**ETWD - Website**

**Water Budget-Based Tiered Rate Structure**

**Introducing... A New Tiered Rate Structure**

Like many water districts across southern Orange County, El Toro Water District imports nearly 100% of its water supply. The reliability of our imported supply is at risk due to a confluence of issues including two straight years of below-average rainfall; very low snowmelt runoff and the largest court-ordered water transfer restrictions in state history. As a result, our water supplier, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, reduced our water allocation and forced ETWD to follow suit and implement a water allocation plan in April 2009.

In an ongoing effort to encourage water efficiency and promote fairness, ETWD will launch a new-tiered rate structure in July 2010. Our new Water Budget-Based Tiered Rate Structure rewards customers who use water responsibly and discourages waste.

Similar to the allocation program, the Water Budget-Based Tiered Rate structure acknowledges that not all water uses are equal in their benefits to the community. The first priority for water use is for health, safety and sanitary purposes.

Indoor water use budgets will be calculated based on the number of residents in the home and an average use per day, per person. Outdoor water use budgets will be calculated based on the size of the property's estimated irrigated area, County parcel data (lot size), GIS information (house footprint, garage area and driveway) and historical weather data.

Actual budgets will vary based on special needs. Customers may apply for a variance to their water budget to adjust the number people in the household, irrigation area or for special circumstances.

ETWD will continue to share additional information about the Water Budget-Based Tiered Rate Structure in the months ahead. For the most current information, visit our Web site at www.etwd.com