



## JUNE / 2022

**MARCH 2022 Residential Gallons Per Capita Water Use: 84.13.** Note: Water savings data reflects water use three months in the past. Also, "gallons per capita" is the standard of "measure" for tracking water conservation efforts. The State will determine how much water per person per day will be targeted--soon. Keep saving, Joshua Tree!



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**  
To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

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### Upcoming Events and Meetings:

- **Regular Board of Directors:** Wednesday, June 1st & 15th, 5:30PM. @ the District Office. (See website for Agenda)

For other calendar items, visit: [www.jbwd.com](http://www.jbwd.com)

### JUNE WATER CONSERVATION TIP:

**Be Swamp/Evaporative Cooler Saavy!**



This time of year heat is hard to escape. Many in our community rely on swamp or evaporative cooling for relief. However, copious amounts of water are spent daily using these cooling units (up to 90+ gallons per day in tripple digit temperatures)! This results in high water use bills during summer months.

Here are a few tips to help tame your water bill if you rely on swamp coolers:

- Make sure your cooler unit is well maintained: floats are properly adjusted and cooler pads are in good condition. This helps to prevent water loss while increasing the cooling intensity.
- If your system recirculates the



## GOING ON VACATION?

### Did you know you can lock your water meter?

Customers who are away from their properties for intermittent lengths of time have learned they can legally lock-off their water meter (from their side of the meter). This helps to prevent any damage from unexpected water leaks or unwanted access to their water service in their absence.

While this action can impede the property's automatic irrigation system (something to consider), it otherwise is a safe practice to prevent damage from unanticipated waterline breaks in the home while gone, which can result in costly water loss and flood damage.

water with periodic water flushes, consider routing the run-off to thirsty plants.

- To further decrease water use:
  - Turn units off (if possible) when you or pets are not present
  - Turn unit on one hour later in the morning than usual
  - draw window coverings to decrease incoming heat from sunlight
  - In the evening when temperatures drop, turn your unit's water off, and just run the fan
- Update older units with a timer or a thermostat to optimize efficiency

**NOTE:** *The seasonally warmer tap water does not affect the cooling process, however air humidity will decrease a swamp/ evaporative cooler's efficiency.*

#### CHECK FOR LEAKS OUTDOORS and MORE

- Check for leaks at your water meter.
- Turn off all water related appliances: washing machines, refrigerator ice-makers, irrigation systems, swimming pools, etc.
- Uncover your water meter, and check the "leak detector" (red indicator) for leaks.
  - **If the leak detector is moving, the hunt begins!**
- Walk your property's outdoor service water lines. Do you see any displaced "wet" areas or areas showing out-of-place greengrowth? This could represent an undetected line leak.
- Check all your water hose connections and faucets for leaks—are they dripping at all? Small drips add up fast, and may only cost pennies to repair!
- Check your pool/spa plumbing for leaks. Pools/spas with automatic refill mechanisms will continue to replace unsuspecting water loss, resulting in higher water use bills.
- Cover your pools/spas when not in use to minimize water loss due to evaporation.
- Check all irrigation valves for leaks.
- Check any back-flow devices for leaks.
- Check evaporative (swamp) cooler lines for leaks.

## DIY GUIDE TO AUDIT YOUR OWN OUTDOOR WATER USE and \$AVE

With water restrictions looming, and water use higher during hot summer months, reducing water use in the desert can seem illusive. To help you, we have put together a handy, do-it-yourself water audit guide sheet that may make a difference in the months ahead with your water bills.

Try it out--it's free! Just click on the form on the left and get started!

LA CONTENTA MIDDLE SCHOOL  
WATER EDUCATION  
FESTIVAL



Joshua Basin Water District, along with Hi-Desert Water District, Bighorn Desert View Water Agency, and Mojave Water Agency, spent a school day in May at La Contenta Middle School teaching approximately 400 8th grade students (10 presentation rotations each) all about water. Students learned from JBWD about adaptations of desert animals involving water conservation and survival. Live desert tortoises were on hand to impact the message on water conservation.

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

### DESERT PLANT I.D. WEBSITES

(Photo: CANDELILLA (*Euphorbia antisyphilitica*))



This past 2022 winter and spring seasons, JBWD offered many free classes and on-site opportunities to learn about native and water wise plants that can provide:

- enhanced property value
- decreased water consumption (resulting in lower water bills)
- leisurely enjoyment
- gardening success in our harsh desert environment

If you missed these classes, and own a "smart" phone, here's a tip on where you can gain insight on whether or not a plant is the right one for you. Two free website apps can connect you with information simply by zooming in on the plant of interest--be it in a garden, a nursery, or out in the wild. Check them out--visit: [CALFLORA](#) and [iNaturalist](#).

Another great web site for local plants (but not accessible by an app) is: [Desert Friendly Plants](#). This site breaks down recommendations by: California Natives, Cacti, Groundcovers, Shrubs, Trees,



## CURIOUS MINDS WANT TO KNOW:

Often, at our Farmers' Market booth or on social media, we get good questions that others may be asking. Here's more of a sample:

**Q:** *Can JBWD turn off a renter / tenant's water for non-payment of rent --at the landlord's request?*

**A:** By law, no. However, JBWD can turn off water service for non-payment of water provided, if the account is in the tenant's name.

Should the tenant's water service account fall into default, it can result in the property's water meter being locked-off from water service. In that situation, JBWD can require the landlord to place the rental unit's water account under the landlord's name for all future water services at that property, before water service can resume.

**Note:** *If you find you are in need of water payment assistance, don't wait until the tap water stops!*

**Contact JBWD's Customer Service Department at (760)366-8438 and find**

Succulents, Ornamental Grasses,  
Vines, and Annuals that do well out here.

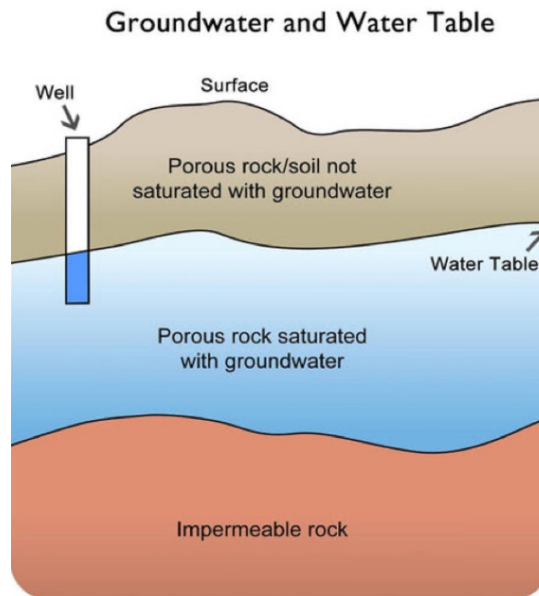
*out what options you may have to  
keep your tap water flowing!*

## OUR JUNE FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH: "Understanding Our Aquifer"

*Over Drafting, Recharging, Water Quality,  
and more...*

How much water does Joshua Tree really have? How expensive is it to replenish our ground water? How good is the water we buy to recharge the aquifer? How do we work to keep our water clean and safe to drink?

These are all good questions and as a "Community Owned Water District"--you need to know the answers! Come visit our Saturday booth to learn about our water source, every Saturday in June, from 8AM-1PM. And, while you're there, stop and have a cup of ice-cold great JBWD tap water!



## Emergencies Happen: Think WATER!

Saturday, June 25th, from 9AM-1PM, Joshua Basin Water District will host a booth in Pioneertown (see below) as a service to all Morongo Basin Residents helping to answer questions on *Water for Emergencies*. JBWD was impacted by the Landers' Earthquake like other local water providers. We believe that a well prepared community can buy valuable time so that waterline repairs can be prioritized when the ground starts shaking and the tap water stops. Summer heat in the desert is life threatening, especially when the water stops flowing--come learn how you can start preparing now!



Photo: JBWD's Director Barbara Delph volunteered to host an

information booth (along with President Floen, not pictured) in April on water for emergencies.

MORONGO BASIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS  
**REMEMBERING THE  
LANDERS EARTHQUAKE  
30TH ANNIVERSARY**  
SATURDAY, JUNE 25TH  
9:00AM—1:00PM IN PIONEERTOWN

IN THE PIONEERTOWN DRIVE-IN THEATER  
AT THE DESERT WILLOW RANCH, RIGHT  
NEXT DOOR TO PAPPY & HARRIET'S.  
COME LEARN ABOUT EARTHQUAKES AND  
HOW TO PREPARE FOR THEM!

FEATURING PROFESSOR OF GEOPHYSICS,  
DAVID OGLESBY & STUDENTS FROM UCR

**WHAT'S SHAKIN' IN THE DESERT?**  
MAKE YOUR OWN EARTHQUAKE WITH A SEISMOMETER!

MORONGO BASIN ORGANIZATIONS  
ACTIVE IN DISASTER  
PREPAREDNESS BOOTHS  
PEPN: PIONEERTOWN  
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS NETWORK

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



## Capital Improvement and Replacement Program: "C.I.R.P." UPDATE *You're water dollar\$ at work!*

### TILFORD PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

Tilford Phase One waterlines are currently being flushed so that samples can be taken and tested next week. After the water sample analysis passes, we can start connecting customers to the new main the following week.

### WELL 14 UPDATE:

The State Water Resource Control Board from the California Department of Water Resources has given Well 14 a clear pass to operate! Final preparations are now in process to connect our largest water producing well to our community system, with July targeted for full operation.

### DISTRICT OFFICE REMODEL:



## BOARD ROOM:

The Board room is almost complete. Fresh paint, some upgraded electrical wiring and a "redesign" to make space for our growing community has now been realized.

Elsewhere, ancient carpeting was removed throughout most of the building and replaced with high-traffic, low maintenance vinyl flooring.

## CUSTOMER SERVICE LOBBY:

The lobby is currently closed to the public while work is finalized to complete the remodel. We anticipate reopening by mid-summer 2022.

However, remember that Customer Service is here to help you by email at [customerservice@jbwd.com](mailto:customerservice@jbwd.com), or by phone at 760-366-8438, or you can contact Customer Service to make an "in person" appointment.

## DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR JUNE

### **June Watering Schedule: Before 9:00 AM --after 6:00 PM**

*Take a few minutes each week to check your water system for wayward leaks when turned on. This will help save on water (and money on your water bill) as well as, prevent some plants from being harmed from overwatering (via leaks) or under watering (via clogs).*

### **This month in your Desert-Smart Landscape:**

This is a good season to plant or transplant palms or cacti.

- Prune fast-growing trees like mesquite, palo verde, and acacias to reduce chances of wind damage; don't remove more than 20 percent of a plant's foliage at any one time to avoid stress or sunburn of trunk and branches
- Keep adding to mulches throughout the summer to conserve water, keep roots cool, and deter weeds. Water well before applying the mulch (or through an opening in the mulch), or you'll insulate dry soil rather than moist soil
- Continue to deadhead spent flowers for a longer bloom cycle

# June 2022 Plant of the Month

## Golden Yarrow

*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*

Plant Form: Perennial sub-shrub  
Water Use: Very low  
Mature Size: 1-2 ft. tall and wide  
Exposure: Full sun  
Bloom Time: Spring (March - May), Summer (June-August)  
Native to: California, Baja California  
Hardiness: Cold Hardy to 5°F

Golden Yarrow is especially welcome in the garden because of its long blooming season. This compact perennial or small shrub is a highly variable plant, with northern California forms looking much different than central or southern California plants. The slender, numerous stems support woolly, deeply-lobed leaves, and are topped with slightly rounded flower clusters each holding up to 30 flower heads. The golden-yellow flowers provide months of bright color, attracting bees and butterflies. Golden Yarrow is easy to grow, has no serious pests or disease issues, tolerates clay soil, and happily resists browsing by rabbits and deer. It needs very little water once established, and benefits from being cut back to 3-4 inches after flowering to maintain a compact form. This drought-tolerant beauty brightens up flower beds and borders, rock gardens, Mediterranean gardens, and butterfly gardens, especially when planted in groups or massed.



Alliance for Water  
Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water-use gardening,  
contact your local water provider or go to  
[www.hdawac.org](http://www.hdawac.org)

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