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**Community to flush out 13 million gallons a year in water savings**

LAKE FOREST, Calif., (Nov. 14, 2014) – The El Toro Water District (ETWD) is on its way to saving more than 13 million gallons of water per year through a toilet replacement program. To understand what 13 million gallons looks like, just imagine 13 football field-sized swimming pools at ten feet deep.

ETWD applied for a rebate on behalf of the United Mutual community in Laguna Woods Village, and recently received approval for \$90,000 in rebates to replace toilets through a program sponsored by the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

“The largest amount of water used inside your home goes toward flushing the toilet,” said MWDOC Water Use Efficiency Program Manager Joe Berg. “Our rebate programs for replacing old fixtures with new high efficiency ones makes it a win-win for everyone, and most importantly helps fight the drought.”

Engaging and involving the community in water conservation to help fight the drought is a top priority for ETWD. Mike King, Customer Service Manager for ETWD is leading the effort with United Mutual.

“Whenever we can proactively help our customers save water and money, we need to make that happen,” said King. “This rebate program from MWDOC that ETWD participates in will make an impact and our customers will see the benefits. It helps us to be good stewards of water during the drought and to pass along more savings to those we serve.”

United Mutual is a cooperative located in Laguna Woods Village, in the City of Laguna Woods with a population of more than 9,000 residents in about 6,300 units. The toilet replacement program will cover about one third of the units by the end of next year.

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“Most of our residents are on a fixed income. Every little bit helps when it comes to savings. Thanks to El Toro Water District and MWDOC, our residents get new fixtures and will see a long term cost savings as water usage declines,” said Pat English, President of the United Mutual Board of Directors.

“Our residents are genuinely pleased when our crews come around to install the new fixtures. They appreciate what we are doing, and when we tell them how much water it saves, their reactions show amazement. This conservation program is really having an impact within Laguna Woods Village,” said Jerry Storage, Laguna Woods Village General Manager.

More conservation and drought awareness information is available at [www.ETWD.com](http://www.ETWD.com) and additional rebate information can be found on the new water use efficiency website, [www.ocwatersmart.com](http://www.ocwatersmart.com).

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The El Toro Water District (ETWD), is a District of Distinction accredited by the Special District Leadership Foundation because of its commitment to good governance and to ethical and sound operating practices. ETWD provides full service potable water, wastewater and recycled water for use across portions of the cities of Aliso Viejo, Lake Forest, Laguna Hills and Mission Viejo and the entire city of Laguna Woods.

The Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) is Orange County’s imported water supplier and resource planning agency. We are dedicated to ensuring a reliable water supply for the 2.2 million Orange County residents we serve through our 28 member agencies.