

# DWANews

DESERT WATER  SPRING 2021

Let's make every drop count!

## MAKE A PLEDGE TO BE MORE WATER WISE

DWA is partnering with the City of Palm Springs and United Way of the Desert on the Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation and we need your help to make our city the most water wise in the nation.

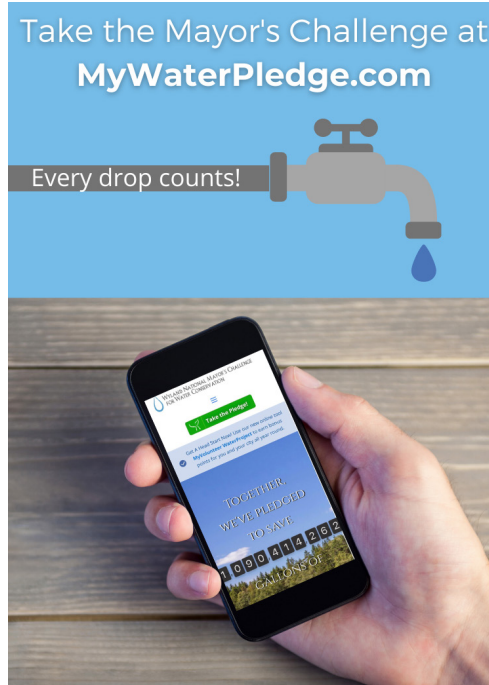
The annual challenge in April is a national community service campaign to encourage residents to take a pledge at [mywaterpledge.com](http://mywaterpledge.com) to use water more efficiently. It takes about one minute on a computer, tablet or smart phone.

When you complete the pledge, you can also nominate your favorite local charity to win a new SUV. Consider United Way of the Desert as your charity of choice - they help us provide funding to those in need for water bill payments ([www.dwa.org/h2o](http://www.dwa.org/h2o)).

After you take the pledge, make good on it with a DWA incentive. We'll give you money to replace grass with desert landscaping, install a smart controller and efficient sprinkler heads, and upgrade to a water efficient washing machine. Go to [www.dwa.org/save](http://www.dwa.org/save) for more details.

Take the Mayor's Challenge at  
[MyWaterPledge.com](http://MyWaterPledge.com)

Every drop counts!



With Earth Day in April, it is the perfect time to help protect the environment.

So join us in helping make Palm Springs and Cathedral City one of the most water wise cities in the country. After all, every drop counts!

## WATER BILL ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

Riverside County secured some federal COVID relief funding that locals can use to cover household costs, including water bills. Households under 200% of federal poverty level are eligible. Income qualifications are listed on the application.

To apply:

- Complete application form
- Include image of government-issued ID
- Provide a copy of current water bill
- Send to [capcares@capriverside.org](mailto:capcares@capriverside.org)



Desert Water Agency has posted a link to the information and application on its website - visit [www.dwa.org/h2o](http://www.dwa.org/h2o) and click the "CARES Act Funding" button to apply. If you need a copy of your most recent water bill, please email [bills@dwa.org](mailto:bills@dwa.org) to request a PDF copy.

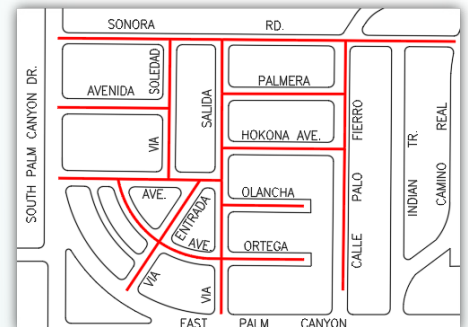
## PIPELINE UPGRADES

DWA is gearing up to replace old, leaky pipes in two different areas across the city starting in June.

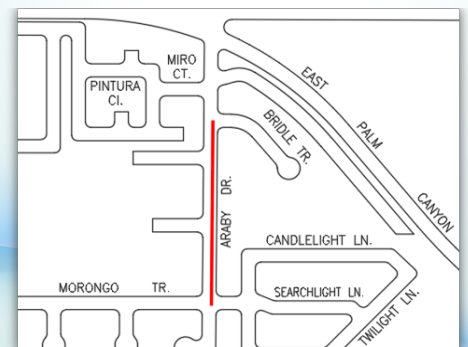
DWA's annual pipeline replacement not only helps cut water waste, but also reduces street construction and water interruptions due to emergency leak repairs.

Work is expected to start this summer and continue into the fall. Residents and businesses on the affected streets will be notified with more details closer to the project start date.

### Tahquitz River Estates



### Araby Commons





## DWA TO GET \$500K GRANT



Desert Water Agency has been selected to receive \$500,000 in grant funding from the US Bureau of Reclamation through its WaterSMART Grants program that focuses on water and energy efficiency.

The grant will help pay for one phase of the agency's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project which will help streamline agency operations by eliminating the need to walk or drive by water meters to collect readings.

This grant will cover the cost of upgrading roughly 4,300 meters – about 20% of the meters in our system. Ultimately, all meters will transmit reads to our office.

The program will also provide customers with near real-time water use data they can use to be more efficient and help save water that would otherwise be lost to leaks.

The AMI project is currently underway and expected to take about five years to fully implement.

## FIND US ON INSTAGRAM!



## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

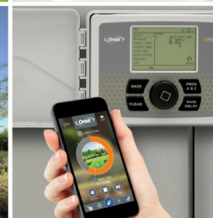
The public is welcome to participate in our board meetings at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month. To see a schedule of all our meetings, please visit our website: [www.dwa.org](http://www.dwa.org)



## FAQ

**How do I take advantage of an incentive?**

It's easy - go to [www.dwa.org/save](http://www.dwa.org/save) and select the type of incentive you want, then follow the step-by-step directions. Residential incentives include: up to \$250 for a water efficient washing machine; up to \$250 for a smart controller; up to \$700 for efficient sprinkler nozzles; and \$2 per square foot to remove grass. We also have incentives for businesses and HOAs. If you need help you can always call 760-323-4971 ext. 183 or send e-mail to [Vicki@dwa.org](mailto:Vicki@dwa.org).



## CREATE YOUR OWN POLLINATOR GARDEN AT HOME



If you want to see more butterflies, bees and birds in your yard, create a pollinator garden at home or work. Early spring is when pollinators start searching for nectar. But they also need it throughout the summer and even into fall.

Creating a pollinator garden can be as easy as planting desert milkweed and nectar plants. A benefit to using native plants is they need less water to thrive which is also good for your water bill. For inspiration, check out our pollinator garden located at 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail in Palm Springs. It is a certified Monarch Waystation that provides habitat for Queen and Monarch butterflies as they migrate and breed.

### Tips for creating a pollinator garden:

1. Include native plants so they adapt better to the soil and climate and can attract native pollinators.
2. Include plants of various heights.
3. Butterflies and other pollinators like the sun, so consider plants that grow well in full or partial sun.
4. Go organic. Avoid pesticides as they can be toxic to bees.
5. If you start with seeds, plant them in the fall or late winter so they have time to germinate.
6. If you go with nursery plants, dig holes big enough for the roots and reinforce with soil or compost.

For more on our garden or to watch our webinar on pollinator gardens, go to [www.dwa.org/pollinator](http://www.dwa.org/pollinator)

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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



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