










# ELDORADO AREA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT WATER NOTES

<http://www.EAWSD.org>

October 2024, Volume 19, Issue 10

## Winter Is Coming... *Tips for preparing before the first freeze*

To minimize the risk of freeze damage to your outside spigots and landscape irrigation system or pipes in uninsulated areas of your home, it is important to "winterize" your fixtures and system **before** the first freeze and preferably no later than the end of October. By winterizing your outdoor water system now, you will reduce the chance of having a major leak when the system is reactivated in the spring. In turn, it will save you time and a potentially costly repair later.

-   **Blow out your sprinkler system** to prevent water from freezing and cracking the lines. PLEASE NOTE: the air pressure should never exceed 80 PSI.
-   **Prep outside faucets and yard hydrants** by disconnecting, draining, and removing hoses and checking washers to make sure there are no leaks that could freeze and back up into household plumbing. Unless exterior faucets are the self-draining, "freeze-resistant" type, all faucets or hose bibs should have the water supply turned off inside the house, if possible, and water drained by opening up the exterior faucet. If no inside shut off is available, exterior foam insulating covers should be installed over the fixtures.
-   **Drain your water barrels** to prevent the possibility of water freezing and cracking the container. It is recommended to detach the rain barrel from the downspout and remove attachments from the rain barrel.
-   **Check your irrigation system** for drain valves. If you determine that your system does not have drain valves, simply turn off your sprinkler system *prior* to the onset of winter and freezing temperatures.
-   **Wrap exposed pipes** with insulating material to protect them from the cold, including any exposed water pipes in unheated garages.
-   **Disconnect drip timers and drip systems**, if you have them. Make sure that you turn off all automatic cycles for your system. If sprinkler heads crack or break without you noticing, your yard will likely flood in spring when you turn your system back to automatic settings.
-   **Know where your master water shut-off valve is located** and make sure everyone in your home knows where it is too. If you don't know where the master shut-off valve is located in your house or if your home does not have one, contact a plumber.

If for any reason your water needs to be shut off at the water meter, call either of the numbers below:  
**(505) 466-1085 during regular business hours (M-F): 8 am to 5 pm OR**  
**(505) 780-0090 AFTER HOURS and on weekends or holidays**

**If you do not feel qualified to winterize your irrigation system on your own, you may want to consult with a qualified licensed landscape contractor. Some landscape maintenance companies may offer consultation services or you can ask your friends and neighbors for a reliable recommendation.**

## Question of the Month

**QUESTION: *When will the new Rate Schedule for 2025-2029 go into effect?***

**ANSWER:** As reported in prior issues of *Water Notes*, the current 4-year 2020-2024 Rate Schedule will conclude at the end of 2024. With this in mind, a new COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN STUDY was initiated nearly 2 years ago to re-evaluate our water utility's financial situation and make recommendations for needed rate adjustments to ensure a reliable, safe water supply and to systematically fund future water needs and replacement of aging infrastructure. The findings and recommendations resulting from the COST OF SERVICE AND RATE DESIGN STUDY were presented at an informal public forum held on 1/31/24, where ratepayers/customers gave feedback for the EAWSD Board to take into consideration during their final deliberations to accept or deny the proposed rate model at their 2/21/24 Board meeting. Ultimately, the Board did authorize an adjustment to rates, tolls, fees or charges by Resolution N<sup>o</sup>. 24-02-01. To conclude the process, a formal Public Hearing was conducted by Mr. Peter Gould, an independent Hearing Officer certified by the NM Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC), on 3/27/2024, regarding the Board's decision to adopt the proposed Rate Schedule per Resolution N<sup>o</sup>. 24-02-01. On 4/18/24, following the Public Hearing, Mr. Gould rendered his decision stating that based on his review of the hearing transcript and all supporting commentary and exhibits presented at the Public Hearing, he recommended that the 2025-2029 Rate Schedule be adopted. To view more detailed information on the Hearing Officer's decision and adoption of the 2025-2029 Rate Schedule click the following link: May 2024 issue of *Water Notes*.

MONTHLY RATES	Current 2024	2025
<b>Base Rates</b> PER METERED CONNECTION		
In-District	\$29.91	\$31.41
Out-of-District	\$60.56	\$75.78
<b>Volumetric Rates</b> WATER USAGE PER 1,000 GALLONS		
3,000 gallons or less	\$12.82	\$13.27
3,001 – 6,000 gallons	\$16.03	\$16.59
6,001 – 10,000 gallons	\$21.82	\$23.22
10,001 – 20,000 gallons	\$37.46	\$40.64
20,001 – 30,000 gallons	\$64.53	\$71.12
Over 30,000 gallons	\$96.81	\$106.68



EAWSD has resumed meeting in person for the monthly Board meeting. The meeting is held in the EAWSD Public Conference Room at 2 N. Chamisa Dr. If an attendee prefers to participate in a Board or Committee meeting via ZOOM.com, please call (505) 466-2411 or email: [admin.manager@EAWSD.org](mailto:admin.manager@EAWSD.org) and an invitation and call-in number will be sent to you. Each meeting has a time for public comment.

The Board meeting agenda is posted in advance on the District website and at outdoor displays at the EAWSD Administrative office, Agora Shopping Center and ECIA.

**For water emergencies during business hours, call 505-466-1085**

**For water emergencies after hours and on holidays, call 505-780-0090**

### Next Month in *Water Notes*

- From the General Manager
- Recent Board Activities
- Sustainability Corner
- Sept. 2024 System Updates
- News Briefs

### ELDORADO AREA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

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## EAWSO Committee Member Spotlight — Meet Leslie Bischoff



I moved to Eldorado in 1994, after contracting with the USDA Forest Service then beginning a job at the Laboratory of Anthropology on Museum Hill. My husband Richard and I purchased a home in Eldorado and have lived in the same house ever since. I've always been interested in challenging water issues in our community, as well as the state and Southwest in general. In 2021, after a member of the FINANCIAL AND AUDIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAAC) overheard my comments about the SF County/EAWSO Joint Waterline extension project that, at the time, was temporarily serving a handful of Cañoncito residents, I was asked to join the FAAC. My core background is in computer science, particularly in database design and development. I also have experience in project management and budget preparation, but not specifically in financial management. However, other members of the FAAC have strong financial and accounting backgrounds and other skill sets they bring to the committee, and it seems that the combination of professional backgrounds brings a healthy balance in perspective. As part of the FAAC committee, I have been able to assist the District's outsourced IT consultant in developing an IT DISASTER RECOVERY PLAN, as well serve as a contributing member to the newly formed EAWSO WASTEWATER TASKFORCE subcommittee.

I also volunteer for the cat rescue, FELINES AND FRIENDS, and enjoy the abundance of cultural activities in and around Santa Fe, and the wonderful art classes at the Santa Fe Community College. Participating as a member of the FAAC committee is a great opportunity to not only give back to the community, but to continue to utilize my professional skills, meet and collaborate with new people and work together to keep the District moving forward in a positive direction.

FROM MANAGEMENT & STAFF: "Thank you Leslie for your continued support serving as a member on the Finance & Audit Advisory Committee (FAAC) over the past few years. In just a few short years, you have generously conveyed your specialized knowledge and expertise from your past professional endeavors and provided insightful assessments on the various financial decisions the FAAC is tasked with reviewing before it goes to the Board. We are especially appreciative that despite all of your altruistic commitments to other community organizations, that you still make time to serve on the FAAC and attend and report on outside community meetings concerning important water issues."

## Recent Board Activities

If there is any supporting documentation regarding any of the Recent Board Activities as shown below, the link is provided. You can also email [admin.assistant@EAWSO.org](mailto:admin.assistant@EAWSO.org) or call 505-466-2411 for additional information.

- ▶ Heard a presentation given by Molzen Corbin (*Information only*)
- ▶ Approved Resolution N<sup>o</sup>. 25-09-01 authorizing the commitment of local matching funds for submission of an application for financial assistance and project approval to the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA)
- ▶ Approved award of a contract for construction of Solar Canopies at the Administration Building & Field Workshop by Resolution N<sup>o</sup>. 25-09-02
- ▶ Approved award of a contract for construction of the Balsa Road Service Lateral Replacement project by Resolution N<sup>o</sup>. 25-09-03
- ▶ Approved award and execution of a 4-year contract with Molzen Corbin to provide Engineering & Architectural Services

## System Management Updates

### August 2024 System Management Updates

12,955,000 gallons were pumped for the month of August from Wells 2A, 2B, 8, 14, 15, 17 & 18. Additionally, 4,722,000 gallons were delivered from SF County.

### Work Order History for the Month of August 2024

- ◆ 313 total service orders were completed.
  - 79 customer service work orders.
  - 234 system maintenance work orders.
- ◆ There were four (4) customers shut-off in August owing to payment delinquency.

In the month of August approximately **86 water samples** were tested for chlorine from multiple sites. All resulted in normal readings. Eight (8) samples for Bac-T (fecal and e-coli tests) were sent to a State Certified Laboratory in Santa Fe, and all were rated "Excellent."

## Sustainability Corner



Our resident SUSTAINABILITY CHAMPION, Melinda Ybarra, (*shown on the left*) shared her recent experience attending the annual SOUTHWEST SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE (SSC) which, this year, was held in Tucson, AZ.

Some of you might recall that last year's SSC was held here in Eldorado and was coordinated and hosted by Melinda. The ~11 JACOBS employees in attendance from neighboring southwestern states helped build four new flower beds at the KEN & PATTY ADAMS SENIOR CENTER for growing herbs and vegetables for the Senior Center's kitchen staff to use in meal preparation.



This year's community service project was helping to clear and clean up the garden at the University of Arizona and tour their sustainability facility, as well as an exchange of ideas on how to sustainably improve their local environments, including their office settings and creating their office settings and creating

sustainable goals for next year. Thank you Melinda for your ongoing support and contributions to our organization and the community!

## News Briefs

### ◆ REMINDER TO VOTE — ELECTION DAY IS ON 11/5/24.



If you choose to vote in-person on that day, local polling locations will be open from 7:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. Early in-person voting begins in the Office of the County Clerk on Tuesday, Oct. 8th, with extended early voting beginning Oct. 19th throughout the County and expanded early voting locations. For more information on polling locations and requirements, visit the SF County Clerk's webpage: <https://www.santafecountynm.gov/clerk/elections/2024-general-election>. **Make your vote count!**

### ◆ EAWSO ALERT NOTIFICATION SIGN-UP. Many customers



are not aware that they can sign up to receive alert notifications from EAWSO during an emergency situation that can impact water service to their home or when there is an unexpected service outage in a neighborhood or in the community. If you haven't already enrolled, EAWSO strongly urges all customers to do so. A sign-up link is provided on the homepage at [www.eawso.org](http://www.eawso.org). Under the NEWS &

NOTICES heading, just click on the **EAWSO ALERT** logo (as shown above) and it will navigate to the sign-up page. If you need help, contact (505) 466-2411 for assistance. **NOTE:** Alerts will only be sent when deemed absolutely necessary and/or if they are time sensitive.