EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT NOVEMBER – DECEMBER 2025

A Century 1925 of Service 2025

The Waterfront

Timely Infrastructure Investment Protects Water Reliability and Keeps Costs Low

Careful planning and timely investment in infrastructure are essential to maintaining safe, reliable, and affordable water service. When critical facility improvements are deferred, costs often rise, projects must be completed under tighter schedules, and the reliability of the water system can decrease over time. The District's Reservoir 1 Floating Cover and Liner Replacement Project is an example of this challenge. Originally deferred from a previous Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), the project must now be completed as an emergency replacement to ensure the continued safety and reliability of the Pollock Pines and Camino water systems.

Reservoir 1 Replacement Ensures Continued Reliability

Reservoir 1 is a 2.8-million-gallon lined and covered reservoir located at the Reservoir 1 Water Treatment Plant in Pollock Pines. It stores treated drinking water before it is distributed to homes and businesses, helping maintain reliable delivery and consistent water pressure for the community. The liner and floating cover act as barriers to keep the drinking water in a clean, isolated environment. The liner prevents leaks and contact with soil by sealing the reservoir floor and walls, while the floating cover keeps the stored drinking water protected from sunlight, debris, and other environmental elements.

The facility has served the community reliably for more than three decades, but its liner and floating cover, installed in 1989, have now exceeded their 20- to 30-year design life. During a routine inspection, staff identified numerous holes and ripped seams in the floating cover along with other visible signs of deterioration. Following further evaluation and consultation with industry experts, it was determined that the damage was too extensive to repair. As a result, a full replacement is required to maintain the safe and reliable operation of the system.

To address these issues, the project includes two major components: construction of a temporary bypass system and complete replacement of the floating cover and liner. The bypass system will allow Reservoir 1 to be isolated from the water system while ensuring continuous operation of water service to the communities of Pollock Pines and Camino during construction. It includes temporary storage, modifications to existing yard piping, and upgrades to pumping equipment at the Moosehall and Sportsmans pump stations to maintain normal service. Once isolated, the existing liner and cover will be removed and replaced with new, long-lasting materials. Construction will take place during a period of lower water demand, with completion anticipated in March 2026.

For more information, go to Page 3

Reservoir 1 plays a vital role in the District's overall water system. It serves several essential functions throughout the year. During the summer, it supports water treatment operations by providing contact time for chlorine disinfection before the water enters the system. In the winter, it acts as a key storage reservoir that helps balance supply and maintain reliable delivery to Pollock Pines and Camino. Due to the configuration of the water distribution system, the reservoir cannot be taken out of service using existing infrastructure, making the temporary bypass system an essential part of this effort.

Originally, the District had planned to replace Reservoir 1 entirely with two new concrete tanks. However, given the immediate need to address the failing cover and liner, the current project was determined to be the only viable interim solution. This short-term improvement will maintain system reliability and regulatory compliance while the long-term tank replacement project, or a similar alternative, is further evaluated through the District's CIP process.

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Message from the General Manager

Pravani Vandeyar

From a Century of Service to a Future of Commitment

As the El Dorado Irrigation District concludes its centennial year, we reflect on a century of service built on the hard work of generations who understood that water is not just a resource; it is essential to our farms and the foundation of our county. Through droughts, fires, economic shifts, and evolving regulations, our District has continued to adapt and grow, guided by a legacy of dedication and leadership that continues to shape our path today.

As we close this milestone year and look to the century ahead, our focus is on the future. The challenges before us, from a changing climate to increasing demand and regulatory complexity, are significant. Our infrastructure, some of which has served this community for decades, must continue to evolve to meet these complexities. Maintaining our pipelines, treatment facilities, reservoirs, and systems is vital to ensuring long-term reliability and resilience. Within these challenges lie opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and growth.

As we navigate these opportunities, and I settle into my role with the District, my first priority as we move forward is to listen. I want to learn from the institutional knowledge of our staff, the perspectives of our diverse customer base, and the guidance of our Board. The best solutions don't come from one person alone, but from the collective wisdom and expertise of a dedicated team. Together, we will identify where our efforts can have the greatest impact and ensure our actions meet the needs of those we serve.

Our mission as a public agency is clear: to provide high-quality water, wastewater, recycled water, hydropower, and recreation services in an environmentally and fiscally responsible manner. Guided by principles of safety, respect, customer service, and fiscal responsibility, we will uphold this mission while preparing for the future.

To support that mission, we are focused on building a solid framework to guide our priorities and decisions. This framework will continue to focus our efforts to protect water rights, ensure financial stability, strengthen infrastructure, and promote efficiency and community engagement.

We are committed to responsible, proactive planning through our Capital Improvement Plan to meet our customers' needs. Across the country, communities have experienced costly system failures caused by years of deferred maintenance and underfunded facilities. We cannot afford to take that risk. Our financial planning strives to ensure that the resources needed to maintain and improve our systems are available at the times they're needed most. This means rate planning to fund projects based on real needs while clearly communicating what is required to ensure our systems remain reliable and resilient. Doing less today only increases the cost and consequences tomorrow.

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Planning for unavoidable events such as droughts, wildfires, and other emergencies to ensure we can respond before situations become too costly or disruptive is critical. Through continued investment in infrastructure and technology, we ensure our systems remain reliable, allowing us to respond effectively and deliver the dependable service our customers expect and deserve. This approach means being mindful of where we are today and using what we know now to plan for the future, ensuring continued reliability for years to come.

Looking Forward
As we plan for the years ahead, we will continue to focus on improving our systems to meet growing needs and invest responsibly to maintain reliability and safety. We are committed to protecting our environment and watershed for generations to come while strengthening communication and engagement with those we serve.

The next century will require adaptability, creativity, and collaboration. By working together with staff, customers, partners, and our county, we will ensure that EID remains sustainable, resilient, and prepared for the challenges ahead.

Let's Stay Connected

Get updates on our latest projects by following us on Facebook and Instagram @ElDoradoIrrigationDistrict

Stay informed by visiting www.eid.org or by scanning the QR code

Understanding Your Residential Sewer Charges: The Winter Quarter Average

Residential sewer bills are calculated using the Winter Quarter Average (WQA), which reflects your household water use during the winter months when outdoor watering is typically at its lowest. The WQA is used to determine your sewer charge and helps ensure the costs of collecting and treating the water that flows from your home into the sewer system are met to ensure reliable service.

How the Winter Quarter Average Is Calculated

The WQA is based on two billing periods during the winter months. For customers in cycles 1 through 4, it covers December through February, and the usage listed on the February bill will be used. For customers in cycles 5 through 8, it runs from November through January, and the usage listed on the January bill will be used. This usage then establishes your bi-monthly sewer charge beginning in March or April, depending on your billing cycle, and the sewer charge remains the same for the entire year, regardless of seasonal water use.

Why the Winter Quarter Average Is Used

Since sewer connections are not metered, winter water use provides a reliable way to estimate how much water actually flows into the sewer system from your home. The winter period generally represents the lowest water use, which offers a more accurate picture of household use compared to the fluctuations of summer irrigation.

It's important to note that some households may show little or no recorded water use during the WQA period, but still generate wastewater through activities such as occasional flushing or unreported occupancy. For this reason, even accounts with zero winter usage are not exempt from sewer charges, as sewer service is always available to every household year-round.

How to Keep Your Sewer Costs Lower

A few simple steps during the calculation period can help you keep your sewer costs lower. Try limiting irrigation in the winter, covering irrigation control valves to prevent leaks, and insulating exposed pipes to protect them from freezing. Each fall, the District provides reminders on your bill and in the Waterfront newsletter.

Questions?

If you are unsure of your billing cycle or when your WQA begins, you can reach out to Utility Billing via email at billing@eid.org or by phone at (530) 642-4000. Additional information can also be found on our website at **www.eid.org/customers/my-account/residential-sewer-charge**.

Keep FOG out of your drains to protect your home and community

Think twice before you pour. Fats, oils, and grease, often called FOG, belong in the trash, not the drain. During the holiday season, when kitchens are especially busy, it is important to be careful about how you get rid of cooking grease. When it is rinsed down the sink, it cools and hardens inside pipes, leading to stubborn clogs. Even oils stick inside plumbing and build up over time, resulting in costly blockages.

The impact goes far beyond your own home. A blockage in household pipes can cause sewage to back up into your sinks, toilets, or basement, leaving you with an expensive and messy cleanup. In some cases, these blockages can push sewage into neighborhood streets and nearby waterways, creating public health risks and harming the environment.

The good news is that preventing these problems is simple. Here's how:

- Let grease cool, pour it into a disposable container, and throw it in the trash.
- Scrape and wipe pans before washing to keep grease out of the drain.
- Use your green waste cart, if available, for grease and food scraps.

bitly

By taking these small steps in the kitchen, you protect your home's plumbing, prevent neighborhood sewer backups, and help safeguard the environment. This holiday season, protect your kitchen and keep your pipes clear by keeping FOG out of the drain.

Learn more about FOG and how to prevent it by visiting our **website at www.eid.org/FOG** or scanning the QR code with your mobile device.

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The Importance of Planning and Preventing Deferral

This project also highlights why it is important to avoid deferring necessary infrastructure maintenance and asset replacements. The replacement of the Reservoir 1 cover and liner is one of several projects that were deferred from a previous CIP. In most cases, when a project must be funded outside the capital and budget planning process, it can require delaying or deferring another project to cover the unanticipated cost. When projects are delayed, repair needs often become more urgent, and costs typically increase. These impacts highlight the importance of completing work as planned to help the District control expenses, limit disruptions to other projects, avoid unnecessary repairs, and maintain reliability across the entire water system. By completing projects as planned, the District can better control expenses, reduce emergency repairs, and ensure reliable service to the community.

Throughout the process, the District continues to emphasize that the drinking water remains safe and compliant with all state and federal standards. The Reservoir 1 project demonstrates the District's responsibility to address urgent infrastructure challenges, protect the reliability of the water system, and plan effectively to meet the long-term water needs of the customers we serve.

A few simple steps now can save you from costly pipe repairs this winter

Cold weather can be tough on your plumbing, and frozen pipes are one of the most common and expensive winter problems for homeowners. When water freezes inside a pipe, it expands and creates pressure that can cause cracks or even a full burst, leaving you with water damage, unexpected repairs, and a major inconvenience. The good news is that with a little preparation, you can reduce the risk and keep your plumbing working properly throughout the winter.

Insulate and Seal to Prevent Freezing

One of the most effective steps is insulating pipes in areas that are not heated, such as exposed hose bibs, basements, crawl spaces, attics, and garages. A small investment in pipe insulation provides lasting protection, and keeping doors to these spaces closed helps hold warm air inside your home. Sealing small cracks or gaps around windows, doors, and foundations also prevents icy drafts from reaching hidden plumbing. Pipes located along exterior walls are particularly vulnerable, so give extra attention to restrooms, kitchens, or laundry rooms that back up to colder areas.

Let Faucets Drip in Severe Cold

During especially cold nights, allow faucets to drip slightly. Even a small flow of water keeps pressure from building up inside the line and helps prevent ice blockages. These simple steps can make all the difference in keeping your household water system safe during severe winter weather.

Know How to Shut Off Water

If you do face a burst pipe, quick action will help minimize damage. Locate your main shutoff valve in advance, typically found near the water meter in a secondary box or where the water line enters the house, often on an outside wall near the front. There may also be a shutoff valve in the basement or crawl space, so be ready to turn it off immediately.

When to Call a Plumber

If you are unable to make the repairs yourself, drain the remaining water from your pipes and contact a licensed plumber as soon as possible. Doing so can save valuable time and prevent further problems. Preparing your plumbing for winter helps prevent costly damage and keeps your water running through the coldest months.

Learn more at **www.eid.org/frozenpipeprevention**.

2025 REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
—	10	10	14	12	9	—	11	—	14 (T)	10	8
27	24	24	—	—	23	28	25	22	27	—	—

Board meetings generally occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. Dates marked (T) are scheduled on Tuesdays.

Braille

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and California law, it is the policy of the El Dorado Irrigation District to offer its 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 in an appropriate alternative format, or any other accommodation, please contact the ADA Coordinator at the number or address below at least 72 hours prior to the meeting or when you desire to receive services. Advance notification within this guideline will enable the District to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility. The District ADA Coordinator can be reached by phone at (530) 642-4045 or e-mail at ADACoordinator@EID.org.