



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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El Toro Water District Hosts a Groundbreaking Ceremony and Begins New Phases of the Recycled Water Expansion Project

Now 35 percent complete, the Recycled Water Expansion Project is a comprehensive, multi-phase venture that will increase the amount of recycled water produced for local irrigation.

Lake Forest, CA – El Toro Water District continues to move its Recycled Water Expansion Project forward with a recent groundbreaking ceremony for the Tertiary Treatment Plant and the upcoming start of construction in the North Laguna Hills project area. To date, more than 36,000 feet of pipeline has been installed.

The District is expanding its existing Water Recycling Plant to nearly triple the amount of recycled water it treats and delivers from 500 acre feet per year to approximately 1,400 acre feet per year - that is the equivalent of covering the entire footprint of Laguna Woods Village with five inches of water or filling Angel Stadium nineteen times.

The start of tertiary treatment plant construction was recently recognized with a groundbreaking ceremony attended by elected officials from across the region, including Assemblyman Allan Mansoor, Laguna Woods Mayor Bob Ring, Laguna Hills Mayor Barbara Kogerman, Mission Viejo Mayor Rhonda Reardon and Laguna Hills Council Member Randal Bressette. Both Mayor Ring and Mayor Kogerman applauded the District's Board of Directors for their outstanding leadership and service to community, and praised the visionary, innovative project.

"Last time I checked, we live on an irrigated desert," shared Mayor Ring. "Without water, there would have been no Leisure World. Without this project our community can't continue to flourish."

Construction at the Water Recycling Plant is expected to be complete in the fall of 2014.

In addition to construction at the plant, a new recycled water distribution system continues to be built beneath roadways in portions of Laguna Woods and the northwest portion of Laguna Hills. In the next few weeks, pipeline installation for the East Side System will be complete while work in the North Side System will begin.

The East Side System, generally bounded by El Toro Road on the south, the I-5 freeway on the east, Ridge Route Drive on the north and Moulton Parkway is expected to be complete in early October. Construction on the last pipeline area, the North Side System, is expected to begin in late September or early October. The North Side System is located in north Laguna Hills bordered by Lake Forest Drive to the north, Ridge Route Drive to the south, Laguna Coast Wilderness Park to the west and I-5 to the east.

The largest area of pipeline installation is the West Side System, located south of Ridge Route Drive, north of El Toro Road and east of Moulton Parkway. That portion of the project began in April 2013 and will continue through 2014.

Residents across the community have found invaluable construction information on the District's website www.etwd.com and through the dedicated project helpline 949.837.0880. The website provides an interactive map that allows residents to enter their address and find out if they will be impacted by construction. The helpline is staffed by a project specialist during regular business hours to answer information about project schedules, possible street detours and traffic delays. Residents are encouraged to use the website and/or the helpline for any project questions.

Thank you for your patience while we continue to enhance our community and environment.

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The mission of the El Toro Water District is to provide its customers a safe, adequate and reliable supply of water and wastewater service in an environmentally and economically responsible way.

Photo caption information

ETWD Groundbreaking – Mayors and Directors:

(Left to right) Barbara Kogerman (Mayor of Laguna Hills), Jose F. Vergara (ETWD Director), M. Scott Goldman (ETWD Board Vice President), Ted F. Martin (ETWD Board President), William H. Kahn (ETWD Director), Jerard B. Werner (ETWD Director) and Bob Ring (Mayor of Laguna Woods).