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Elk Grove, CA 95624

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| FALL / WINTER 2018

The Water Drop

ELK GROVE WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Message From the General Manager

Starting in January, you may notice changes to your water bill. These changes are a result of modifications to our rate structure adopted by our Board this summer.

After many meetings, including significant input from the public, the District completed two new studies; the Florin Resource Conservation District/Elk Grove Water District 2018 Water Rate Study and 2018 Connection Fee Study. These studies are completed every five years to reassess the financial status of the District and determine the appropriate revenue requirements.



Our District abides by the philosophy of "If we don't need it, we won't ask for it" and that is why there will be no revenue increases for the next two years. What does this mean for you? Customers who use an average of 15 CCF's (one hundred cubic feet) or less per month will see a decrease in their water bills, while customers who use an average of more than 15 CCF's per month will see a slight increase in their water bills. Irrigation accounts will also see an increase while non-residential accounts may see a slight drop. To see how your bill may be impacted, check out our water rate calculator on our website at www.egwd.org/water-rates. Just input the water usage from your current bill and you can compare your costs for 2018 to your expected cost in 2019.

We would like to thank the Community Advisory Committee for their input throughout this process. Their input was extremely valuable to the Board and the decision making process as a whole. Completing these studies was a rigorous and collaborative effort and we are very proud to share them with you. Both of the studies can be accessed at www.egwd.org/water-rates. We encourage our customers to participate in efforts such as these and the District will keep you informed of future opportunities to get involved. Additionally, we have public Board meetings every 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 916-685-3556.

Upcoming Regular 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

November - No Meeting
December 19
January 16
February 20
March 20
April 17

Take the Be Water Smart pledge!

CHECK THE SOIL AND SAVE
A MOISTURE METER TELLS YOU IF YOUR YARD NEEDS WATER

Dial Back Your Irrigation for Fall and Winter

You recently dialed back your clock to standard time, and now it's time to dial back your water use. Landscape water needs decrease in the fall and winter with shorter days and cooler temperatures. As the weather cools, reduce irrigation by eliminating a watering day or two each week or by shortening each watering cycle. Consider turning off your irrigation system for the winter especially if you have winter-dormant plants. Remember to water according to the weather and turn your irrigation system off when it rains, and keep it off for 48 hours after a rain event. Reducing your water use in fall and winter can have an impact on your water bill. Now is the time to dial it back!

TO LEARN MORE VISIT BEWATERSMART.INFO OR SAVEOURWATER.COM





STATE PASSES NEW WATER CONSERVATION BILLS

On May 31, 2018, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law two new bills that will require water providers throughout California, including Elk Grove Water District (EGWD), to calculate new permanent water use targets for their service areas by 2022. There are no immediate impacts on our customers from these new laws, and they do not establish restrictions for individual water customers. However, EGWD continues to encourage customers to use water efficiently and to never waste this precious resource.

Why were the new laws created?

The new laws were prompted by California's frequent cycles of drought and are meant to better prepare California for the next drought and the future effects of climate change on the state's water supplies. The overall goal is to make water conservation a way of life in California and a permanent part of the state's culture.

When will the new water use targets take effect?

Water providers, including Elk Grove Water District, must calculate new water use targets, also referred to as a "water budget," as a requirement of the new laws, by 2022 and will be expected to begin implementing water use targets by 2023 and every year after that.

How will the new laws impact customers?

There are no immediate impacts to our customers. Over the next several years, specific water use targets will be set for EGWD's overall service area (not on an individual basis) based upon the standards outlined in the laws.

Will it be illegal to take a shower and wash clothes in the same day, as some media have reported?

No. There is nothing in the laws that specifies when or how often a person may shower, do laundry, or use water for any other purpose. The new laws outline an overall framework for setting and meeting water use targets at the water provider level. While the framework outlined in the laws does include a goal for individual water use of 55 gallons per person per day beginning in 2022, this goal applies on an overall system-wide basis (and not an individual basis).

How hard will it be to meet the indoor target of 55 gallons per person per day?

It's important to note that the target of 55 gallons per person per day is not a goal for individual customers, but will be measured across the entire service area. That said, water industry experts are projecting that many people are already meeting this target or do not have far to go.

Will residents have to go back to saving water as they did during the drought?

No. The new laws create long-term water use targets not short-term, emergency conservation targets like those required during the drought. The long-term targets are meant to inspire greater efficiency over time rather than mandate short-term cutbacks that require extreme measures such as not watering your lawn.

How will the new laws impact businesses in California?

While the new laws do not set specific water use targets for businesses, they do outline a framework for creating new water efficiency performance measures for businesses—these are recommended actions for specific business sectors to improve water efficiency over time. Performance measures will be determined over the next several years, and the process will include opportunities for public input.

Will individual residents and businesses be fined for not meeting water use targets?

The regulations and associated water use targets are required for the water provider as a whole (including all customers) NOT at the individual resident or business level. Therefore, individuals and businesses will not be fined by the state for not meeting the water provider water use target. However, individuals and businesses may be fined for violating current EGWD water waste ordinances and guidelines.

What are the next steps for implementing the new laws?

The laws will now be translated into regulations, which will outline details and rules for implementing the intent of the laws at the local level. EGWD and other water providers, non-profit organizations and other interested parties will work together over the next several years with state agencies (including the State Water Resources Control Board and the California Department of Water Resources) to finalize the regulations by the required deadline of 2022.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Program Manager at 916-685-3556.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Amber Kavert

Amber joined EGWD in February 2018 as an Administrative Assistant II (Confidential). She came to us from Eskaton, where she was the Wellness Coordinator/Administrative Assistant. Amber holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Consumer Science with a minor in Gerontology from Sacramento State University. She loves the outdoors and spends her winters at the race track with her husband. EGWD welcomes Amber as the newest staff member!

Capital Improvement Program Update

The Elk Grove Water District (District) continues to make replacement of old, undersized water mains a priority for its Capital Improvement Program. Some of the old water mains the District owns are approaching the end of their useful lives. The District places an age of 75 years on a common type of pipe installed in the 1950s and 60s known as transite pipe. A project called the Backyard Water Mains Replacement Project will begin on Elk Way after the first of the new year. This project replaces the old water mains located along backyard fence lines with new 8" water mains installed in the streets. Residents along Elk Way have probably already seen District crews potholing existing utilities in preparation of the upcoming work. After Elk Way, the District will continue to replace water mains on Mark St., Emily St., Barth St., Amethyst Way, and Garnet Ct. For a complete list of capital improvement projects, visit our website at www.egwd.org.

