

DWA News

Let's make every drop count!

DESERT WATER  SUMMER 2023

DWA BOARD APPROVES RATE INCREASE

Desert Water Agency's Board of Directors approved a five-year rate plan for water, recycled water and wastewater on June 28.

Most of the new rates will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2024 and show up on your February 2024 water bill.

As a public water agency, DWA can only charge the cost of service and cannot profit from services provided.

A recent study showed that DWA is not adequately covering its costs due to a variety of factors that include:

- Inflation pushing up costs for materials and services
- More aggressive pipelines replacement
- New state and federal regulations
- Funding reserve targets

The multi-year rate plan will allow DWA to continue to provide safe and reliable water for all its customers.

Each year, DWA's Board of Directors will review the Agency's finances and determine whether rates need to be adjusted.

For more information on the proposed rate adjustment, please visit: www.dwa.org/rates

If you need help paying your water bill, visit www.dwa.org/h2o to learn about assistance.



LEARN ABOUT YOUR WATER

If you're curious about the quality of your water, then check out our annual Water Quality Report, available on our website at www.dwa.org/wqr

Desert Water Agency works hard to provide clean, safe and reliable tap water for our community. We conduct thousands of tests a year to ensure the water we deliver meets strict state and federal standards.



WATER QUALITY REPORT

DELIVERED JUNE 2023 (Based on 2022 data)



The report includes:

- Results from water quality tests
- Information on our water sources
- Commonly asked water quality questions
- A letter from our General Manager

Stop by and pick up a hard copy or call us at 760-323-4971 and we can send you one.

REPLACING AGING PIPELINES A TOP PRIORITY



About 13% of DWA's 425 miles of water pipelines are unlined steel. Nearly half of the unlined steel pipes are over 70 years old and past their life expectancy.

As part of our replacement program, we plan to remove 3 to 5 miles of unlined steel pipe each year for the next 10 to 15 years. Rate increases help fund this program.

The new pipe will be concrete lined, ductile iron pipe with a life expectancy of more than 100 years. This pipe will add reliability to our system and will reduce water waste caused by leaks.

Our engineering department is currently working on the next project slated to start in late 2023 along Avenida Caballeros between Ramon Road and Tahquitz Canyon Way. As the project nears, DWA will reach out to the affected homes and neighborhood with more details.

To learn more about DWA's important infrastructure go to: www.dwa.org/pipelines

MEET BRANDON!



Brandon is a Construction Inspector with DWA. He inspects the installation of new capital improvement projects such as water or sewer lines. He also does inspections for grass removal incentives. If you've applied for one, you may have seen him measuring your yard. He's been at DWA since September, but has 18 years of experience in the industry. He enjoys working outdoors and seeing all the creative, drought tolerant yard conversions.

GET SOCIAL WITH DWA!

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How can I save water during the summer?

As temperatures climb, so does water use. Limiting irrigation watering time and frequency is a top way to save, but also important is checking for leaks. Finding and quickly fixing leaks is a great way to save water and prevent damage to your property.

Toilets and irrigation are often leak culprits, but it's important to also check your pool and other water fixtures. For a DIY leak checklist and step-by-step instructions on how to check for leaks, go to: www.dwa.org/leaks



WET WINTER = 100 % SWP ALLOCATION



700,000
AF
(acre feet)
=
roughly enough
water to last
homes in DWA's
tap service area
for 39 years

The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) announced in April that all State Water Project (SWP) contractors, including DWA, will be allocated 100 percent of its SWP water supply. This is the first time since 2006 that DWR has allocated 100 percent. Last year's allocation was 5 percent.

The State Water Project is California's vast water system of canals, pipelines and reservoirs that deliver water to 27 million Californians. The water system is more than 50 years old and sensitive to earthquakes and flooding.

DWA and other water agencies have invested in the Delta Conveyance Project (DCP) - a significant SWP infrastructure upgrade - and storage infrastructure like Sites Reservoir, a reservoir being planned in Northern California.

Once built, Sites will capture excess stormwater for delivery during dry periods to provide water flexibility, reliability and resiliency during dry years. If Sites had been built, they estimate it could have collected roughly 700,000 acre-feet of water from this year's storms.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The public is welcome to participate at our board meetings. They are held 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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Steve Grasha: Div. 1 - Director
- Gerald McKenna: Div. 2 - Secretary/Treasurer
- Jeff Bowman: Div. 3 - Vice President
- Paul Ortega: Div. 4 - President
- Kristin Bloomer: Div. 5 - Director

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information, please contact: DWA Outreach Specialist Xochitl Peña at 760-323-4971 ext. 272, or XPena@dwa.org. For more information on DWA's conservation programs, please visit: www.dwa.org/save



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