

DWA News

DESERT WATER  FALL 2023

Let's make every drop count!



Residential Toilet Incentive

\$150 to upgrade

Toilet efficiency has advanced a lot over the years.

Before 1980 one flush might have used anywhere from 5-8 gallons per flush. Then in 1994 a federal mandate required all new toilets to come down to 1.6 gallons per flush. Since 2016, all new toilets sold in California must be 1.28 gallons per flush or less.

DWA launched a new incentive in September for ultra-efficient toilets that use even less water.

Residential customers can get up to \$150 for the purchase and installation of ultra-efficient models with 1.1 gallons per flush or less. Dual flush models that use 1.1/1.6 gallons per flush or less are also eligible.

The program is not for new construction or toilets purchased before the program launched.

For more information or to fill out a quick and easy application, go to www.dwa.org/toilets. Applications must be submitted within 45 days of purchase.

According to the EPA, replacing old, inefficient toilets can save a household nearly 13,000 gallons of water a year and reduce your water bill.

Apply today and save with every flush!

Businesses or apartments interested in a toilet incentive can apply through DWA's business toilet program at www.dwa.org/businesstoilets.

Toilet incentives are one way DWA is partnering with the community to save water for future generations.

Other conservation incentives at
www.dwa.org/save.

PROPERTY TAX RATE REDUCTION

While inflation has caused the price of most goods and services to increase, property owners located in DWA's boundary will see a property tax rate decrease.

A 20 percent property tax reduction approved by the DWA Board of Directors in July will appear on property tax bills mailed out this month.

The new rate of \$0.08 – down from \$0.10 per \$100 in assessed valuation – will appear on property tax bills for fiscal year 2023/2024.

If the assessed value of your home is \$400,000, your tax bill will decrease by \$80.

This DWA tax appears as a line item on the tax bill of properties located in DWA's boundary, to pay costs associated with the State Water Project (SWP).

SWP is California's vast water system of canals, pipelines and reservoirs that helps import water from the northern part of the state to our region. DWA is a SWP contractor – one of only 29 in the state – and bringing water to the region enhances property value.

The increase in property values has allowed DWA to reduce the tax rate and still meet its SWP financial obligations.

To learn more about this tax go to www.dwa.org/property.

GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH DWA



Our next facility tour is Nov. 8.

During this tour guests get to see DWA facilities up close and learn more about how DWA manages and delivers water.

Sign up now at www.dwa.org/tours to be placed on a priority notification list and receive information about upcoming tours.

MEET DAMIEN!



Damien is a Water Service Foreman who has dedicated 16 years of amazing work to DWA! He is a jack-of-all-trades team leader who helps with the repair, maintenance and construction of DWA water infrastructure. Damien loves coaching his kids in sports and life. His dream car is a '59 Ford classic truck, and his favorite dish is a carnitas burrito.

GET SOCIAL WITH DWA!

Follow us for the latest in water news.
X (formerly Twitter): @DWAwater
Facebook: @dwawater
YouTube: @Desert Water Agency
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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



When is the best time to plant in the desert?

October and November are the best months to plant trees, shrubs and perennials in the desert. The temperatures have cooled and there's still plenty of daylight to help stimulate growth. If you're interested in an edible garden, try planting Swiss chard, kale, beets, lettuce, collards and cilantro. For more guidance, check out this Coachella Valley planting guide courtesy of local garden gurus at www.dwa.org/PlantingGuide.



RATES INCREASE REMINDER!

New tap water rates will go into effect on Jan. 1, 2024 and show up on your February water bill.

DWA's Board of Directors approved the increase in June to cover rising costs. As a public water agency, DWA can only charge the cost of service and does not profit.

For more information on the proposed rate adjustment, go to www.dwa.org/rates.

If you need help paying your water bill, go to www.dwa.org/h2o to learn about how you may qualify for a \$200 bill credit every year.

ALWAYS BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES!



Tropical Storm Hilary blew through the Coachella Valley in August and reminded us that being prepared for all kinds of emergencies is important.

Here in the Coachella Valley we are located near the San Andreas fault, so earthquakes have been the major focus for disaster preparedness.

A big quake could shut off access to water, supplies and other necessities for days, so having an emergency kit ready to go is vital.

FEMA and the Red Cross recommend having at least a two-week supply of water at home for each member of your family – 1 gallon of water per person – and pet – per day.

You will need the water for drinking, plus extra for food prep and hygiene. Given how hot it is here, having extra water on hand is always a good idea.

Emergency kits should include:

- flashlight and extra batteries
- first-aid kit and medicines
- extra clothing and blankets
- tools
- non-perishable food
- dust masks
- plenty of water



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CONTACT INFORMATION

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

