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| SPRING / SUMMER 2018

The Water Drop

ELK GROVE WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Board Meetings

Florin Resource Conservation District / Elk Grove Water District
Regular Board Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month
from 6:30 -9:00 pm at 9257 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624

June 20
July 18
August 15
September 19
October 17

**GO GREEN!
GO Paperless!**

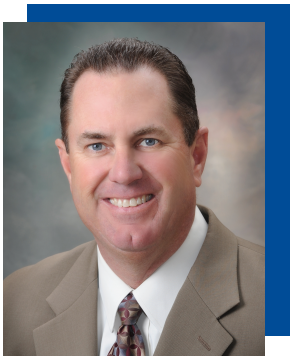


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Message From the General Manager



Recently, a news article was published that had a possibly confusing title and subtitle. I would like to take a moment to clarify what was written and what the issue is about.

In April, an article appeared in the Elk Grove Citizen that was entitled, "Water district officials face budget challenge." Many interpreted this to infer that the Elk Grove Water District faces a budget challenge. That is not correct.

As shown on our logo above, the Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) is a Department of the Florin Resource Conservation District (FRCD). The FRCD was created in 1952 and was originally called the Florin Soil Conservation District. For many years, its mission was to provide water and soil conservation services in its area. Since 1999, the FRCD's efforts have mainly focused on managing the EGWD, although it has also performed other activities, such as creek cleanups, tire recycling, and providing technical assistance and conservation education to farmers, community members and students.

It should be noted that the FRCD's service area is very large. Since 1953, that area has twice been increased and today there are approximately 92,000 acres within the FRCD extending from the Sacramento River on the west to Rancho Cordova on the east.

The FRCD acquired the Elk Grove Water Works in 1999 from a local family who had owned and operated the water utility as a private water company for 103 years. This is why we still call ourselves "Elk Grove's hometown water supplier."

FRCD's acquisition of Elk Grove Water Works changed the governance of the water utility from private ownership to a publicly owned and operated agency. Yep – It's your utility. The FRCD also structured this agency as an enterprise-funded department of the FRCD, thereby keeping all financial activities of the water utility separate from other activities of the FRCD.

The news article published was generally accurate, however the title was possibly misleading to some readers. That title implied that the Water District faces a budget challenge, but it does not. The "challenge" stated in the article referred to, and only to, the financial situation involving the FRCD and not the EGWD.

In fact, the financial status of the Elk Grove Water District is very stable. We maintain adequate reserves and are capable of operating and maintaining your water system so as to provide you with exceedingly high quality water. We also fund our capital needs on a pay-as-you-go basis and invest heavily into your system to ensure adequate water supply for future generations.

Having said that, you should know that we are continuing to hold rate adjustments down and I suspect that we will be able to defer revenue increases next year and maybe the next. We will not ask you for more money if EGWD doesn't need it. That's our promise.

The financial status of the FRCD on the other hand has been deteriorating for many years, and on April 18, our Board after many, many public meetings took courageous actions to remedy the situation. Now, the FRCD does not face an uncertain future. In fact, the FRCD now has a stable future and the solution imposes, by far, the least initial cost to you, the EGWD ratepayers.

Understandably, this is much more complicated than what I have briefly described, but my message is this. The Elk Grove Water District is strong, it is stable, and the financial challenges of the Florin Resource Conservation District are now resolved.

-Mark Madison

CHECK BEFORE YOU WATER: LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING

Trying to figure out how much water your yard needs can be a mystery. You might think you can tell just by looking at your plants or by the weather reports, but the best and most accurate way is to check the soil's moisture level. It's easy to do and doesn't require a lot of time.

Here are some ways to check:

Use a moisture meter. This is the most effective way to tell if you need to water your yard. Moisture meters feature an easy-to-read dial that indicates if the soil is dry, moist or wet. Simply push the moisture meter into the soil six to eight inches deep and check the reading. Make sure to check a few different spots in your yard and your potted plants as well; and then water accordingly.

Do the screwdriver test. Stick an eight-inch screwdriver into the soil. If you can push it in more than three inches below the surface, you don't need to water.

Dig down six to eight inches with a small shovel or trowel and grab a handful of soil. Roll the soil around in the palm of your hand. If the soil easily forms a ball in your hand, you don't need to water.



FREE SOIL MOISTURE METER!
Stop by the EGWD administrative offices and ask for one.
(EGWD customers only, one per household)

FREE! COMMUNITY CONSERVATION WORKSHOP

Water Efficient Landscaping & Irrigation Troubleshooting

June 9th from 10 - Noon

Elk Grove Community Garden & Learning Center
10025 Hampton Oak Drive, Elk Grove, CA 95624

RSVP to sjones@egwd.org



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Denise Maxwell

Denise has been serving Elk Grove Water District customers for 12 years. She started in 2006 as a Customer Service Representative and in 2011 was promoted to Senior Utility Billing Specialist. While working full-time at the District Denise worked towards, and received an Associate Degree in Accounting and a Bachelor Degree in Business Administration. Prior to working at the District she was a Customer Service Representative for a major telecommunications company as well as a Bankruptcy Account Executive. In her free time Denise enjoys reading, writing and staying active both at the gym and outdoors. The EGWD family is proud of Denise's accomplishments and commitment; she is always helpful to our customers and to fellow staff members. Denise embodies the Core Values of the Elk Grove Water District: Leadership, Caring, Integrity, Professionalism and Vision.

Capital Improvement Program Update

Every year, the Elk Grove Water District (EGWD) assesses its facilities and determines where improvements, repairs or new facilities are required. For fiscal year 2018/19, two key projects are planned that will improve the capacity and performance of the water system. The first project is the Backyard Water Mains project. This project replaces old, undersized 4" and 6" water mains with new 8" water mains and relocates the water mains from the backyard public utility easements to the right-of-ways in the streets. Construction of the Backyard Water Mains project will occur over a two-year period with completion planned in 2020. The second project is the Well 3 Pump Replacement for optimizing system pressure control. For a complete list of capital improvement projects, visit our website at egwd.org.

