

**BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES IN A MOUNTAIN
COUNTY WATER AGENCY**

TOM CUMPSTON, EID GENERAL COUNSEL

MAY 21, 2014

Water-Use Efficiency and BMPs

- Mountain Counties water agencies are leaders, not laggards
- EID is a representative case in point
- The smaller the agency, the greater the feasibility and financial challenges
 - Even EID relies heavily upon grant funding

Water Conservation

- EID began lining ditches when formed in 1925
- First California ID with a water conservation plan (1970s)
- 1977 – Began Irrigation Management Service
 - Soil-moisture readings
 - CIMIS data
 - Computerized, site-specific watering schedules
 - 2,000 af/year savings

Water Conservation (cont.)

- 100% metering policy adopted 1980
- By 2025, fully metered for 40 years
- 1985 – first residential water audit (grant)
- 1987 – leak detection program begun (grant)
- 1995 – first low-flow toilet rebate (grant)
- 1990s – inclining-block conservation pricing

Water Conservation (cont.)

- Signatory to CUWCC MOU
 - Comply with all applicable BMPs
 - More than 4,000 af of documented BMP water savings since 2002
- 2005 – AWWARF water-loss study (grant)
 - Losses at “economic level”
 - Improved leak response, large-meter calibration
- 20 x 2020 legislation – EID on track for reduction targets
- State and national water conservation awards

A Leader in Energy Management

- 2006 – 1-MW solar field on-line at El Dorado Hills Wastewater Treatment Plant (50% grant)
 - Offsets nearly all energy use
 - Offsets 100% of energy costs
- 2005 – began re-operating water treatment plants to shift energy off-peak

Recycled Water



Recycled Water

- First deliveries in late 1970s
- Until 1990s, a conventional program
 - Industry, golf courses, turf, medians
- Then, a trailblazing residential program
 - Partnership with developer
 - Dual-plumbed units
 - Recycled for all front- and back-yard irrigation
 - About 4,000 units today
 - Drought-resistant; 2,500 af/yr potable savings

Summary

- Mountain Counties agencies practice water-use efficiency
- Early adopters and innovators
- Provide regional and state-wide benefits, but face steep financial obstacles
- Funding assistance is essential