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| Winter 2022

The Water Drop

ELK GROVE WATER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

Message From the General Manager



October 7, 2022, was a special day for the Elk Grove Water District (District). That is the day the District celebrated the grand opening of its new administration building at 9829 Waterman Road. The event was cheerful and well attended. Chair Sophia Scherman, Vice-Chair Tom Nelson, Director Paul Lindsay, Director Lisa Medina, and Director Elliot Mulberg along with District staff welcomed guests on a perfect, sunny day. Guests included past District Board Chairs Chuck Dawson and Barry Lightfoot, County Supervisor Don Nottoli, Cosumnes CSD General Manager Joshua Green, City Public Works Director Jeff Werner, Chamber of Commerce President Angela Perry, Elk Grove Citizen journalist Lance Armstrong and many others from the Elk Grove community. Chair Sophia Scherman praised the new administration building in her opening remarks and thanked everyone for joining us in the celebration. I also spoke and extolled how the success of the project was because the Board of Directors, staff and project team collaborated so well together. As I said at the event, it is remarkable that despite the ongoing supply chain issues experienced during construction, the project was brought in on time and under budget. I am very proud of that achievement.

Switching gears to two important tasks underway at the District. First, every five years, the District conducts a comprehensive water rate study. The purpose of the study is to develop cost-based, equitable rates for the succeeding five years. The study will examine the costs necessary to operate the water system and support the District's capital improvement program. Also, a community advisory committee will be formed to provide input to the water rate consultant performing the study. The community advisory committee will consist of eight to twelve volunteers that are customers of the District. These meetings will be publicly held in the District's board chambers at 9829 Waterman Road. I encourage you to attend the meetings and participate as members of the public.

Finally, as I mentioned in the last Water Drop, the District has kicked off an Exceptional Customer Service Program. The District would like feedback from you with respect to the level of customer service we provide. The District has recently posted an online survey form on its website which will be available for several weeks. I would greatly appreciate it if you would please take the survey.

I hope to see you soon at a board meeting in our new administration building. The meetings take place every third Tuesday and begin at 6:30 p.m. I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable holiday season!

B. M. Lewis

Sign up for paperless billing:

Visit www.egwd.org

You can register for a new account or update your existing account with your email address. Please remember to include your email address when registering for the first time.



GO GREEN!
GO Paperless!

Upcoming Regular Board Meetings

Florin Resource Conservation District regular board meetings are held every 3rd Tuesday of the month. The board meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. Location information can be found on Elk Grove Water District's website (www.egwd.org) every month.

January 18
February 21
March 21

Take the Be Water Smart pledge!

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



TO LEARN MORE VISIT BEWATERSMART.INFO OR SAVEOURWATER.COM



Tips for Preparing Your Yard FOR Fall AND Winter

Winter is arriving soon and it's time to take the necessary steps to make sure your lawn is prepped for whatever the season may bring. With a few simple actions, you can not only make sure your lawn can endure the harsh weather of winter, but that it will also reap some serious benefits when spring comes back around.

Some things to consider

- ❄️ **Stop your usual watering schedule** | Think watering your plants when the temperature dips will keep them healthier? Think again. Plants don't need as much water, as they stop growing as rapidly during the winter. So, soaking your soil when temperatures drop can rapidly kill your plant life.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT Donella Murillo

Donella Murillo (Finance Supervisor) just celebrated her twentieth-year anniversary working for the Elk Grove Water District. In her 20 years of service, Donella has elevated from being a customer service representative to the Finance Supervisor. As Finance Supervisor, she is responsible for overseeing the customer service department and assists the Finance Manager in the day-to-day operations. Donella is always ready to roll up her sleeves and get the job done. Donella and the customer service team take pride in providing customers with exceptional and responsive customer service.

- 🍂 **Aerate the soil to let in more good stuff** | Aerating or breaking up the soil in your yard will ensure that oxygen, water, and nutrients are able to get to a plant's roots. It's most effective when done in fall when temperatures have dropped. You can rent a machine, use a pitchfork or even wear sandals equipped with long spikes.

- ❄️ **Add plenty of compost and mulch** | Compost will enrich the soil with valuable nutrients, make clay and compacted soil more airy, and can help balance the soil's pH level. Then make sure to add a couple inches of mulch around your new plants. It's best to add the compost after you've aerated your lawn or plants to make sure it can be more easily absorbed.

- 🍂 **Leave some plants alone** | While it's good to cut back some perennials, others can be left in place for winter interest. These include ornamental grasses and thick-stemmed plants such as Russian sage, taller sedums, and mums.

If you're looking for plant ideas perfect for our region, check out the plant guides at [BeWaterSmart.info](https://www.water.ca.gov/).



Education Corner Water Year

Hydrologists measure time differently than the standard January-to-December calendar year. This is known as the water year which begins on October 1st and ends on September 30th. The concept is based on the fact that part of the precipitation that falls in late autumn and winter accumulates as snow and does not drain until the following spring or summer's snowmelt. The last three years have been the driest on record breaking the previous drought record from 2013 to 2015. You can track the current water year by visiting the California Water Watch website. (<https://cww.water.ca.gov/>)

