

## Saving water the stealthy way

### Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District



**Ron Young**, General Manager  
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

Promoting water-wise ways to live has long been the focus for water agencies across California. New technologies to conserve water continue to be developed and Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) has figured out a way to get one in particular out to the public.

The Stealth Toilet was developed to use only the amount of water necessary per flush, conserving water with every use. It not only helps to conserve this precious resource, but save ratepayers – and the district – money over time as well. EVMWD fully understood the value of the Stealth Toilet and to help get it out to the community and jumpstart its use, the district created an incentive program for residents to get a toilet and use it in their home.

*California Special District* asked EVMWD about the Stealth Toilet, its efficiency and how the district got it out to residents in record time.

#### How did EVMWD learn about the Stealth Toilet?

EVMWD first heard about the Niagara Stealth toilet at the Water Smart Innovations conference in Las Vegas in 2009. Niagara Conservation was demonstrating new products at their booth.

#### Explain how the Stealth Toilet works. What makes it the world's most water efficient toilet?

The Stealth uses a unique flushing mechanism that allows it to use only 0.8 gallons per flush. This is half as much as a standard 1.6 gallons per flush toilet. Initial results from the installation of 3,000 toilets indicate that the Stealth performs satisfactorily for customers.

## Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District

**Established:** 1950  
**Location:** Southwest Riverside County, between Corona and Temecula  
**Size:** 96 Square Miles

**Population:** 125,727  
**Annual Budget:** \$52,000,000  
**Website:** www.evmwd.com



### How does the EVMWD program to distribute the toilets free to the public work?

The program provided up to two toilets, two low-flow showerheads and a low-flow kitchen faucet aerator along with installation free of charge to our customers. Customers called in to a phone bank or applied online and were then scheduled by our vendor EcoGreen Services, LLC. The program took applications for 2,500 toilets in one day and the whole program sold out within three days of the start.

### What are the costs associated with this program for the district? How is it funded?

The program cost EVMWD \$750,000 for the purchase and installation of 3,000 Stealth toilets. EVMWD has a water budget based rate structure in which rates rise if a customer exceeds their monthly budget. EVMWD uses the funds from those higher rates to fund

conservation programs such as the Stealth program.

### According to EVMWD Board President Ben Wicke, EVMWD is a leader in finding and promoting the world's best water conservation technology. What are other water conservation programs the district has invested in?

EVMWD has provided high efficiency sprinkler nozzles to commercial and residential customers for several years. Involving only a simple changeout, the more efficient nozzles can reduce water use by 20 percent or more.

### Are there any others on the horizon?

EVMWD has started a direct installation program for Weather Based Irrigation Controllers or "smart timers." These controllers monitor the weather and then water accordingly. EVMWD has targeted some of its highest water users in order to help them conserve water. EVMWD is also exploring a commercial water conservation program for our local restaurants. ■

## By the Numbers

30 different workshops held at this year's Annual Conference on topics of importance to special districts.

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