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| Fall / Winter 2020 / 2021

# The Water Drop

ELK GROVE WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## Upcoming Regular Board Meetings

Due to COVID-19 Florin Resource Conservation District regular board meetings are held virtually every 3rd Tuesday of the month from 6:30pm – 9:00pm. A zoom link can be found on Elk Grove Water District's website ([www.egwd.org](http://www.egwd.org)) every month.

December 15  
January 19  
February 16

## GO GREEN! GO Paperless!



### Sign up for paperless billing:

- >> [www.egwd.org](http://www.egwd.org)
- >> Your account
- >> View and pay bill

Once there, you can update your existing account with your email address or register for your free account. Please remember to include your email address when registering for the first time.

## Message From the General Manager

One thing that I think we can agree on is that 2020 has been a difficult year. Among other things, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has presented challenges in every aspect of our lives, including our jobs and the role we all play in our communities.



Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) undoubtedly provides an essential service to the City of Elk Grove and our 30 employees are all designated as essential public service workers. When the outbreak escalated earlier this year, EGWD prepared a Coronavirus (COVID-19) Risk Minimization and Outbreak Plan (Plan), in advance of State mandated requirements, which balanced two (2) objectives: the protection of employees and the customers we serve, and the need to maintain critical operations in providing safe drinking water to the community. This Plan has been stringently implemented, thus far meeting the two (2) objectives, and has received acclaim from other water agencies throughout the State.

In June, EGWD also prepared the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Home to Office Playbook to guide us in our return to normal operations, in concert with the guidelines established by State and Local Health Officials. This Playbook was also prepared before the State developed their own return to work guidelines, including the Road to Resilience Roadmap and a Blueprint for a Safer Economy. Both the Plan and Playbook can be found on the District's website at [www.egwd.org](http://www.egwd.org).

EGWD has been proactively managing the challenges brought about by COVID-19. We are committed to doing everything necessary to keep people safe while providing water to our customers. I want you to know that my staff is working 24/7 during this pandemic to ensure our customers' needs continue to be met. As essential public services workers, we have a preeminent duty to take care of you and this community. I am proud to be working alongside our dedicated staff during this difficult and challenging period.

-Mark J. Madison

## 36" Transmission Main Repair

On July 24, 2020, the District became aware of a significant leak in its 36-inch transmission main. The transmission main is a pipe that conveys a large volume of treated water to the District's water distribution system. District staff identified a defective pipe joint as the source of the leak and immediately developed a plan to shut down the transmission main and repair it. Within one-week, critical repair parts were delivered to the site and staff began shutting down the transmission main to begin the repair work. Staff worked closely with Sacramento Regional Sanitation District to properly dewater the transmission main before the repair was made. In 100-degree heat, our crews worked long days to remove the faulty pipe joint and repair it to District construction standards. This job was completed in record time and the transmission main was safely returned to service.



# TIPS

## for Preparing Your Yard for a Potentially Dry Winter

With national forecasts projecting warmer, drier weather conditions into the winter and no rainfall forecast in the next month for the Sacramento region, now's a great time to prepare your garden to soak in the rain once it does arrive.

▶ **Here are some tips for preparing your yard to make the most of every drop:**

### **Give your garden soil a boost:**

Healthy garden soil is like a sponge, with lots of air pockets and spaces to absorb and store water and nutrients to nurture your plants and beneficial soil microbes. Adding plenty of quality organic matter (several inches of compost or composted manure) is the fastest way to enrich your soil.

### **Layer the mulch:**

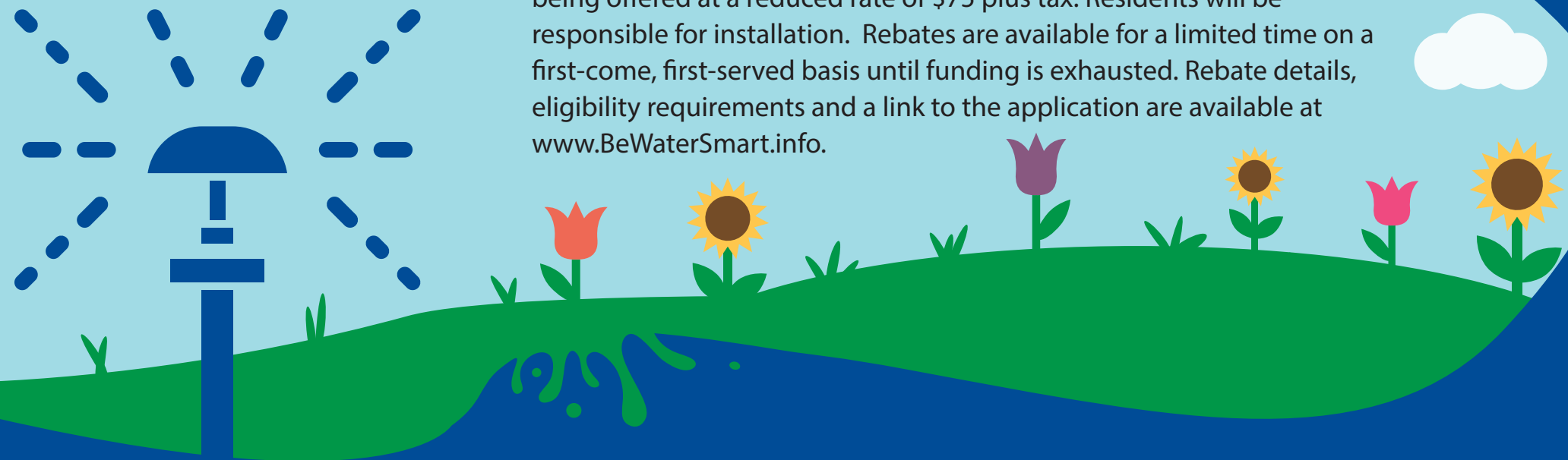
Mulch slows evaporation, allowing water to sink into the soil, and breaks down into nutrients for plants. We recommend adding two (2) to three (3) inches of organic mulch around trees and plants, being careful to keep mulch away from tree trunks.

### **Adjust your sprinkler timer:**

Even though the weather is dry, the days are cooler and shorter. That means your yard doesn't need as much water as it did in summer. Dial back your sprinkler run times by a few minutes each zone, and be sure to turn off your sprinklers when rain finally does arrive.

Or, consider installing a WaterSense-labeled weather-based sprinkler timer to do the adjusting for you. Residents can save 65 percent on a Rachio 3 Smart Sprinkler Controller (Rachio 3) through a rebate program offered by Elk Grove Water District in partnership with the Regional Water Authority and local water providers.

It's estimated that replacing a standard controller with a Water Sense-labeled smart controller like the Rachio 3 can save an average home about 13,500 gallons of water per year. The Rachio 3 Sprinkler Controller typically retails for about \$220 for an eight-zone system but are being offered at a reduced rate of \$75 plus tax. Residents will be responsible for installation. Rebates are available for a limited time on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted. Rebate details, eligibility requirements and a link to the application are available at [www.BeWaterSmart.info](http://www.BeWaterSmart.info).



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT *Aaron Hewitt*

Aaron Hewitt is the District's Lead Water Treatment Operator responsible for maintaining and operating the District's two (2) water treatment plants and seven (7) water wells. Aaron has been an employee of the District since 2010 and is a State-certified Grade T4 Water Treatment Operator and Grade D3 Water Distribution Operator. Aaron's operator skills, work ethics and attention to details represent the District's highest standards. Outside of work Aaron enjoys spending time outdoors camping with his family. Our District is proud to recognize Aaron for his dedication, hard work, excellent work products and unwavering commitment to serve our customers.

## Capital Improvement Program Update

Starting in March 2020, the District halted construction work on capital improvement projects for five (5) months due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Planning for next year's capital improvement program, however, continued and on May 19, 2020, the District approved a list of capital projects for the current fiscal year. On August 17, 2020, the District resumed capital improvement construction work and returned to Barth St. to continue the work on the backyard water mains replacement project. Other water main replacements scheduled to occur this fiscal year are located on Amethyst St., Garnet Ct. and Sara St. For a complete list of capital improvement projects, visit our website at [egwd.org](http://egwd.org).

