

Historic water agreement promotes reliability

Desert Water Agency General Manager Mark Krause and other water leaders gathered last month to sign a historic agreement that brings more reliability to DWA's water supply.

The extended exchange agreement allows DWA to continue to responsibly manage the basin with imported water without building an exorbitantly expensive physical connection to the State Water Project. The exchange agreement between the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Coachella Valley Water District has allowed DWA to exchange nearly 1.5 million acre-feet of its State Water Project allocation with MWD's Colorado River water.



(Front row L to R) Steve Abbott of CVWD, Mark Krause of DWA and Jeffrey Kightlinger of MWD.

It's delivered to Mission Creek and Whitewater replenishment facilities via an aqueduct running through the Coachella Valley.

Without this exchange agreement, a 40-80 mile long pipeline would be needed to connect to State Water project infrastructure near San Bernardino where MWD receives their deliveries. This would cost our community about \$1.6 billion to build. Desert Water Agency has been a State Water Project contractor since 1961. The new agreement is the result of years of negotiations and brings significant benefits to our customers. To read the Amended and Restated Agreement between the Municipal Water District of Southern California, Coachella Valley Water District and Desert Water Agency, go to www.dwa.org/agreement.

Make saving water your resolution

If you want to make a change in the New Year, but preferably one that won't leave you hungry, tired or irritable, try water conservation. Saving water is easy and not only helps the environment, but also saves money in the long run. Here are some easy ways to save water in the New Year:

- Install a device that shuts your irrigation off after rain (and get a rebate)
- Check your home for leaks (www.dwa.org/checkforleaks)

If you're up for a bigger challenge, consider removing grass. Don't remove it until you are approved for a rebate though!

We have more ways to save water and money at www.dwa.org/rebates.

Four Seasons tops grass removal list

Desert Water Agency updated its rebates program in September to make it easier for customers to save water and money.

Good news - many of your neighbors are taking advantage of incentives and transforming their yards.

The grass removal incentive of \$2 per square foot for front and backyards has no cap on square footage and is especially popular with customers.

We recently ran the numbers and the neighborhoods with the most grass removal applications are:

- Four Seasons – 11 properties
- Los Compadres – 8 properties
- Tahquitz Creek Golf – 7 properties

If you're interested in tearing out your grass and replacing it with desertscape, apply soon. (Don't remove grass until your project is approved!)



Other incentives for residents include up to \$250 for water efficient washing machines, up to \$250 for smart controllers and up to \$7 per nozzle (sprinkler or fixed-bubbler). Review the details and apply at www.dwa.org/rebates.

POLLINATOR PARTY



DWA will celebrate spring and pollinators with a Butterfly Block Party **March 22, from 1 to 3 p.m.**

The third annual party takes place outside our office on Gene Autry Trail next to our pollinator garden which is now an official waystation for butterflies.

The event features lots of FREE and fun family activities, including:

- live music
- chalk art
- arts and crafts
- informational booths
- face painting
- food

The event is free and open to the public. To tour our garden or for more information on the event, visit www.dwa.org/butterfly.

FIND US ON INSTAGRAM!



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The public is welcome at our board meetings on the first and third Tuesday of every month, starting at 8 a.m., at Desert Water Agency, 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs. To see a schedule, please visit our website: www.dwa.org.



FAQ

What is the water service charge?

The water service charge on your bill is based on the size of your water meter. It is applied to all open accounts, whether water is used or not. These charges help pay for necessary infrastructure (like pipes and reservoirs), fire protection capacity, meter reading, postage and other fixed costs.



TOUR OUR FACILITIES



The hydroelectric plant at Whitewater.

DWA will host a behind-the-scenes spring tour that give guests exclusive access to our facilities. It also shows them how we manage and deliver water in the desert. Stops may include a hydroelectric plant, Snow Creek and replenishment ponds. The free tour begins at our office and buses guests to the various locations. There is a fair amount of walking included. Sign up for our tour interest list at www.dwa.org/tours or send a request to vicki@dwa.org.

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NO PFAS PROBLEM



If you're a movie buff or have been checking out the news lately, you may have heard about PFAS.

Water agencies across the country have been testing for this group of chemicals called per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). They are known as "Forever Chemicals" because they don't break down easily.

They are no longer manufactured in the U.S., but are found in everything from carpets and clothes to cosmetics. The chemicals are also used in fire-fighting foam at airfields.

In 2019, hundreds of California public water systems were required to test for PFAS.

DWA tested 13 of our wells and results showed the chemicals are not an issue here. If we did find an issue in the future, we would notify customers. These chemicals are now the subject of a movie called "Dark Waters" based on a real-life scandal involving DuPont's contamination of the Ohio River starting as far back as 1951. PFAS reporting will be included in the annual Water Quality Report in 2020, which outlines our water sources and the results of thousands of tests.

Our Water Quality Report is available at www.dwa.org/WQR.

For more info about PFAS chemicals, go to www.dwa.org/PFAS.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact: DWA Outreach & Conservation Manager Ashley Metzger at 760-323-4971 ext. 184, or Ashley@dwa.org.

