

# LAWMAKERS EYE LOCAL COFFERS, AGAIN



Water supplies are shrinking, energy costs are rising and local revenues are dwindling. Water districts such as EVMWD already are ensnared in a perfect storm, and now lawmakers are saying things are going to get worse.

Governor Schwarzenegger estimates the state’s shortfall is \$24 billion and growing, and Sacramento is looking to local governments to help bridge the gap this summer. That kind of diversion would take property tax revenues away from special districts such as EVMWD, who uses the money for crucial maintenance and system improvements.

The tactic has so outraged water agencies and others that the Association of California Water Agencies recently signed a letter of protest to Governor Schwarzenegger and all state lawmakers and constitutional officers. ACWA, along with three dozen associations and local governments, is calling on the state to balance its budget without borrowing money from already-strapped cities, counties and special districts such as EVMWD.

“Local governments are experiencing similar revenue shortfalls as the state. We ... have been forced to continue to make extremely difficult cuts, layoffs, service reductions, and program realignments,” the coalition wrote in the May 28 letter.

Schwarzenegger, who wants to borrow \$2 billion from local governments, says there’s no way around it. He argues that local governments have to help solve the state’s budget crisis and will get the money back eventually with interest.

Local governments counter that he needs to look elsewhere. They say their revenues are declining and, in the case of water districts, this budget crunch comes at a particularly difficult time.

Water agencies such as EVMWD are struggling to keep their customers supplied with water and are proposing rates to keep up with increased electrical and imported water costs as the state enters its third year of drought. These increased costs are placing a further burden on water agencies, as property tax revenues are plummeting in Riverside County and elsewhere due to the housing crisis.

Additionally, water officials say they need that money now for water and wastewater infrastructure improvements as they strive to maintain quality service for their customers.

Property tax revenues have consistently risen over the past three decades, until a couple years ago when the economy took a downturn. Now local coffers are steadily shrinking.

Tapping local revenues is not unprecedented for state lawmakers, especially as state spending has grown and consistently surpassed revenue. Legislators started doing so regularly in the early 1990s, and again siphoned off large sums from water agencies just a few years ago. EVMWD lost \$3.6 million in one year because of the tactic.

Voters approved a constitutional amendment, Proposition 1A, in 2004 to prevent future diversions, but lawmakers still can tap the money provided they return it with interest.

In its letter to state leaders, ACWA and its fellow coalition members said they “have no confidence in the state’s ability to repay a borrowing or the viability of any proposal that purports that local losses can be offset by additional borrowing and securitization methods.”

## CUSTOMERS WHO WISH TO CONTACT STATE LEADERS ABOUT THESE ISSUES MAY DO SO AT:

- Governor Schwarzenegger  
State Capitol Building  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
email: go to <http://gov.ca.gov/interact>  
Phone: 916-445-2841  
Fax: 916-558-3160
- Senate Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg  
State Capitol Room 206  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
email: [senator.steinberg@sen.ca.gov](mailto:senator.steinberg@sen.ca.gov)  
Phone: 916-651-4006  
Fax: 916-323-2263
- Assembly Speaker Karen Bass  
State Capitol Room 219  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
email: [assemblymember.bass@assembly.ca.gov](mailto:assemblymember.bass@assembly.ca.gov)  
Phone: 916-391-2047  
Fax: 323-937-3466

# DIAMOND VALLEY LAKE

Just a few years after opening as an emergency supply reservoir for Southern California, Diamond Valley Lake is shrinking rapidly and shows no signs of stopping.



Water lines mark Diamond Valley Lake’s steady decline to less than half its capacity.

Water lines ring the perimeter of Diamond Valley Lake, marking the reservoir’s fall.

Officials closed the lake’s boat ramp when the lake dropped by 40 percent to 485,236 acre-feet in October, far below the 810,000 acre-feet it held in June 2006 when it was at full capacity. Now there’s a mere 376,386 acre-feet of water in the lake.

When full, Diamond Valley Lake and other storage reservoirs hold enough water to supply 18 million people for six months if, for example, imported water supplies are disrupted.

With no end to the state’s drought in sight, it’s unlikely the lake’s level will improve this year. Elsinore Eddie can’t even take his boat out there this year.



Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

(951) 674-3146  
[www.evmwd.com](http://www.evmwd.com)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SUMMER 2009

# THE EVMWD WATER LOG SPECIAL EDITION

SAVE  
THIS  
ISSUE!

The EVMWD Customer Newsletter



## NEW WATER BUDGET RATES TAKE EFFECT THIS SUMMER

### WHAT ARE WATER BUDGETS?

A water budget is a monthly amount of water allocated to you for efficient indoor and outdoor uses at your property. Just as you budget your finances, a water budget gives you a monthly target so you can be most efficient with the water that you use.

### WHY USE WATER BUDGETS?

Rate structures using water budgets are a very fair way to encourage efficient water use and discourage water waste. In simple terms, those who use water efficiently both indoors and outdoors -- those who stay within their budget -- will pay less than customers who are inefficient or wasteful.

### ANOTHER WAY TO LOOK AT IT – “WATER BUCKETS”

You can think of your water budget as buckets of water. The first bucket should be plenty for your efficient indoor use and costs the least. The second bucket should be plenty for your efficient outdoor use and costs slightly more. If you’re not as efficient as you could be, you can buy another bucket but it will cost you more. If there are holes in your bucket and you don’t bother to fix them, then you’re just wasting water and you will pay the most for that bucket.

### MEET ELSINORE EDDIE



Elsinore Eddie is a typical customer of EVMWD. Like nearly 20,000 other customers, his home sits on a parcel that is .18 acres or about 7,840 square feet. His yard is well-kept with grass, shrubs and a section of tough but pretty, native plants. The size of the area he waters is about 4,700 square feet or about 60% of the parcel. Eddie is going to learn all about water budgets.

Like other water agencies across California, EVMWD is faced with dwindling water supplies and rising costs as the state endures its third year of drought. EVMWD and many other agencies are adopting new rate structures designed to manage the state’s precious water supply and help customers like Elsinore Eddie.

The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District knows Elsinore Eddie needs enough water to care for his family of four and 4,700 square feet of landscaping, so the district has designed a new rate structure that will provide plenty of water and encourage efficiency at the same time.

EVMWD customers are divided into five parcel categories and budgeted water according to their property size. Elsinore Eddie falls into parcel category No. 2, as do the vast majority of EVMWD customers.

Temescal Division residential customers, who receive their water from different sources, have different rates but the same water budget allocations.



(951) 674-3146  
[www.evmwd.com](http://www.evmwd.com)

### Hours of Operation:

M-Th 7:30-5:30 F 7:30-4:30

### BLOCK 1 – INDOOR BUDGETS

EVMWD calculates Block 1, or the Efficient Indoor Budget, using 60 gallons per person per day, a number that is based on multiple studies of water use across the country. There are 4 people in Eddie’s house so his Indoor Budget is 240 gallons per day or 9.6 CCF each month of the year. Even if Eddie and his family are not as efficient as they could be, they should have no problem staying within their monthly Indoor Budget. Households with more than 4 people can request a variance from EVMWD.

### BLOCK 2 – OUTDOOR BUDGETS

EVMWD calculates Block 2, or the Efficient Outdoor Budget, using a formula accounting for the type of plants, local weather, irrigation efficiency and square footage. Since watering requirements are different throughout the year, outdoor budgets will increase from the winter season (October-April) to the summer season (May-September).

Eddie’s outdoor budget for 4,704 square feet of landscape, with a mix of turf, shrubs and natives, will be 7.4 CCF or 184 gallons a day in the winter season and 16.6 CCF or 414 gallons a day in the summer season. Upon learning this, Eddie quickly made a note to reduce his watering times during the winter season.

### WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ON MY BILL?

Basically, Eddie and EVMWD customers who use water efficiently, both indoors and outdoors, will pay the lowest rates. The lowest rate is in Block 1 where the cost per billing unit or CCF is \$1.74. This rate is called the low volume discount rate as it is designed to reward those who use very little water. If Eddie only used 9.6 CCF, the water portion of his bill would be \$16.70 (9.6 x \$1.74).

The Block 2 rate for efficient outdoor watering is \$2.32 per CCF, so the outdoor watering in the winter will cost \$17.17 (7.4 x \$2.32).

If he uses exactly his budget in the winter, indoor 9.6 CCF + outdoor 7.4 CCF = 17 CCF, his bill would be \$16.70 + \$17.17 = \$33.87. In the summer, his outdoor charges for using his entire outdoor budget of 16.6 CCF would be \$38.51 so his summer bill would be \$16.70 + \$38.51 = \$55.21. And, just as in the past, Eddie will pay a service charge, power charge and sewer charge on the same bill as his water charges.

Elsinore Eddie will run into trouble, however, if he goes over his water budget. Then the rates will start rising significantly.

If he uses 1.5 x his budget, then Block Three will cost him \$4.64 per CCF for 26.3 to 43 CCFs; 2 x his budget in Block Four will be \$6.96 per CCF for 43.1 to 59.7 CCFs. If he uses 2.5 x his budget, he’ll have to pay \$9.28 for each CCF above 59.7. This block, is known as the “wasteful” or fifth block.

Elsinore Eddie’s neighbor has a larger yard and two more kids than Eddie, for example, so the neighbor can request a variance from EVMWD and get a larger water allocation. The neighbor will still pay high rates for excessive usage, but he’ll be able to meet his family’s unique needs as long as he stays within his adjusted, larger allocation.

If Elsinore Eddie and his neighbors have trouble staying in their water budgets, EVMWD has plenty of ways to help them use water efficiently, especially outdoors. They can visit [www.EVMWD.com/conservation](http://www.EVMWD.com/conservation) or call the conservation specialist at 951-674-3146 x8247.

Elsinore Eddie and all EVMWD customers can learn about California-friendly plants, more-efficient sprinklers and other water-saving tips to stay within their water budget and avoid paying higher rates in the summer.

EVMWD SAMPLE BILL																																							
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These bills reflect 20 CCF of water use by an average EVMWD customer. The typical customer will have a water budget of 26.2 CCF a month in the summer and 17.1 CCF a month in the winter.



WATER BUDGETS AND RATES

Summer rates are in effect May through September; winter rates are in effect October through April. These numbers are based on the average EVMWD customer, Elsinore Eddie. Like nearly 20,000 other customers, his home sits on a parcel that is .18 acres or about 7,840 square feet. The size of the area he waters is about 4,700 square feet or about 60% of the parcel. Customers with more family members and larger properties will be able to apply for a variance to their water budget to ensure they are being charged fairly.

Water Use	Existing Tiers	New Summer / Winter Budgets* & Rates per CCF		
Block 1: Low Volume Discount	Tier 1: 1-5 CCF	1.0 - 9.6 CCF	1.0 - 9.6 CCF	\$1.74
Block 2: Conservation Base Rate	Tier 2: 6-20 CCF	9.7 - 26.2 CCF	9.7 - 17.1 CCF	\$2.32
Block 3: Inefficient Use 2x Base	Tier 3: 21-40 CCF	26.3 - 43 CCF	17.2 - 24.6 CCF	\$4.64
Block 4: Excessive Use 3x Base	Tier 4: 41-100 CCF	43.1 - 59.7 CCF	24.7 - 32.1 CCF	\$6.96
Block 5: Wasteful 4x Base Rate	Tier 5: 101+ CCF	59.7+ CCF	32.1+ CCF	\$9.28

Conservation Budget Rate

Higher rates for excessive/wasteful use

1 CCF = 748 Gallons  
\*Blocks reflect average allocation. Actual allocations are based on property size and weather data.

NEW WATER CONSERVATION BUSINESS PLAN  
Helps You Save Water, Money

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Southern California is in a drought, and the cost of water is on the rise. Local water agencies like EVMWD have to pay higher costs on imported water and tap into reserve resources just to ensure a reliable water supply for its customers.

EVMWD’s new water conservation business plan is a road map for increasing water conservation and identifying rebates for water savings.



REDUCE YOUR WATER WASTE!

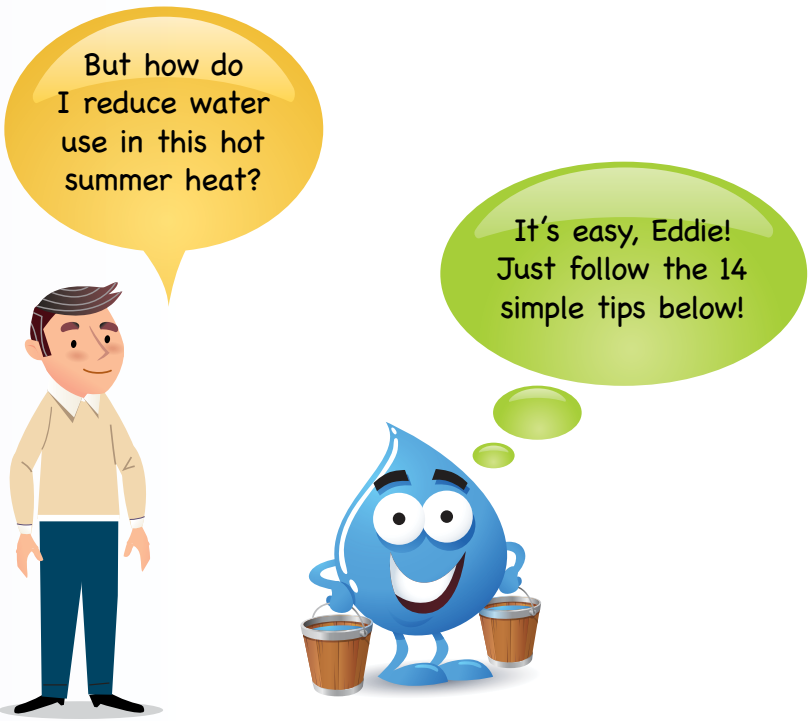
There are many ways to save hundreds of gallons of water per billing cycle and thousand of gallons per year. You can save money while you do it, too! These tips are designed to help reduce water usage which will translate into a lower monthly bill for residents.

WATER SAVING TIPS FOR ELSINORE EDDIE!

When he’s outside...

- 1. Plant California native plants instead of grass and you will save 60 gallons per day per 1,000 square feet!
- 2. Replace or eliminate your grass, and you will save up to 22,000 gallons of water per year for a 750-square-foot lawn.
- 3. Install drip irrigation and save between 20 and 25 gallons a day.
- 4. Shorten your watering cycles when watering your landscape and save 12 gallons each time you water.
- 5. Water landscaping early in the morning or at night to avoid water evaporation and save up to 25 gallons each watering cycle.
- 6. Use a self-closing spray nozzle on your hose and you will save up to 10 gallons each minute you use your hose.
- 7. Attend free landscape classes at EVMWD to learn what type of landscape is best for this climate.

Water Saving Tips for Elsinore Eddie!



That’s right! You can receive rebates on the following devices from EVMWD...\*

- MP Rotator Sprinkler Heads
- Irrigation Smart Controllers
- High-Efficiency Toilets
- High-Efficiency Clothes Washers
- EVMWD offers free low-flow showerheads and shower timers at customer request!



So hurry, Eddie, and don’t miss out on the great deals through EVMWD!!!

\*Rebates will be offered while supplies last and funding for rebates is available.

WATER SAVING TIPS FOR ELSINORE EDDIE!

When he’s inside...

- 1. Don’t leave the water running!!! You will save up to 8 gallons per minute.
- 2. Install a High-Efficiency Toilet and you will save up to 38 gallons per day.
- 3. Use faucet aerators and save up to 5.5 gallons per minute.
- 4. Repair leaky faucets and pipes and you’ll save up to 20 gallons per leak.
- 5. Save up to 15 gallons for every 10 minutes you are in the shower by installing a low-flow showerhead.
- 6. Install a high-efficiency clothes washer and you will save up to 18 gallons per load.
- 7. Only wash FULL loads of dishes or clothes and save up to 3 gallons per load.

WATER CRISIS

Water supplies to Southern California are being slashed this summer and reservoirs are at their lowest levels in two decades as California enters its third consecutive year of drought.



Lake Oroville, the state’s primary reservoir, is at just 64 percent of capacity.

The crisis is prompting water agencies across the state, including EVMWD, to adopt water conservation measures. Some agencies are rationing water.

The shortages are the result of a combination of factors, including below-normal amounts of rainfall and snowpack. Large California reservoirs are at one-third of their capacity and dropping.

Court-ordered pumping restrictions from the State Water Project (SWP), implemented to protect the delta smelt, also have decreased water deliveries to Southern California by 30 percent.

EVMWD depends on imported water to supply customer demand, receiving approximately 60 percent from outside sources. Another 30 percent comes from groundwater wells and 10 percent comes from Canyon Lake, the district’s sole source of surface water.

EVMWD is getting prepared by storing groundwater, locating new sources of drinking water, expanding recycled water usage and promoting water conservation.

The agency also is doing its part to help “Elsinore Eddie” find ways to save with a host of water conservation tips and tools. He can adjust his watering schedule and install MP rotators to save water and money under the district’s new allocation-based rate structure.

The new rate structure takes effect July 1 and is designed to help customers conserve water.

Do your part and watch your water waste, just like Elsinore Eddie. To find out more, call the conservation specialist at 951-674-3146 x8247, or go to [www.EVMWD.com/conservation](http://www.EVMWD.com/conservation).

Watch Your Water Waste!



EVMWD’S PROHIBITION of WATER WASTE ORDINANCE

If Elsinore Eddie doesn’t do what he can to reduce his water waste, EVMWD has a new Prohibition of Water Waste Ordinance to help guide him to efficient water use.

The ordinance has the following prohibitions...:

- Excessive water runoff due to overwatering or broken sprinkler systems
- Failure to repair leaky faucets, toilets and pipes after more than seven days
- Using water to wash down paved surfaces
- Using decorative fountains not equipped with a recirculation system
- Allowing water to run while washing automobiles, boats, equipment, etc.
- Watering landscape areas when it is raining
- Watering between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. except in limited instances

...And the following requirements:

- Installation of pool and spa covers where possible
- Restaurants serve water only upon request and use low-flow pre-rinse spray valves
- Hotels and motels give guests the option of reusing their linens
- Single-pass cooling systems no longer allowed in new construction
- All new commercial car washes or laundries must use re-circulating systems

EVMWD will provide multiple notices alerting customers of water waste and ways to correct the problem. However, if the problem persists, EVMWD may issue penalties of up to \$250, even for Elsinore Eddie.

Help us save water. If you see water waste in the community, please call EVMWD’s Water Conservation hotline at 951-894-8720.



Rob Whipple, EVMWD’s conservation specialist, leads a class on water-efficient landscaping. The next class is scheduled for Sept. 26 at EVMWD.

THE COMMUNITY CALENDAR

JULY

4th...Lake Elsinore Free Fishing Day

11th...Awesome 80s Concert Festival at Storm Stadium at 7 p.m.

22th...The 8th Annual Pirate’s Treasure Reverse Drawing at Storm Stadium from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

AUGUST

5th...EVMWD Blood Drive at EVMWD headquarters from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

15th, 22nd, 29th...Music with a View at McVicker Park from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

7th...Lake Elsinore Free Fishing Day

19th-20th...Wagon Wheel Country Music Festival at Lake Elsinore Diamond starts at 11 a.m.

26th...Water Conservation Class at EVMWD headquarters from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES

Every Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Marketplace at the Diamond in Lake Elsinore.

1st Saturday of every month Hazardous Waste Disposal Day 521 N. Langstaff St., Lake Elsinore 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month Lake Elsinore Cruise Nights from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Lake Elsinore Marketplace on Central between Dexter and Cambern.