



USBR's Kirk Rodgers (second from left) presents the Regional Director's Award to SJWD staff members Barbara Leatham, Shauna Lorange, Judy Gagnier and Robert Mitchell.

## DISTRICT RECOGNIZED FOR WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES

SJWD was recently praised by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for its efforts to practice and increase water efficiency. The district was awarded the 2005 Mid-Pacific Regional Director's Award, an honor bestowed on just one water provider in USBR's region that includes California, Nevada, and parts of Oregon, Utah and Arizona.

Over the past several years, the district has implemented a number of successful programs, with impressive measurable water savings. The district was commended for its innovative water conservation activities, such as its large landscape irrigation efficiency improvement program, pond efficiency rebate program, ET controller rebate program, water metering program, and several other rebate programs and water efficiency services for customers.

In addition to the many efficiency rebate programs, SJWD is a leader in developing programs that go beyond its state and federally mandated requirements. It is currently partnering with other water providers to create a regional master plan to ensure a high-quality water supply for the next 30 years.

**While the district is proud to accept such an honor, we recognize that such accomplishments could not be achieved without the cooperation and efforts of our customers. Thank you for supporting us in our work!**

## BALANCE SEASONAL WATER BILLS

Enjoy consistent water bills throughout the year by taking advantage of the district's equalized payment plan.



Water consumption can fluctuate seasonally resulting in unbalanced water bills, but with the equalized payment plan, you will be billed the same amount on every two-month water bill. The billed amount is set by calculating a 12-month average of your bills based on previous consumption. The district will revisit the equalized billed amount annually in May or June (depending on whether you are billed in odd or even months) and adjust the amount as necessary.

For more information, please call the district at (916) 791-0115 or visit our Web site at [www.sjwd.org/PaymentOptions.htm](http://www.sjwd.org/PaymentOptions.htm).

## EVALUATING OPTIONS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

SJWD recently completed its Retail Water System Master Plan, and as a result, we are currently evaluating several projects that will help ensure sustained water quality and reliability while enabling us to continue to meet increasing state and federal regulations.

The district is currently reviewing potential capital improvement projects to rehabilitate, improve or expand facilities that are aging or have reached capacity. The district is also reviewing options for additional infrastructure needed to provide a reliable water supply in light of increasing usage. Facilities to meet new growth will be paid for by new development, not existing customers.

An independent engineering firm was hired by the district to complete the Retail Water System Master Plan, which identifies areas in which district facilities need improvement. In the coming months, the district will discuss and explore the details and financial requirements of such improvements at select board meetings.

As we move forward, we will make every effort to keep our customers informed and updated about the issues being explored. In the meantime, feel free to contact us at (916) 791-0115 for more information about the Retail Water System Master Plan.

## FREE MOSQUITO FISH AVAILABLE FROM LOCAL MOSQUITO ABATEMENT DISTRICTS

Summer is approaching, which means mosquito season is officially here. As carriers of the West Nile Virus, mosquitoes are being targeted by local agencies in an effort to reduce populations using safe pest management techniques.

Placer Mosquito Abatement and Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District provide **free mosquito fish** to residents of Placer and Sacramento counties who would like to stock their ornamental ponds, unused swimming pools and animal water troughs.

Mosquito fish, which grow to about three inches, eat mosquito larvae as soon as they hatch from the eggs. The fish generally require no feeding and very little care. They breed throughout the summer, with new broods produced at about six-week intervals.

Stocking water sources with mosquito fish not only benefits the individual customer, but helps the entire region by reducing mosquito populations.

### Want More Information?

To get your free mosquito fish, contact:

**Placer County** — (916) 435-2140 or

[www.placermosquito.org](http://www.placermosquito.org)

**Sacramento County** — (916) 685-1022 or

[www.fightthebite.net](http://www.fightthebite.net)

*Note: Information provided by Placer Mosquito Abatement and Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District*



## WHEN IT'S HOT, TIME TO STOP!

### Simple Tips for Reducing Water Use

**When It's Hot, Time to Stop Watering!** By completing your outdoor watering by noon, you will reduce the amount of water lost to evaporation, and your landscape will benefit too! Some customers even prefer to split their irrigation into two shorter cycles to allow water to penetrate the soil and reduce runoff. **Please do not over-water.**

It is okay to water anytime between midnight and noon, but set your irrigation controllers to come on at times when your indoor water use is minimal. When everyone waters at the same time during early morning hours, it creates a huge demand on the water system. Staggering your water use helps us provide better service — it balances the demand on the district's pumping facilities, which saves energy and increases pump station reliability and fire-fighting capability.

**Efficient Irrigation is Key!** Check your irrigation system for leaks, clogs or misdirected sprinklers and emitters to ensure efficient irrigation. Also, reset your irrigation timers each season to prevent watering longer than necessary. It is unnecessary, and even harmful to lawn and plant health, to water every day.

An evapotranspiration (ET) or weather-based irrigation controller can further increase outdoor water efficiency. Find out more about ET controllers under "Mark Your Calendar."

### Need Some Irrigation Help?

Our experts can help solve problems and answer questions regarding irrigation, **free of charge**. For more information or to schedule an appointment with a district irrigation expert, call (916) 791-2663.

## CALIFORNIA'S WATER COMING TO A TV NEAR YOU

Check out the first segment of "California's Water", an educational series about statewide water issues produced by well-known public television reporter Huell Howser. The first segment, which is on climate change, will begin airing on Sacramento-region PBS stations on May 28. For more information about programming dates, visit [www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Free Workshop for District Customers

At a free workshop on **June 17**, SJWD customers can learn about some simple ways to increase water efficiency!

For the first 15 minutes of the workshop, district staff will discuss **hot water demand systems**, which ensure hot water comes from your faucet the moment you turn on the tap and eliminate the wait while it travels from the water heater.

A majority of the workshop will focus on **drip irrigation** tips and techniques, providing helpful information to do-it-yourself landscapers who currently have or are planning to incorporate a drip irrigation system.

In addition, **weather-based or "ET" controllers** will be discussed. ET controllers operate irrigation systems based on daily rainfall and weather patterns, eliminating the need for customers to reset their timers with the seasons. They help increase water efficiency, and the district even offers a rebate! (See below for more information.)

**When:** Saturday, June 17 from 9–12 p.m.

**Where:** SJWD, 9935 Auburn-Folsom Road  
Granite Bay

**Cost:** **Free** to all SJWD customers

Space is limited so please call (916) 791-2663 to reserve your spot.

### DID YOU KNOW...?

You may qualify for a rebate if you purchase and install a hot water demand system or ET controller. Before you purchase any new equipment, please call (916) 791-2663 for more information about specific requirements needed to qualify for a rebate.

Through funding provided by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the district offers up to \$125 in rebates to customers who purchase and install an ET controller and up to \$75 in rebates to customers who purchase and install a hot water demand system.

## READ ALL ABOUT WATER QUALITY THIS SUMMER

Look for the SJWD's annual consumer Confidence Report (CCR) coming your way this summer. The report summarizes the results of more than 200 water quality tests that ensure safe drinking water. **SJWD continuously meets or exceeds all federal and state requirements for drinking water**, and this year is no different! Read all about it when the CCR is mailed to your home in June. To review last year's CCR, visit [www.sjwd.org](http://www.sjwd.org).



### SAN JUAN WATER DISTRICT

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