



Special Announcement

SORRY WE'RE CLOSED Monday, May 27, 2024,
in observance of Memorial Day

THE METER READER

May 2024

Mission Statement: To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

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agenda

Board Meetings:

- Special Board Meeting - 05.01.24 - 3:00 pm
- Special Board Meeting - 05.15.24 - 3:00 pm

Committee Meetings:

- Finance Committee - 05.08.24 - 9:00 am
- Water Resources & Ops - 05.08.24 - 11:00 am
- Citizens Advisory Council - 05.14.24 - 5:00 pm

Classes:

- Wildcrafting Course: First four Friday mornings in May (These four are currently full).
 - May 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th

Monthly Water Use

February: 60.23 GPCD

The measure used for reporting water conservation is called Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD). The GPCD value reported here reflects water usage from three months earlier. California aims to achieve 42 GPCD by the year 2030.

Keep saving, Joshua Tree!

»»» MAY WATER SAVING TIP:

Every drop counts. Use water wisely.



Make the change to California native plants and use less water.



SaveOurWater.com

»»» **Curious Minds Want to Know**

Enjoy the question of the month.

Question:

“The recent rains have “greened-up” the desert. How can we tell weeds from volunteer native plants that have managed to now start growing?”

Answer:

With fire season becoming a year-round event in the desert, the first concern property owners should address is creating *defensible space* around their dwellings by removing *all* spring weeds early.

Then, after achieving a defensible space, identify remaining native plant sprouts using an app on your smartphones called *iNaturalist* (<https://www.inaturalist.org>)



»»» **IN CASE YOU MISSED IT**

La Contenta Middle School students had a great visit to Joshua Basin Water District’s Water Wise Garden in April.



»»» **FARMERS’ MARKET**

Come celebrate spring as we welcome two baby tortoises at our market booth every Saturday in May from 8AM-1PM. Learn how they are masters at water conservation from day one, and how we can take lessons from them!



IN THIS ISSUE <<<

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

General Manager Johnson has been advocating for our District in Sacramento, meeting with Representatives on issues like the Lead and Copper Rule, Chromium VI, other unfunded mandates, and the lack of financial support needed to implement new rules and regulations.

RECENT BOARD ACTION OF NOTE:

During the recent Board meeting, no significant actions or impactful votes concerning ratepayers were taken. The District's leadership is currently examining financial aspects in preparation for the upcoming fiscal year budget (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025).

>>> CIRP UPDATE



Our Crews were on the move in March!

- 820 - LCRR (lead & copper) inspections *
- 330 - Service orders
 - 8 - Service Line replacements
 - 76 - Meter replacements
 - 7 - New Service Line Installations
- 57 - Dig Alert water line identifications
- 3 - Fire Flow Tests
- 9 - Leak line repairs

Also, numerous "Confined Space" notices were painted on tanks, and routine site maintenance was completed.

JBWD's Capital Improvement Replacement Program (CIRP) was launched in 2019, demonstrating a commitment to the District's infrastructure maintenance.



>>> DID YOU KNOW...The State of California has recently implemented a new regulation. Water providers are now required to inventory both the District and the customer's side of the service line for copper and lead. All findings must be submitted before October 18th this year. Referred to as "LCRR" (Lead Copper Rule Revised), this is one of several unfunded mandates that our community-owned Water District must address.

May 2024

»» Plant of the Month

Purple Phlomis, Purple Jerusalem Sage

Phlomis purpurea

Plant Form: Evergreen shrub

Water Use: Low

Mature Size: 2-4 ft. tall x 3-4 ft. wide

Exposure: Full sun, light shade

Bloom Time: Spring (Mar – May), Summer (June – Aug)

Native to: Spain, Portugal, Morocco

Hardiness: Cold hardy to 15°F

Purple Phlomis offers a beautiful solution for hot, dry areas of a yard, forming a large mound of woolly leaves with whorls of rose-lavender, hooded flowers skewered in tiers on long spikes of fuzzy stems. Its softness belies its tough nature, since it is drought-tolerant, heat tolerant, cold hardy, low maintenance, resists browsing by deer, and requires very little summer water once established. Butterflies and bees love the flowers, adding good habitat to your yard. The cut flowers make nice bouquets, and after the flowers fall away, the seedpods create interesting dried arrangements. Flowers allowed to go to seed attract songbirds in fall and winter. Cut back to about 1 foot tall in late fall. While this drought-tolerant shrub tolerates some shade, it may get leggy with too much shade. Use as an accent or specimen plant, in borders and beds, or massed in the garden. Ideal plant for rock gardens, butterfly and hummingbird gardens, Mediterranean gardens, and any xeriscape garden.



Alliance for Water
Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water-use gardening,
contact your local water provider or go to

www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/

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»» GARDENING TIPS FOR YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

- As weather heats up, change watering schedule from mid-day to early morning or evening to minimize loss through evaporation.
- Maintain a good mulch of organic matter covering garden soil throughout the summer to hold in moisture.
- Remove (“deadhead”) spent flowers unless you want to collect seeds (such as from Penstemons) to stimulate repeat blooming.

HISTORIC USES OF PURPLE PHLOMIS:

- It is a popular herbal tea enjoyed for its taste and aroma.
- Phlomis species are used to treat various conditions such as diabetes, gastric ulcer, hemorrhoids, inflammation, and wounds.

HOW TO IDENTIFY WATER LEAKS AT YOUR HOME OR BUSINESS

To detect a water leak at home, check common areas like faucets and appliances for moisture, mold, or discoloration. Monitor the water meter for continuous flow with all sources off and investigate unexplained water bill increases. Inspect pipes for damage and use a dye test in toilets. Regular checks and quick repairs can prevent damage and save water.



May is Water Awareness Month

Imagine our desert without any water? It would be...well, just dirt!

Water has the power to transform an arid wasteland into a vibrant community--an ecosystem--a place where we not only just live, but *thrive*.

That's the power--and the magic--of water! Can you even imagine a day without water? A week? A month?

Except for our brief periods of rain and snow our water source is all underground, but fact be known, it is still a finite amount.

Our community must continue to strive to be good stewards of our most precious resource: water.

Keep saving, Joshua Tree!

**Use water wisely.
Our future depends on it.**

Fix leaks around the house
and save 110 gallons of water a month.

SaveOurWater.com



District's new website is live and was designed with you in mind!

Discover the unparalleled experience awaiting you on our new website, where innovation meets convenience at every click. Dive into a world of seamless navigation and captivating design, crafted to enhance your exploration. Join us on this immersive digital voyage and unlock a realm of possibilities, where every visit promises discovery and satisfaction.

[CLICK HERE](#) 



Burretec's Donation

Thank you for donating 40 cubic tons of mulch and 40 cubic tons of compost (plus freight) to our community during our recent native plant sale event.

Both mulch and compost help reduce water evaporation in our desert gardens and landscapes. Burretec knows, "Every drop counts!"

HELP YOURSELF HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS EVENT: A FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY FAIR OFFERING INTERACTIVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS, DEMOS, AND THE CHANCE TO MEET FIRST RESPONDERS. A PERFECT BLEND OF FUN, LEARNING, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT AIMED AT EMPOWERING YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS FOR ANY SITUATION.



SAVE THE DATE!

MAY 11TH
9AM-1PM

WALMART PARKING LOT
IN YUCCA VALLEY





HONORING OUR PUBLIC SERVANTS

May 5-11, 2024

Public Service Recognition Week (PSRW) is celebrated the first week of May since 1985 (beginning on the first Sunday of the month) to honor individuals who serve our nation as federal, state, county and local government employees. It is a valuable recognition program intended to help build workplace culture and support meaningful employee engagement.

Joshua Basin Water District would like to thank our local public servants and recognize their contributions to our health, safety, and well-being.

We appreciate the work you do, whether it be volunteering, elected official, employment, or serving the public in any capacity.

**Thank
you!**