



# ELDORADO AREA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT WATER NOTES

<http://www.EAWSD.org>

May 2025 Volume 20, Issue 5

## Summer Watering Restrictions & Conservation Surcharge in Effect



EAWSD has resumed meeting in person for the monthly Board meeting. The meetings are 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
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### ELDORADO AREA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

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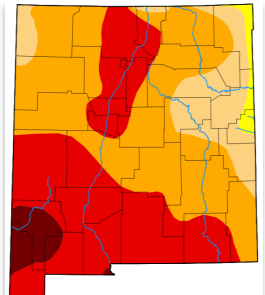


As mentioned in last month's *Water Notes*, the District's ANNUAL SUMMER WATERING RESTRICTIONS AND CONSERVATION SURCHARGE are in effect as of May 1<sup>st</sup> and will continue through August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Mandatory implementation of these two "water management" initiatives are more important than ever owing to persistent drought conditions in New Mexico and its neighboring states with limited or no other resources to draw from.

Why does EAWSD constantly urge you to be mindful of your water usage, particularly during the summer months? Take a look at the drought monitor map below on the right. It shows an increasing portion of SF County to be in "EXTREME DROUGHT" conditions. This is the reason we are urging our customers to diligently observe the summer watering restriction guidelines as outlined below. Our collective efforts will help to ensure that the community's wells can sustain the water supply required to meet customer demand during peak summer usage and maintain water in the tanks to the necessary levels. Keep in mind that the General Manager or Board may initiate a more restrictive Stage Alert at any time due to worsening drought conditions and/or high wildfire risk.

### GUIDELINES FOR SUMMER WATERING RESTRICTIONS:

- Outdoor watering of *non-food producing* landscapes is restricted to **one of the following two options** of the customer's choosing:
    - Any three (3) Weekdays, (NO WEEKEND WATERING); OR**
    - Two (2) days per week including ONE (1) weekend day as follows:**
      - ODD-NUMBERED house addresses on Tuesday and Saturday.
      - EVEN-NUMBERED house addresses on Thursday and Sunday.
  - Outdoor watering during the cooler part of the day — **BEFORE 9:00 am and AFTER 6:00 ONLY.**
  - No washing of outdoor hard surfaces (e.g., driveways, patios, sidewalks).
  - No washing of vehicles, including recreational vehicles or trailers.
  - Filling or adding water to a covered outdoor spa/hot tub is *allowed*. However, filling or adding water to pools or outdoor water features (e.g., fountains, ponds) is *NOT allowed*.
  - No water use or sales from District fire hydrants, except in accordance with contract requirements for EAWSD contractors.
- \* Note that all restrictions presented apply only to the use of EAWSD water and not to the use of recycled and/or catchment water.



#### Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- No Data

**THE WATER CONSERVATION SURCHARGE** will commence at the same time as the Summer Watering Restrictions. Customer water use for **May, (billed in June) through August, (billed in September)** will be subject to the District's annual Conservation Surcharge. The Conservation Surcharge applies only to residential customers who **use more than 10,000 gallons of water in any of those months**. If you exceed the 10,000 gallons per month, you will be charged an additional 50% of the applicable rate tier for water use in excess of 10,000 gallons. Customers who use less than 10,000 gallons per month during summer months *will not be affected* by the Conservation Surcharge. Please do your part to conserve water during the critical summer months.

## 2025 Earth Day Community Outreach Event — *EyeOnWater App*



On April 12th, 2025, staff members from Jacobs and EAWSD participated in ECIA's annual Earth Day community event, organized and managed by the District's resident Sustainability Leader, MELINDA ORTIZ. EAWSD's event table focused on helping customers get signed up for the **EYEONWATER** app, a tool that allows for self-management of daily water use and to receive alert notifications of potential catastrophic and costly leaks. In addition, there were handouts focused on suggested water conservation practices and drought-tolerant plantings for the summer. KAREN SWEENEY, pictured to the right, was the lucky winner of the rain barrel giveaway. Congratulations to Karen and our Jacobs/EAWSD team for another great success at the 2025 ECIA Earth Day event!



## Proper Management of Irrigation Systems — Help Prevent Leaks!



As the community continues to monitor its water consumption and manage the precious resource of water, you, as water consumers, play an important role in helping to insure adequate water delivery to all customers during the peak summer months (June to August). In turn, that helps you manage your summer water bills.

We'll start by adding another checklist of actions that specifically target EAWSD's biggest culprit for catastrophic leaks; *irrigation systems*. If you have an irrigation system, it is important to thoroughly check your system for potential leaks and water line breaks *before* placing it in service and throughout the summer, as well as after each winter season, regardless of how new it is. If you are unable to inspect your own system or you don't know what to look for, it is always a good idea to hire a drip irrigation specialist who is familiar with installing, maintaining and repairing irrigation systems. Sometimes critters chew through lines or lines freeze and crack, or emitters get clogged with debris, so to the untrained eye the system may appear to be functioning properly...until you receive your water bill the following month.

The second biggest cause of catastrophic leaks is not setting the irrigation system's automatic timer properly. To comply with the SUMMER WATERING RESTRICTIONS, it is recommended that you or a professional drip irrigation specialist set automatic timers to activate at appropriate times on the recommended watering days and *never* leave an irrigation system unattended while you are out of town, even if it is just one or two days. If you leave a friend or neighbor in charge of your irrigation system, make sure that they understand how to operate the system or know who to call if your system malfunctions while you are away.

### HERE ARE SOME HINTS TO ENSURE THAT YOUR DRIP IRRIGATION SYSTEM IS WORKING PROPERLY:

- ♦ **CONSULT** your equipment owner's manual for information on cleaning filters, replacing batteries, (if appropriate) etc. Online resources are also helpful, from your manufacturer and others.
- ♦ **SET** your drip irrigation system for a time and frequency that coincides with the SUMMER WATERING RESTRICTIONS:
  - (1) **THREE WEEKDAYS**, including Monday, Wednesday and/or Friday (NO WEEKEND WATERING); **OR**
  - (2) **TWO DAYS PER WEEK**, including ONE weekend day as follows:
    - a. **Odd-numbered** home addresses on **Tuesday and Saturday**
    - b. **Even-numbered** home addresses on **Thursday and Sunday**

Avoid watering on windy or rainy days and during the middle of the day.

- ♦ **FLUSH** your drip tubing periodically; water quality, including filtering, will determine the frequency of flushing. Catch any water released by the flushing so that you can use it to hand water other plants.
- ♦ **INSPECT** the system while it is running. Are all emitters working? Are there any leaks? Fix any obvious problems. Be aware that exposed drip lines can be damaged by the sun, as well as chewed by critters. It is important to continue to check drip systems regularly.
- ♦ **SIZE** all the drip emitters to the needs of your plants. As your landscape matures, you may need to add, change or remove drippers or micro-sprinklers. Group plantings by watering needs.
- ♦ **SET UP** your EYEONWATER account and leak alert notification, which facilitates self-monitoring your water consumption and helps you identify and address a leak sooner rather than later. If you need help, call our Customer Service & Billing Office at (505) 466-1085.

If this sounds like too much work, it is recommended that you hire a local drip irrigation specialist to do your spring start-up and fall shut-down of your system. Another option to consider is hand watering with water collected in rain barrels that you can purchase at a local hardware store; many residents prefer this method to prevent the possibility of leaks and to control the exact amount of water applied to individual plants. Check the EAWSD conservation pages for links to websites with more information at <https://www.eawsd.org/copy-of-water-conservation-1>.

## System Management Updates

### March 2025 System Management Updates

**6,399,000** gallons were pumped for the month of March from Wells 2A, 2B, 7, 14, 15, 17 & 18. Additionally, 6,503,000 gallons were delivered from Santa Fe County.

### Work Order History for the Month of March 2025

- ♦ **380** total service orders were completed.
  - 55 customer service work orders.
  - 325 system maintenance work orders.
- ♦ There were two (2) customer shut-offs in March owing to payment delinquency.
- ♦ In the month of March approximately **77 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."

## 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@EAWSD.org](mailto:admin.assistant@EAWSD.org) or call 466-2411 for additional information.

- ♦ Approved the District's FY2027-2031 Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) submittal to the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) by Resolution N°. 25-04-01

## News Briefs

- ♦ **THE INTERIM FY2026 BUDGET will be presented for public comment** at the regularly scheduled Board meeting on May 21st at 5:30 PM. After considering any public comments, the Board will review and consider the Interim Budget for approval. Subsequently, the Interim Budget will be sent to the New Mexico Department of Finance, Local Government Division (DFA) for review and approval on or before 7/1/25. The Final Budget will be sent to DFA on or before 7/31/25.
- ♦ **EAWSD BUSINESS OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** on Monday, 5/26/25, in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday. If you experience a water emergency during this time, call the emergency number (505) 780-0090 and you will be directed to an on-call field technician.