

CVWD Water News

Published for Coachella Valley Water District domestic water customers

Your Water
is our promise



Summer 2024

CVWD Celebrated \$100 million in Grants for Underserved Eastern Valley Communities

This past April, the Coachella Valley Water District recognized \$100 million in grant funding from county, state, and federal sources at a community celebration in Mecca.

The grants will bring clean, affordable water and reliable sewer services to underserved Eastern Coachella Valley communities.

The event marked nearly 10 years of efforts by CVWD's Disadvantaged Communities Infrastructure Task Force to secure funding for projects to consolidate and connect thousands of Eastern Coachella Valley residents to CVWD's domestic water and sewer systems.

Event speakers addressed the collaboration and progress made by local, state, and federal partners to ensure disadvantaged communities have access to safe drinking water and dependable sewer service.

Grant funding sources include:

- American Rescue Plan Act
- Congressionally Directed Spending through Community Project Funding Programs
- State Budget Appropriation
- State Water Resources Control Board
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CVWD has utilized a number of these funding partnerships to complete a series of projects in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Two projects connected just under 200 homes and Westside Elementary School in Thermal to CVWD's domestic water system. Another consolidated and connected unincorporated areas of Riverside County and improved reliability for 7,600 residents. Two other projects connected a housing area and two mobile home parks to CVWD's wastewater collection and treatment system.

Additional projects target other areas of the Eastern Coachella Valley. The Avenue 66 Transmission Main/St. Anthony Mobile Home Park Consolidation will construct the critical backbone infrastructure for three immediate consolidations and make possible 35 future mobile home park consolidations. The Valley View Domestic Water Mobile Home Park Consolidation will connect 13 mobile home parks.

To learn more about CVWD's current projects and the Disadvantaged Communities Infrastructure Task Force, visit www.cvwd.org.



Back row: Community member Malu Huerta, Water Division Director for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tomás Torres, Water and Environmental Program Director for the US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development Luis Andrade, CVWD Board President John Powell Jr., State Water Resources Control Board Chair E. Joaquin Esquivel

Front row: Community member Virgilio Galarza-Rodriguez, CVWD Board Vice President Cástulo Estrada, Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D., Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, and Chief of Staff for V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County Supervisor, 4th District, Steven Hernandez



Event overview of the Eastern Coachella Valley Community Celebration



Ceremonial pipe signed by attendees and speakers

District Expands Palm Desert Demonstration Garden

The expanded demonstration garden is now open for exploration, showcasing CVWD's commitment to sustainable gardening and environmental education. The updated area adds approximately 12,400 square feet to the original demonstration garden that is located in front of the Operations building, for an overall total of 24,773 square feet – just over half an acre – of garden space.

Managed by the Water Management department, the completed project was funded partly by a state grant of \$141,800. The department hopes that customers who visit the demonstration garden find inspiration for home projects. They also plan to host educational events for the community and students beginning in the fall. In addition, Water Management anticipates that visitors traveling on the proposed adjacent CV Link will stop by and enjoy the space.

The expanded demonstration garden features:

- Amphitheater seating with seven market umbrellas, providing 352 square feet of shade.
- Two Corten Steel rectangular planter boxes for vegetables and herbs.
- Two varieties of artificial turf demonstrating different price points.
- Water-efficient irrigation systems.
- A variety of ground covers and desert-friendly plants.
- A bench for relaxing under the future shade of two Mexican Ebony trees.

Original Palm Desert Demonstration Garden



Expanded Palm Desert Demonstration Garden

The garden is irrigated with recycled water and uses a solar-powered smart irrigation controller. This device provides proper irrigation hydro-zones based on plants' water needs. Upcoming plans include adding plant identification labels to provide information such as species, common name, and family name of each plant.

Designed by Albert A. Webb Associates of Riverside, the additional garden section took about 175 days to complete since construction began in November 2023 by Three Peaks Corp. of Calimesa. The cost of the project design and construction was \$365,301.97.

Climate-appropriate plants featured in the garden can be found in CVWD's landscape gardening guide, ***Lush and Efficient: Desert-Friendly Landscaping in the Coachella Valley***, available online at cvwd.org/LushEfficient.

Available Now: 2023-24 Annual Review and Water Quality Report



CVWD's Annual Review and Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), is available online now or by mail, upon request.

The Water Quality Report outlines information about CVWD's safe and high-quality drinking water, demonstrating that it meets all current state and federal standards. Through our state-certified laboratory, over 17,000 water samples are collected and monitored

for testing each year by highly trained District employees who test for more than 100 regulated and unregulated substances.

Additional details on CVWD's water quality testing are also provided in the 2023-24 Water Quality Report, which can be viewed online in English at cvwd.org/CCR2024 or in Spanish at cvwd.org/CCR/Spanish2024.

The Water Quality Report is a part of the District's Annual Review, which includes information on CVWD's seven areas of service, current capitol improvement projects, and District achievements. It is available to view online in English at cvwd.org/annualreview2024 or in Spanish at cvwd.org/informeannual2024.

To request a paper copy of the 2023-24 Annual Review and Water Quality Report, call (760) 391-9600 or email CustomerService@cvwd.org.

2024-2025 Rate Increases

CVWD Board of Directors approved new rate increases for domestic water and sanitation service.

The 5% average rate increase for domestic water will add \$1.90 to the monthly bill of an average residential customer. The 8.5% sanitation service increase will add \$2.42 to the monthly bill of an average residential customer.

To learn more, visit cvwd.org/ratechanges.



Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held at 8 a.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Meetings alternate between the Steve Robbins Administration Building in Palm Desert and the Coachella Office.

Visit our website to watch meetings online and to view the agenda.

Main Line: (760) 398-2651
Customer Service: (760) 391-9600
Website: www.cvwd.org



Your Water
is our promise



CVWD Water News

Published for Coachella Valley Water District domestic water customers

Winter 2025

Reflecting on 2024 Highlights

In 2024, the Coachella Valley Water District proudly advanced significant projects to enhance our community's water quality and sustainability, ensuring a brighter, healthier future for all.

EASTERN COACHELLA VALLEY FUNDING



CVWD celebrated receiving \$100 million in grant funding to provide clean, affordable water and reliable sewer services to under-served communities in the Eastern Coachella Valley. This achievement reflects nearly a decade of effort by CVWD's Disadvantaged Communities Infrastructure Task Force, which has connected hundreds of homes and improved services for thousands of residents. More progress is ahead!

MID-CANAL STORAGE PROJECT

Completed in summer 2024, the Mid-Canal Storage Project helps CVWD manage Coachella Canal delivery flows and will eliminate the need for concrete lining repairs in this section of the canal, saving on future costs. Construction included removing 4.9 miles of concrete lining and the embankment between the existing and old canal to create an in-line storage reservoir. The reservoir holds up to 728 acre-feet of water.

DRIVE FOR ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLES

CVWD has introduced new Chevy Bolts to its fleet, marking a significant step toward zero-emission transportation in line with California's Air Resources Board mandates. CVWD has purchased 25 Chevy Bolt EUVs, replacing older gas-powered vehicles. Charged on-site in Palm Desert, these EVs are paving the way for a cleaner fleet while a Zero Emission Fleet Study explores future options and infrastructure improvements.



NORTH INDIO REGIONAL FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

Completed in winter 2024, the North Indio Regional Flood Control Project is a 2.5-mile series of concrete flood control channels connecting Sun City Palm Desert and Shadow Hills to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. At \$110,209,837, it is the most expensive project in CVWD history. This project protects homes from regional flooding from the surrounding mountains, removes 2,700 acres from FEMA's flood hazard zone, and eliminates flood insurance requirements for residents.

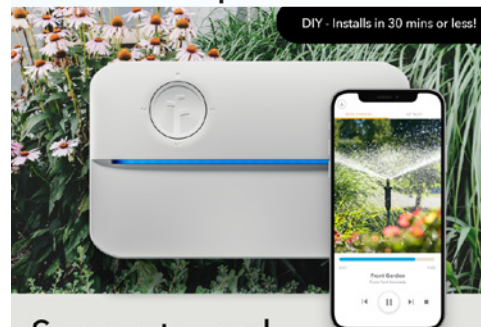
NONPOTABLE WATER EXPANSION PROJECT



Approximately 8.5 miles of pipeline will connect eight new customers to CVWD's recycled water system, delivering about 4,850 acre-feet annually for landscape irrigation. With a total project cost of \$21,057,581, CVWD is committed to ensuring a sustainable future for the Coachella Valley and conserving our vital groundwater resources. This project is expected to be completed in January 2025.

CVWD Water Efficiency Discount Programs

Rachio Smart Sprinkler Controller



Save water and
money every month

By using the Rachio Smart Sprinkler Controller with a smart watering app, you can control your sprinklers from anywhere with your mobile device. With Rachio, you can calculate when and how long to run your sprinklers and receive predictive watering schedules that adjust to local weather conditions. Available at a discount to CVWD customers, the cost of the program ranges from \$69.99-\$89.99, depending on the number of irrigation zones your yard contains. Self-install is required.

Flume Smart Home Water Monitor



With Flume, the future of water is digital. This device monitors your home's indoor and outdoor water use 24/7 and notifies you instantly if it detects a leak. While supplies last, CVWD customers can get the device for only \$85 (regularly \$249) after a discount and rebate. Self-install is required.

Visit www.cvwd.org/rebates for program details or call us at (760) 398-2651.

2025 Planting Calendars Available



CVWD's 2025 planting calendar is now available for customers upon request and at no charge, while supplies last.

This year's edition features colorful illustrations and graphics of desert-friendly succulents.

The calendar also highlights regional gardening information, including:

- ✓ Tips to save water and available CVWD rebates and incentives for residential, HOA, and commercial customers.
- ✓ Suggestions for creating a pollinator-friendly garden.
- ✓ Monthly gardening pointers and irrigation guides for each featured succulent type.

Request a calendar online at cvwd.org/publications to receive a calendar in the mail.

Customers can also pick up calendars at the District's Palm Desert or Coachella offices, as well as some Coachella Valley gardening stores.

Nursery pick-up locations include:

- All Color Growers, 78790 Darby Road, Bermuda Dunes
- Bob Williams Nursery, 48575 Madison St., Indio
- GDNC Nursery, 17655 Zeta Road, Desert Hot Springs
- Moon Valley Nurseries, 50600 Jackson Street, Coachella
- Mollers Garden Center, 72235 Painters Path, Palm Desert



Fix a Leak Week 2025

Mark your calendars for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Fix a Leak Week, March 17-23, 2025!

Did you know that household leaks can waste nearly 1 trillion gallons of water each year nationwide? Fix a Leak Week is an annual reminder to check household plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems for leaks.

To learn more, visit epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week.

CVWD Customer Assistance Program Helps Pay Water Bills

CVWD's customer assistance program offers eligible residential customers a \$150 credit on their water bill, available once in a 12-month period. Customers may reapply each year for assistance.

Residential customers who need help paying their water bill can apply through **Inland SoCal United Way** by visiting inlandsocaluw.org/help2others or by calling (909) 751-1180, ext. 1200 or by simply dialing 211. United Way screens eligible customers and provides them with assistance in paying a water bill.

Charitable donations are also accepted through United Way. Donations must be made directly to Inland SoCal United Way. All donations are tax-deductible.



Turf Conversion Rebate Program

Dedicate your New Year's resolution to going native and converting your lawn by installing drought-tolerant plants.

By converting your landscape, residential customers can receive \$2 per square foot of turf removed, up to 10,000 square feet per project per program year (July 1-June 30). HOA and commercial customers can receive a \$2 per square foot rebate, up to 25,000 square feet per project per program year.

Take advantage of the Turf Conversion Rebate Program this year and improve the health of your landscape.

The best time to convert your lawn is in the spring. Why?

- New plant installations require less water to thrive.
- Plants have a better chance of survival in the spring – the weather is not too hot or cold in the desert.
- With nice, breezy spring temperatures, customers can avoid new plant installations dying and having to repurchase plants.

For program details and more information, visit cvwd.org/rebates or call us at (760) 398-2651.

Before



After



Board Meetings

Board meetings are open to the public and are generally held at 8 a.m. the second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

Meetings alternate between the Steve Robbins Administration Building in Palm Desert and the Coachella Office.

Visit our website to watch meetings online and to view the agenda.

Main Line: (760) 398-2651
Customer Service: (760) 391-9600
Website: www.cvwd.org

