



The Water Drop

Elk Grove Water District



TX48650

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Message from the General Manager

The Florin Resource Conservation District (FRCD) and the Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) are steeped rich in history. The FRCD has been serving this region for nearly 60 years. The EGWD has been a public agency for 13 years, but the water system which it operates has serviced Elk Grove for over 118 years. Much like the values carried by the founding citizens, the Elk Grove Water District takes pride in being Elk Grove's hometown water provider.

Our commitment to you is that we will hold ourselves accountable while maintaining complete transparency as your local public agency. We further remain committed in demonstrating strong core values, including leadership, caring, integrity, professionalism, and vision.

Our staff is dedicated in achieving continuous improvement, with the intent of exceeding your expectations in providing you the vital services as described herein. If we do not exceed your expectations, please let me know.

Mark J. Madison



Meter Retrofit

Many of you have witnessed our work crews in your neighborhoods installing water meters on existing water services. This capital improvement project is known as the meter retrofit program and has been underway since 2010. The catalyst for this project is State law AB 2572 which requires urban water suppliers to install meters on all water service connections by January 1, 2025. Through the meter retrofit program, Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) now has approximately 80% of its 12,000 water service connections metered. With a goal of installing 100 meters per month, EGWD crews are working to retrofit the remaining 2,500 unmetered service connections. EGWD expects the meter retrofit program to be completed by June 2015.

Strategic Plan

This past year, the District prepared the 2012 Strategic Plan for the Florin Resource Conservation District and the Elk Grove Water District.

This Strategic Plan (Plan) sets forth a five year vision and roadmap for the Florin Resource Conservation District (FRCD), and the Elk Grove Water District (EGWD), which is owned and operated by the FRCD. Both the FRCD and the EGWD provide vital services to the Elk Grove community.

The mission statements and core values identified in this Plan center around safeguarding public health and safety, and protecting the natural resources of this region. We recognize the importance of our roles, and these missions and values were developed with that importance in mind.

This Plan is not a document that, once completed, will sit idle on a shelf until five years from now when we write another plan. It is intentionally referred to as a Strategic Plan because there are defined challenges and measurable goals. Those goals, identified to meet the challenges, were strategically developed to conform to our missions and values.

Water Rate Study

On January 25, 2012, the Board authorized the General Manager to execute a contract with Willdan Financial Services. Willdan is conducting a water rate study to determine the future water rates necessary to meet the District's financial needs for the next five years. General Manager Mark Madison has formed a Community Advisory Committee (CAC), made up of District ratepayers, to review and

give input to the study during the development process.

The rate study incorporates three main elements: revenue requirement analysis, a study on the rate structure and its impact to the revenue requirements, and an Assembly Bill (AB) 1600 Nexus Study for establishing the new connection fees.

Willdan has worked with staff to establish the revenue requirements of the District for the next five years. The group is now reviewing the current rate structure in the second phase.

When this process was started, the District anticipated that the completion date would be in late Fall 2012. Staff recommended to the Board of Directors that the timeline be revised to ensure that the Board, the CAC and the ratepayers would have the proper comfort level of understanding all of the relevant components of the study and final recommendations. In addition, there are new items to be considered, such as considering a new rate classification for Multi-Family Housing.

The new timeline completes the study by the end of April 2013. The study is addressing the following items:

- Cost of Services
- Equity Across Customer Classes
- Encouraging Water Conservation
- Compliance with Proposition 218
- Review of the Base Charges versus Consumption Charges and Tiers
- A possible new rate classification for Multi-Family Housing.
- Revising the Fire Protection Charges for Commercial Ratepayers.

The District will schedule meetings for both the CAC and the District's Finance Committee in January through April 2013. For information about the study, contact Dennis Coleman of the finance staff at (916) 685-3556.

Capital Improvement Program

A key component of Elk Grove Water District's (EGWD) overall operations is the capital improvement program (CIP). The CIP looks at the next five years and defines what capital projects are needed to keep EGWD operationally sound and viable. Projects such as well rehabilitations to sustain water production and quality, improvements to equipment at the water treatment plant, and replacement of aging infrastructure are a few of the capital projects that are part of EGWD's CIP. Over the past 12 months, EGWD has successfully completed a project to increase the water filtration capacity at the treatment plant. This project will ensure that EGWD is able to meet water demand during high water usage months. EGWD also improved the reliability and capacity of three water wells by completing electrical and mechanical upgrades at the well sites. Two water wells were rehabilitated this past year to return the wells' production to efficient levels. EGWD is planning capital projects for the future as well. These projects are outlined in EGWD's FY 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program. The document is available for public viewing on EGWD's website (www.egwd.org) under the Construction pull-down menu.

The Jobs We Do: Valve Exercising

EGWD trucks are a common sight around town, but have you ever wondered what kind of work those crews are doing? We'd like to bring you occasional articles that describe some of the various jobs that EGWD performs to deliver clean, safe water to you always.

EGWD has an estimated 3,344 water valves located throughout the distribution system. These valves are located on city streets, in front yards, in parking lots and everywhere else that water flows throughout Elk Grove. The primary purpose of a valve is to turn off the flow of water in the event of damage to the system. But what would happen if there was a leak and operators could not find the valve? Or what if the valve was broken? Imagine the mess and the water lost!

Unfortunately, valves hide all the time. Sometimes they get paved over during road work or the installation of a new driveway. Sometimes, landscaping grows over the valve site. One of the jobs that EGWD employees do is valve exercising. Valves are located, mapped into a GIS system and then exercised by turning them on and off. This ensures that the valves can be found and used whenever needed. It takes a very long time to find all of the valves and to test each one.

So, if you have a valve in your yard, recognize its importance to the entire water system. Please keep the area accessible to crews who need to use it in the event of an emergency.

Fluoridated Water Status

Sacramento County supplies water to the Elk Grove Water Service in Area Two, which is located east of Waterman Road to Grant Line Road and most of the water service between Bond and Sheldon roads. Water being supplied by the Sacramento County Water Agency is expected to be treated with fluoride beginning in January or February, 2013. The water provided by the Elk Grove Water District in their older areas between Highway 99 and Waterman Road will not be fluoridated. The County has indicated that there will be no charge for the first two years for fluoridation, as a grant will cover the costs. The Elk Grove Water District does not anticipate that fluoridation will have any impact on customer rates and fees.

EGWD in the Community

The staff of the EGWD participated in two public events this year; the Western Festival in May and the Giant Pumpkin Festival in October. Visitors to the EGWD booth enjoyed spinning the trivia wheel, built by Utility Operator Bryan Hutchinson, for chances to win water conservation prizes. Visitors also took the opportunity to ask employees questions regarding their water service, and see some of the equipment used by EGWD.

Look for EGWD at future community events, but please don't wait until the next festival to ask us your questions. We're always happy to talk with you; just give us a call at 916-685-3556 or email us at dmaxwell@egwd.org. There are several ways to reach us through the Contact page on our Web site: www.egwd.org.

Our Values:

- Leadership
- Caring
- Integrity
- Professionalism
- Vision



Operating a valve