for a particular account is unusually high based on historical usage, staff will send a technician out to reread the meter and check for visible leaks. Based on the results of this service check, customers are notified of possible leaks via door tags, letters, and—in some cases—phone calls to bring any is-

sues to the customer’s attention as quickly as possible.

In 2015, EID meter techs performed almost 268,674 meter reads and 1,134 rereads. Of those rereads performed, 648 were verified as high consumption, 327 were possible customer leaks, and only 159 were bad reads.

EID maintains three separate water systems. The main wa-
ter system runs from El Dorado Hills to Pollock Pines and encompasses the majority of EID’s customers. The Outingdale system takes water from the Middle Fork of the Cosumnes River and provides it to 191 remote service accounts in the community of Outingdale, approximately 15 miles southeast of Placerville. The Strawberry system is located about 40 miles east of Placerville along Highway 50. Water for this system comes from the upper South Fork of the American River and provides water to 147 remote service accounts.

With the assistance of a grant program, EID was able to change over the last of our unmetered connections to meters on an Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) system. This means that reads from the remote Strawberry area are sent automatically to the District without the need to have a tech-

nician physically read the meter or drive by to get a radio read. The AMI system in the Strawberry area has saved a consider-
able amount of staff time and money by eliminating the need to physically visit the remote area to obtain reads.

If you have questions about your meter or water usage, please visit the customer service section of the EID website at www.
ed.org/customers or email us at billing@eid.org.
message from the general manager

sustainable practices: water supplies resilient, district finances strong

the water is available to the district through our operation of the federally licensed project 184 hydroelectric project. and now with the warren act contract complete, eid will be able to rely on and use that significant water supply going forward. this new supply makes eid’s already resilient water portfolio even more robust and drought-resistant.

planning for and pursuing water rights like this takes steady focus, with an eye always on the long term. public utilities like eid must ensure not only robust supplies, but also find ways to maximize current supplies. read the article on a recent million-dollar grant for piping our main ditch at the bottom of this page to see how we seek funding wherever we can to reduce costs and ensure that our infrastructure is as resilient as our supply.

strong financial health

eid finances are stronger today than ever before. through prudent and conservative financial planning and debt management, sustainable low-single-digit rate increases, and a right-sized capital improvement program that identifies the investments needed to sustain nearly a billion dollars’ worth of vital infrastructure, we have put the district’s finances in order.

and wall street agrees. two major ratings agencies recently upped the district’s credit ratings and under these favorable investment conditions, eid successfully closed a round of debt refinancing that saved some money.

s&p global ratings and moody’s investors service rated the transaction, as well as eid’s underlying creditworthiness, at aa- and a3+, respectively. these ratings are one level higher than our prior a+ and a1 ratings, and take the district from the upper medium grade to the high-grade investment rating tier.

the debt issuance allowed the district to refinance principal that remains outstanding from a 2009 borrowing. the various maturity dates of the debt remained virtually unchanged in this refinancing, and the full retirement of the debt was actually accelerated a few months. taking principal and interest payments into account, refinancing this debt provided a total net present value savings to eid of over $1.7 million. we will pay a true interest cost of only 1.28% on this debt!

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sustainable investment in our community infrastructure is vital for the district as we face the challenges ahead of us. with these new water supplies and a right-sized capital improvement plan, we’re ready to keep providing the dependable, drought-resistant service that you expect and deserve.

piping project gets million-dollar federal grant

at its july 25 meeting, the eid board of directors voted to enter into a grant agreement with the u.s. bureau of reclamation in the amount of $1.0 million for the upper main ditch piping project.

this grant funding marks five years of successful applications for grant awards from local, state, and federal agencies, as well as conservation charges eid imposed on the developer of el dorado hills’ carson creek subdivision. in total, over $3.56 million in outside funding has been acquired to offset project costs.

“the reclamation grant, along with other outside funding, accounts for approximately 40 percent of the total project cost,” said tom cumpton, eid’s acting general manager. “in addition, piping the ditch is a water efficiency action that helps us meet the governor’s mandate to reduce per capita water use by 20 percent by 2020—and we must meet that mandate to remain eligible for state grants and low-cost loans.”

see piping project page 4

are you really reading my meter?

with over 45,000 meters in a 220-square mile service area, you may wonder how eid reads every meter.

we start by being very efficient and develop meter routes that are in line with eid’s eight billing cycles. we also utilize an automated meter reading (amr) system that more efficiently allows our personnel to read customer meters—remotely. over 20,000 of our customers’ meters use amr technology.

amr meters use communication technology to read meters without having to access the meter, which is located in a meter box in the ground.

“automated meter systems are becoming the standard for utilities around the country,” said jim pitchard, eid’s meter services supervisor. “we’ve been using this technology since 2005 for meters in eid’s service area. automated meter reading allows for more accurate and faster collection of water usage readings than the more labor-intensive manual method and it improves safety conditions for eid personnel in the field.”

water meters with amr technology include a small radio transmitter powered by a battery that is connected to the water meter by a cable. the radio device collects a reading from the meter and transmits the reading to a receiving device located in an eid service vehicle that’s being driven through your neighborhood.

the data collected consists of a unique meter number and the digits of the meter’s measurement, which is used to generate the customer’s utility bill. the signal the water meter transmits produces radio frequency waves many times lower than many other everyday items found in homes, such as cell phones, baby monitors, and wireless routers.

meters are read on a bi-monthly basis, by either radio or manual read, with 99 percent accuracy. very rarely must a meter be estimated and only when the meter is inaccessible or unsafe conditions prevent our technicians from gaining access. most of the more densely populated western part of eid’s service area and accounts with sewer service are on the amr system. as meters fail or are difficult areas to access we upgrade them to the amr system. all new installations are also part of the amr system.

routes on the amr system only require the technician to drive slowly through the neighborhood, making obtaining the reads much more efficient. meters that are manually read require the meter box be opened and the read manually entered into a hand-held device. the reads are then uploaded from the device to our billing system.

once the meter data is uploaded, the data is reviewed by eid’s utility billing staff for unusual consumption levels. if the consumption for a particular account is unusually high based on historical usage, staff will send a technician out to reread the meter and check for visible leaks. based on the results of this service check, customers are notified of possible leaks via door tags, letters, and—in some cases—phone calls to bring any issues to the customer’s attention as quickly as possible.

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with the assistance of a grant program, eid was able to change over the last of our unmetered connections to meters on an advanced meter infrastructure (ami) system. this means that reads from the remote strawberry area are sent automatically to the district without the need to have a technician physically read the meter or drive by to get a radio read. the ami system in the strawberry area has saved a considerable amount of staff time and money by eliminating the need to physically visit the remote area to obtain reads.

if you have questions about your meter or water usage, please visit the customer service section of the eid website at www.eid.org/customers or email us at billing@eid.org.
around the corner,” said Saich. “We have
“We are asking our customers to keep
loss and add as much as 1,300 acre-feet of usable supply each
PIPING PROJECT
, continued from page 2
"We are trying to educate all of our customers to keep using water efficiently. It’s a way of life
"reservoir” of water melted at an unusually rapid rate. This
This past winter, the snowpack that we rely on as our first line
drought is not over. Some areas of the state continue to experi-
drought conditions in EID’s service area, the statewide
boosted storage in key Northern California reservoirs and im-
projected the conclusion in EID’s service area, that statewide
drought is not over. While El Niño storms in January and early March
project cost, and there were several other factors.
RECYCLING DATA
For the year ending August 31, 2014, EID’s water utilities and operations
Reservoir and that EID enter into a
Warren Act contract will be limited to 8,500
EID is required to use a state-specified formula for determin-
information or materials in an appropriate alternative format; or if you require any
In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and California law, it is the policy of the El Dorado Irrigation District to offer all public programs, services and meetings in a manner that is readily
Reservoir customers and the aquatic
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This past winter, the snowpack that we rely on as our first line
66,784 acre-feet of water at an average of 2014 averages. The self-certification data and supporting docu-
tentative standards have been eliminated, that does not mean the
conservation ethic is going away. We are moving from state-
mandated emergency conservation to a locally-driven approach that is more appropriate for conditions today.
"Stress Test" Certification
EID is required to use a state-specified formula for determin-
the conservation standard necessary for their customers.
staff. EID evaluated our water supply assuming three ad-
ditional dry years and customer demands based on 2013 and
2014 averages. The self-certification data and supporting docu-
tive actions in light of increasing water supply challenges, and it is possible that extreme
drought conditions could return during the next water year.
This past winter, the snowpack that we rely on as our first line
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On August 2, 2016, the Bureau of Reclama-
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17,000 acre-feet per year of EID’s
Project 184 supplies (Water Rights Permit 21112) from Folsom Reservoir.
The contract will be in effect through
February 2030 and is the result of EID’s 25-year effort to secure this new water
supply for its customers.
"This long-sought contract is the cul-
mination of years of dedicated work by both parties," said Acting EID General
Manager Tom Cumpston. "Access to this new project permits EID’s robust water portfolio and enhances dry-
year water reliability for EID’s customers
come to appreciate water-wise landscaping,
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-techniques outdoors, so while we
need not sacrifice, there is also no need to return to the old days of water use.”
Investments in infrastructure pay off with increased water supply reliability
Together with our customers, our agency has wisely invested in developing, main-
taining, and managing drought-resistant water delivery systems. The district
is保守 in the purchase and rehabilitation of Project 184, and for over ten years, we have owned our primary drinking water
reservoir at Sly Park’s Jenkinson Lake. Vigilant legal defense of EID’s Permit 21112 supplies has also been important in solidifying our water supply.
The following future investments in our community infrastructure will help
ensure our mission to safely and reliably deliver water to our customers and com-
RIVER TRENDS and RESOURCES
So how did EID’s customers do during the drought?
EID’s customers
answered the call to conserve, and then some. Throughout the period of mandatory conservation, our customers cumula-
tively exceeded mandated standards. As of August 19, our customers have
continued to achieve significant conservation with a cumula-
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The modified regulation is consistent with directives included in Gov. Jerry Brown’s May 9, 2016, executive order related to
long-term water conservation goals in the California Water Action Plan such as “making conservation a way of life” and
managing for dry periods.
But does that mean the drought is over? No, the drought is not over. While El Niño storms in January and early March
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EID, RECLAMATION INK CONTRACT FOR PROJECT 184 WATER
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supplies for their water users through 2030.”
EID’s operation of its federally licensed Project 184 hydraulic projects makes the Permit 21112 supplies available; however, permit conditions require that the water be diverted at Folsom
Reservoir and that EID enter into a
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Deliveries under the long-term Warren Act contract will be limited to 8,500
acre-feet per year until EID completes the installation of a Reclamation–
approved fully operational temperature control device at EID’s raw water pump
station, at which time the contract will allow diversion of the full 17,000 acre-
feet per year of non-Central Valley Project
(CVP) water. The long-term Warren Act contract would allow EID to utilize
Project 184 water for consumptive use purposes within its CVP service area through February 2030.