

DWA News

Let's make every drop count!

DESERT WATER • FALL 2017

Efficient Overseeding



Drought or no drought, you should take steps to reduce water use and maintain a healthy yard. This could be the biggest contribution you make to water conservation since 70 to 80 percent of local water use is outdoors. If you're not ready to remove your turf, make sure you're watering your grass as efficiently as possible. If you plan to overseed your lawn this fall, using these tips will help keep your lawn in good shape while cutting down on wasted water:

- Only begin overseeding when temperatures cool (usually late October/November).
- Check your irrigation system to make sure all sprinklers are positioned properly.
- Fix any leaks before you start overseeding – too much water can be a bad thing.
- Set your timer for very short cycles throughout the day.
- Use grass clippings as a cover to protect seed from sun and reduce evaporation.
- Keep seed moist, but not soaked while it germinates.
- When the grass begins to grow, reduce watering times.
- You do not have to water excessively to germinate!

Once your grass is growing, be sure not to mow it too short. Longer grass retains water better. This also means less frequent mowing!

If you are ready to remove grass in your front yard and replace it with artificial turf or desert landscaping, now's the time to apply for a rebate. Rebates are \$1 per square foot up to \$1,500 for residents and \$20,000 for businesses and HOAs. The State of California also may have \$1 per square foot available for residents for both front and back yards. For more information and to apply visit www.dwa.org/turf and www.SaveOurWaterRebates.com.

State of the Aquifer

Desert Water Agency (DWA) and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) have brought more than 200,000-acre feet of water into the Coachella Valley so far this year, that's enough to fill about 100,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools. The agencies expect to put more water into the aquifer this year than what will be used by valley residents and businesses.

DWA and CVWD are State Water Contractors that bring water to our community to offset what is pumped out. Agencies place water into ponds where it can seep through the soil back into the aquifer. The amount of water we get each year varies based on weather conditions, environmental restrictions, system efficiency and other factors.

To date, DWA and CVWD have returned more than 3.5 million acre-feet of imported water to the aquifer at the valley's three replenishment facilities. That's more than a trillion gallons. Groundwater replenishment is critical to the Coachella Valley's water management efforts, which also include conservation, water recycling and direct use of Colorado River water for agriculture and golf course irrigation in the east valley.



Pipeline Replacements

Much of Desert Water Agency's pipeline is past its prime and is in need of replacement. DWA has been investing in pipeline replacement for decades and now needs to pursue it more aggressively. Our team identified the areas that currently are most in need of replacement.

We recently completed work on portions of the following streets:

- Linda Vista Road, Pasatiempo Road, Paseo El Mirador
- Sunny Dunes Road
- Stevens Road
- Via Monte Vista
- North Vine Avenue
- Camino Norte

We are currently working on pipeline in portions of Broadmoor Drive and anticipate heading to Saturmino Road soon.

From 2017 through at least 2031, DWA plans to install about 2.75 miles of new pipeline a year. Replacement and proper maintenance will minimize water loss, ensure supply reliability and reduce the need for costly emergency repairs.

Lawsuit updates

Taxation suit filed by Agua Caliente

The district court judge ruled in favor of Riverside County and Desert Water Agency. That means the County can continue to collect taxes on the structures/improvements from people and businesses leasing tribal land. The taxes collected go to fund community services like police and fire, libraries, water and more. The Agua Caliente have already started the process for review by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Groundwater rights suit filed by Agua Caliente

The water agencies have submitted their petitions to the US Supreme Court for review. We should know in November whether the Court decides to accept an appeal. The lower courts ruled that Agua Caliente does have a special right to groundwater superior to others in the valley.

At the same time, the case is moving forward at the district court level with hearings in the second phase of the trial scheduled in January.

October Happenings

OCT 17: Lifestream Blood Drive @ DWA



OCT 21: Desert AIDS Walk



OCT 28: United Way Tram Road 6k



Find us on Instagram!



Want to know more about what we're doing?

The public is always welcome at our board meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 8 a.m., at DWA Operations Center, 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs. To see an up-to-date schedule of all our meetings, please visit our website: www.dwa.org.

Coming soon: one-time online payments with no fees!

DWA will soon allow one-time online water bill payments from bank accounts. Instead of writing a check or paying with a credit card, customers will be able to make a one-time direct debit from their account. This FREE payment option will not require enrollment. Currently, DWA customers can use autopay for free online payment and many use their bank's free online billpay service. Customers can now and will continue to be able to use their credit card to pay bills through a third-party provider, Paymentus. Credit card payments do incur a processing fee. The new online one-time payment option expands customer convenience without an impact on the agency's rates.

Keep your eyes out for more information on our website (www.dwa.org) and social media. We will launch this option soon.

Rebates & Incentives

Convert to Cash

Fall is the best time to remove water-guzzling turf and replace it with beautiful efficient landscaping. In July, DWA's Board of Directors approved \$500,000 for turf conversions. Rebates are \$1 per square foot of converted turf, up to \$1,500 for single-family homes and \$20,000 for HOAs and businesses. Front yards or grass areas visible from the street are eligible. HOAs that have already removed exterior turf can apply for interior community areas. Applications are now available at www.dwa.org/turf. The State of California may have additional funding for single-family homes – front yards and back. Check www.SaveOurWaterRebates.com for details.

Take Control of your Irrigation with a Rebate

DWA offers a flexible smart irrigation controller program. Customers who haven't received a device from us within the past five years can choose a weather-based (wifi or weather sensor) controller model that works best for them and get reimbursed. You can even adjust some controllers from your smart phone. Simply purchase the device, fill out an application and submit a receipt.

Single-family homes: up to \$150 for the device and \$100 for **professional** installation
Businesses & HOAs: up to \$2,500 for the device(s) and \$750 for **professional** installation

Applications are available at our office, in local home improvement and irrigation stores and online at www.dwa.org/controller.

Get FREE Sprinkler Nozzles

Stop runoff and water waste with free efficient sprinkler nozzles. Efficient nozzles can save up to 1,400 gallons per head per year. Visit www.dwa.org/nozzles to sign up today.

Single-family customers: limited to 25 nozzles
HOAs/Businesses: limited to 100 nozzles (more can be granted for very large areas)

Install your nozzles and start saving!

Replace your Toilet for a Rebate

Save with every flush! DWA offers rebates to replace inefficient toilets with high-efficiency models. Residential customers can get up to \$100 per toilet for up to two toilets per household. Businesses can receive up to \$100 per toilet for up to thirty toilets. Applications are available at our office and online at www.dwa.org/toilet.

Community Representatives on Board of Directors

- James Cioffi: President
- Joseph K. Stuart: Vice President
- Kristin Bloomer: Secretary/Treasurer
- Patricia G. Oygur: Director
- Craig Ewing: Director

Contact information

For more information, please contact: DWA Outreach & Conservation Manager Ashley Metzger at 760-323-4971 ext. 184, or Ashley@dwa.org. For more information on DWA's conservation programs, please visit: www.dwa.org/conservation.

