



El Toro Water District • Summer 2026

WATER VIEWS

SERVING THE PUBLIC, RESPECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

CELEBRATING AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY

Honoring our nation's history and ETWD's legacy of service

On July 4, our nation celebrated the 250th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence. This historic milestone offered an opportunity to reflect on the values of freedom, democracy, innovation and public service. The ETWD Board of Directors adopted a resolution commemorating the 250th anniversary and reaffirming the District's commitment to serving our community.

Public service is one of the ideals that have helped shape America since its founding. Every day, ETWD employees carry that tradition forward by maintaining critical infrastructure, responding to emergencies, planning for future water reliability and providing exceptional customer service.

As we look toward the future, ETWD remains committed to investing in reliable infrastructure, protecting our water resources, embracing innovation and delivering outstanding service for generations to come.

ETWD Marks 66 Years of Serving the Community

While our nation celebrates 250 years of history, ETWD is proud to celebrate 66 years of serving our community. Since the District was formed in September 1960, our mission has remained steadfast: to provide safe, reliable, and high-quality drinking water, recycled water and wastewater services while protecting public health and investing in the future of our communities.

"As America celebrates its 250th anniversary, we also celebrate the dedicated employees, directors, customers and community partners who have made our District's legacy of public service possible." ETWD General Manager Dennis P. Cafferty said. "For 66 years, El Toro Water District has been proud to provide the essential water, recycled water and wastewater services our community depends on. As we honor our past, we remain focused on building a resilient and reliable future for the customers we serve."



ETWD staff brought the District's water trailer to the City of Laguna Hill's America 250 Fourth of July Celebration event to provide drinking water to attendees.



SALUTING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED

As we reflect on our nation's 250th anniversary, ETWD sincerely thanks our employees, an ETWD Board member and our community members who have proudly served in the United States military, along with their families. We extend our sincere appreciation to ETWD staff members Michael Snow and Robert McKern for their military service and for their continued commitment to serving our community through their work at ETWD. Their dedication exemplifies our values of service, integrity and commitment.

"SERVING IN THE ARMY SHOWED ME THAT TRUE SERVICE ISN'T ABOUT RECOGNITION. IT'S ABOUT COMMITMENT, SACRIFICE AND DOING WHAT'S RIGHT, EVEN WHEN IT'S DIFFICULT."

— ETWD Chief Plant Operator WRP
Michael Snow, U.S. Army Veteran

EL TORO WATER DISTRICT

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2026 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT AVAILABLE NOW



ETWD's latest Drinking Water Quality Report provides quick, easy access to clear information about your water, from source to tap. In the 2026 report, we are proud to share exactly how your drinking water continues to meet all state and federal standards.

Review the report to learn:



The actions ETWD takes every day to deliver safe reliable drinking water to you



How ETWD's water quality test results reveal water quality you can trust



How ETWD's constant water monitoring ensures continued excellence



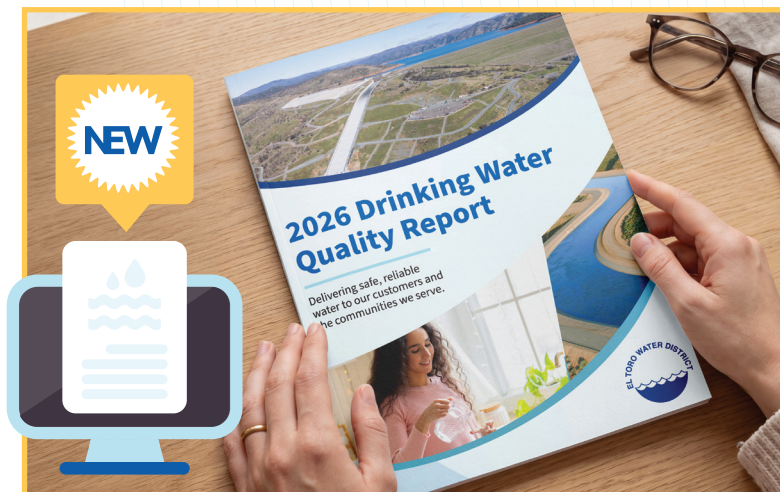
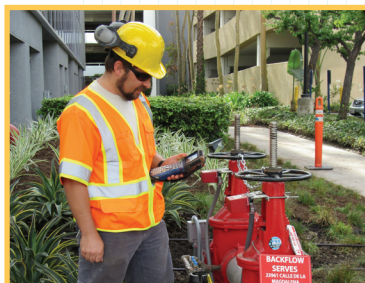
How your water compares to state standards



Where your water comes from



View the Water Quality Report at [ETWD.com](https://www.ETWD.com)



FIRE HYDRANT & WATER MAINLINE FLUSHING HELPS KEEP YOUR WATER SYSTEM RELIABLE

As part of El Toro Water District's ongoing commitment to providing safe, high-quality water and maintaining a reliable distribution system, ETWD crews regularly perform preventative flushing of fire hydrants and water mains throughout the District.

During this routine maintenance, you may see ETWD personnel releasing water from fire hydrants or water mains. Flushing removes naturally occurring sediment that can build up inside water pipes, helping to maintain water quality and improve the appearance of your tap water. It also allows crews to inspect and test fire hydrants to ensure they are operating properly and capable of providing the necessary flow and pressure during a fire or other emergency.

While flushing is taking place, customers in the immediate area may temporarily notice discolored water or small amounts of sediment. Although the water remains safe to use, any discoloration can typically be cleared by running cold water from your faucets for a few minutes.

To keep customers informed, ETWD posts signs in neighborhoods where flushing is scheduled. Our crews also perform this important maintenance as efficiently as possible to minimize water use while protecting the reliability of the water system.

If you have any questions about the Fire Hydrant and Water Main Flushing Program, please contact us at **(949) 837-7050**.





BEHIND THE SCENES AT ETWD

ENSURING WATER QUALITY

Yesenia Ocampo

PLANT OPERATOR

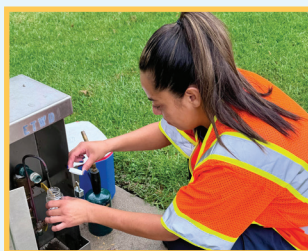
Experience

Yesenia has 10 years experience in the water industry and holds a Grade 2 Drinking Water Distribution and a T2 Water Treatment operator certifications.

Top Priorities

Collecting water samples accurately and safely so they can be analyzed for quality, contamination and regulatory compliance.

"I take pride in collecting water samples that help ensure our customers receive high-quality drinking water. It's rewarding to work alongside a dedicated team that is committed to serving our community."



Cheyne Madero

MAINTENANCE WORKER III

Experience

Three years in the water industry.

Top Priorities

One of our annual maintenance programs is the blow-off valve flushing program. We flush blow-off valves located at dead-end water mains to maintain water quality throughout the distribution system. During the flushing process, we verify that chlorine residual levels meet District standards and help ensure the continued reliability and integrity of our water distribution infrastructure.

"At ETWD, we are committed to providing our customers with the highest level of service. Every member of our team takes pride in delivering reliable, high-quality water service while responding to our customers' needs with professionalism, integrity and respect."



Cheyne Madero, pictured right

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT PFAS

ETWD does NOT have PFAS in its water supply

ETWD customers can rest assured knowing that ETWD does not have PFAS in its water supply. Your drinking water is safe and meets all state and federal standards. ETWD recognizes that our customers may have heard about PFAS in the news. Here are key facts about PFAS.

WHAT ARE PFAS?

Per and Poly-FluoroAlkyl Substances (PFAS) are a family of thousands of human-made chemicals that have been used by a variety of industries since 1940 to repel water, grease and stains in industrial and consumer products. The manufacturing and use of these chemicals in firefighting foams, fabrics, non-stick cookware and food packaging cause PFAS byproducts to enter the air, soil and groundwater, affecting both natural and domestic water systems. Due to their widespread use, most people have been exposed to PFAS.

PFAS do not break down naturally and accumulate in humans and the environment. These "forever chemicals" can stick around for decades, affecting our

soil, air, wildlife and even our health. While the production and use of PFAS has been widely discontinued, several products containing PFAS may still be imported.

PFAS chemicals can enter the water cycle when products containing them are used or spilled onto the ground and seep into the groundwater supply. They can also be carried through the air and end up in water sources used for drinking water.

WHAT ARE REGULATORS AND WATER AGENCIES DOING ABOUT PFAS?

Soon, U.S. state and federal agencies will regulate PFAS, limiting how much is present in drinking water.

Scientists and water quality specialists at the federal, state and local levels, including ETWD, continuously monitor and test the water supply. Water agencies that have PFAS in their water supply are mitigating PFAS by shutting down affected water sources and switching to alternate supplies or implementing advanced treatment methods to protect consumers.



IS ETWD'S WATER SAFE? IS THERE PFAS IN MY WATER?

ETWD's water is safe. ETWD does NOT have PFAS in the water supply. Your drinking water continues to meet all federal and state drinking water quality standards and is safe to drink. ETWD closely monitors the quality of the water we deliver to ensure that any emerging PFAS concerns are transparently addressed and effectively handled.

Questions about PFAS? Call ETWD Customer Service at (949) 837-0660 or visit the link below:

www.etwd.com/your-water/water-quality/pfas

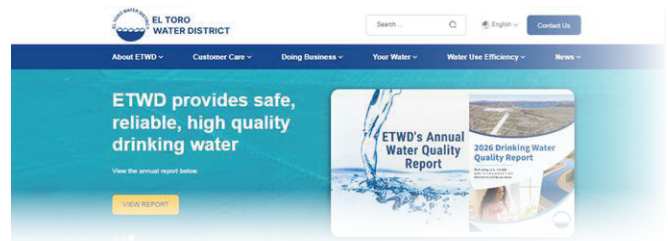
IN THE COMMUNITY



In April, ETWD staff hosted an activity booth at the 30th Annual Children's Water Education Festival. This event is hosted by the Orange County Water District and is the largest event of its kind in the U.S., bringing together third, fourth and fifth grade students from across Orange County for two days of interactive activities related to science, water resources and environmental stewardship.

ETWD's activity was called "Flow Finders: Journey through the Water Meter." The activity demonstrated how water runs through a meter and provided a visual of how much water could be lost by running faucets or leaks in a household.

Gates Elementary School, Ms. Klug's 4th Grade Class



New ETWD Website Coming Soon

ETWD is putting the finishing touches on a new, user-friendly website designed to make it easier to access District services and information. The redesigned site will feature improved navigation, enhanced accessibility, updated security and streamlined access to online bill pay, conservation programs, public notices and District news. Stay tuned, official launch coming soon!

Connect with ETWD at the next Community Advisory Group Meeting

Since 1993, ETWD's Community Advisory Group meetings have fostered the exchange of information between ETWD customers, staff and elected officials. Join us at the next CAG meeting.

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2026
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Lunch will be provided. Scan the QR code to sign up for CAG Meeting invitations.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS



PRESIDENT

Kathryn Freshley

DIRECTOR

Mark Monin

VICE PRESIDENT

Kay Havens

DIRECTOR

Wyatt McClean

DIRECTOR

Mike Gaskins

GENERAL MANAGER

Dennis P. Cafferty

The Board of Directors meeting takes place on the fourth Thursday of the month, and the Engineering and Finance Committee meets on the Monday before the Board of Directors meeting. Both meetings start at 7:30 a.m. in person and via Zoom teleconference.

We encourage you to join us. Meeting agendas are posted on our website and include teleconference access and instructions. Learn more: etwd.com/governance/meetings-agendas-minutes

ETWD delivers drinking water, recycled water and wastewater services to customers in the City of Laguna Woods and portions of the cities of Lake Forest, Mission Viejo, Laguna Hills and Aliso Viejo

Have questions? Call us at (949) 837-7050 or email us at district@etwd.com.

