

# EAST DILLON WATER DISTRICT

October 2005



**RECORD WATER USAGE** The water usage in the District for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter was a record. Most of the usage was during the hot, dry month of July with usage decreasing some in August and September. Usage during the summer quarter, mostly for outside irrigation was nearly double the usage in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2005. Usage was 20% higher this summer compared to last summer.

**WATER LEVELS** The snow pack last winter in the District water collection area was below average, but still sufficient to allow a recharge of the aquifer to meet the high demands this summer. As with most areas in the region, our aquifer has recovered some from the record low levels, but still has not returned to pre-drought levels. The high capacity pumps installed last year were used extensively to maintain water tank supply levels during the high usage periods. New control equipment was used during the summer to monitor the pumping to insure there was not a repeat of the 2004 incident of dirt in the water. Significant snow pack in the coming winter will again be critical to maintaining an adequate water level in the aquifer. The District water supply is sufficient for all household use, but during drought periods it may not be adequate for unlimited outside usage.

*The next Board of Directors meeting is Monday December 5<sup>th</sup> in the East Dillon pump station on Gray Fox Lane. The meeting will include the 2006 budget. For additional information regarding the meeting or a copy of the budget you can call (970) 668-5655 Ext 12 or email [admin@eastdillon.com](mailto:admin@eastdillon.com).*

**Summit Cove Medians** The District remains committed to provide funding to Summit County Road and Bridge to include medians in the reconstruction of Cove Boulevard. The medians will be used to promote xeriscape landscaping and prudent irrigation methods. It is the understanding of the District that the rebuilding of the road will be included in the 2006 budget for Summit County. However, construction of the road is not controlled by the District. Solicitation of voluntary contributions for the median work will begin when work on the road and medians begin.

## HIGH WATER BILL?

The District promotes conservation of water and the reasonable use of water through an escalating water rate structure. The District defines a reasonable amount of water for a quarter to be 23,000 gallons. Water used at this level is charged at \$1.75 per 1,000 gallons. Water usage between 23,000 gallons and 50,000 gallons is charged at \$5 per 1,000 gallons. Water in excess of 50,000 gallons is charged at \$10 per 1,000 gallons.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2005, 91% of the users in the District used 23,000 gallons or less. During the recent quarter, when many residents use water outside for landscaping purposes, 72% of the residents used 23,000 gallons or less. 21% of our customers used between 23,000 and 50,000 gallons and 7% used more than 50,000 gallons.

Several factors can be involved in the excess usage of water. The District promotes the use of drip irrigation as an efficient means of applying irrigation. However, systems with leaks or improper installation can use more water than intended. A recent study of newly installed irrigation systems in the Denver area indicated that even new systems used 60% more water than necessary due to faulty installation. Most of the problems were from using low cost materials that broke or loose fittings.