

# DWANews

Let's make every drop count!

DESERT WATER  FALL 2021

## ONE OF PALM SPRINGS' LARGEST HOAS DECIDES TO SKIP OVERSEEDING



To help conserve water during another significant drought in the West, Canyon Estates - the 79-acre Palm Springs community known for its mid-century modern designed homes - will not scalp or overseed as is common practice for grass areas in the fall.

DWA encourages its customers to "go gold" by skipping the overseeding process and letting grass go dormant during the winter months in order to reduce water use. This not only saves water, but could save homeowners hundreds of dollars between the seed and water needed for it to germinate.

"Canyon Estates not overseeding is a

win-win," said DWA Board President Kristin Bloomer. "The community will see savings on their landscaping and water bills and contribute to long-term sustainability of our most precious resource."

For properties that still overseed, Desert Water Agency has guidelines to follow to do it efficiently ([www.dwa.org/overseeding](http://www.dwa.org/overseeding)).

The Agency also offers alternatives to water intensive turf areas through its grass removal incentive program. Customers get \$2 per square foot of grass replaced. Go to [www.dwa.org/save](http://www.dwa.org/save) to learn more.

## LONG-DELAYED INCREASE EFFECTIVE IN 2022



Last summer, DWA's Board of Directors approved a streamlined budget that did not include a planned July 2020 rate increase. On Sept. 21 the Board voted to enact this increase. It was the fifth of five increases approved in December of 2016 after a comprehensive cost of service study.

The increase will go into effect in January of 2022 and will appear on February 2022 bills.

You can find details on the rates at [www.dwa.org/rates](http://www.dwa.org/rates) or by calling 760-323-4971.

DWA is now in the midst of another cost of service study, which will determine if the water rates are in alignment with Agency costs. As a government agency, DWA does not make a profit and can only charge for the cost of service.

## PIPELINE PROJECT UPDATE

The continued Covid-19 pandemic has caused a supply and production issue across many industries, including construction.

This issue resulted in two DWA pipeline replacement projects, initially planned for early summer, to be pushed back. The Tahquitz River Estates project finally got underway in late September and is expected to be completed in February 2022.

The Araby Commons project may start in October with construction lasting through February 2022.

These projects are part of DWA's annual pipeline replacement program that helps improve water reliability, shrink water waste and reduce water interruptions due to emergency leak repair.

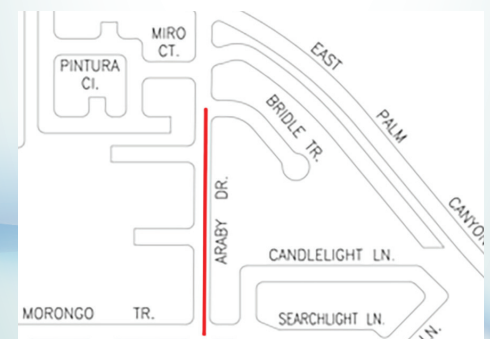
Timelines subject to change.

For more information and updates go to [www.dwa.org/pipelines](http://www.dwa.org/pipelines)

### Tahquitz River Estates



### Araby Commons



## FIND US ON INSTAGRAM!



## STATE DROUGHT UPDATE

DWA is keeping a close eye on the statewide drought. Though local water supplies are good (Riverside County is not included in California's drought state of emergency) we should be doing everything we can to use water wisely.

This summer, Governor Newsom asked all Californians to reduce their household water use voluntarily by 15 percent compared to 2020. From April to September, the Governor declared drought emergencies in 50 out of 58 California counties. Two things help protect the Coachella Valley against drought – a large and healthy aquifer beneath the ground and decades of careful water management. A statewide drought, however, means we're not able to import as much water to replenish the aquifer. While locals are not required to reduce water use, DWA encourages customers to step up and save.

To do your part, take advantage of a water-saving incentive at [www.dwa.org/save](http://www.dwa.org/save)

DWA offers incentives on grass removal, smart controllers, washing machines and irrigation nozzles.

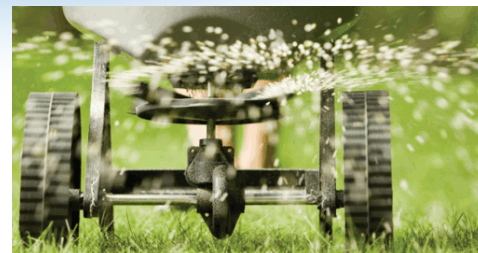
For more information and an FAQ on the drought, go to [www.dwa.org/drought](http://www.dwa.org/drought)



## FAQ

### How do I overseed efficiently?

Consider not overseeding at all. If you do it, start later, in late October or November. Fix sprinkler leaks and make sure they are aimed in the right direction. Cover seeds with grass clippings to prevent evaporation and provide shade. Keep seeds moist but not soaked. After seeds germinate, reduce the number of times you water each day.



For more on efficient overseeding:  
[www.dwa.org/overseeding](http://www.dwa.org/overseeding)

## DWA CONTRIBUTES \$60K TO HELP CUSTOMERS PAY WATER BILLS

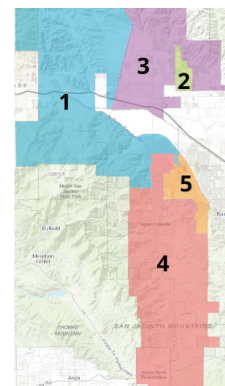


DWA contributed \$60,000 to the Help2Others water bill assistance program to help customers pay their water bills and avoid water shut offs. The funding came from non-rate revenue. The Agency presented United Way of the Desert with a jumbo check for \$60,000 on Sept. 15 to mark DWA's 60th Anniversary. United Way manages the water bill program and can connect customers to other Covid relief efforts as well.

Since the pandemic, the program use is up 400%. DWA hopes even more customers who are struggling to pay their bills amid the continued pandemic will apply for assistance. Customers can apply for \$200 a year in water bill credits by going to [www.dwa.org/h2o](http://www.dwa.org/h2o) and filling out a simple online form. Since the pandemic started, DWA has been working with financially impacted customers to keep water flowing to homes and businesses.

## NEW DIVISION MAP IN 2022

Per legal requirements, DWA will redraw its electoral divisions using 2020 Census data. Desert Water Agency transitioned from at-large to division elections in November 2020 with its first division election. Currently, two Board Members are elected to divisions 4 and 5 and the remaining three serve at large. DWA held a public hearing on Sept. 21 to gather input. More public hearings are planned and will be posted at [www.dwa.org/divisions](http://www.dwa.org/divisions) when scheduled. Maps will also be available for public review prior to adoption.



## 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)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kristin Bloomer: President (Division 5)
- James Cioffi: Vice President
- Joseph K. Stuart: Secretary/Treasurer
- Patricia G. Oygar: Director
- Paul Ortega: Director (Division 4)

## CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact: DWA Outreach Specialist Xochitl Peña at 760-323-4971 ext. 272, or [Xochitl@dwa.org](mailto:Xochitl@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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