

TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



JULY 2023

APRIL 2023 Residential Gallons Per Capita
Water Use: 86.29 Gallons

*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 has determined our water use per person per day is 47 gallons by 2025, and 42 gallons by 2030. Keep saving, Joshua Tree!***



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



JULY HOLIDAY WATER DISTRICT CLOSURES

The District Office will be closed for all regular customer services on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 in observance of the Independence Day Holiday. In the event of a water system emergency, call: (760) 366-8438--our crews are on standby 24/7!

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: Fireworks are illegal and are dangerous to our community by sparking brush fires that can endanger people, properties, local wildlife and our beautiful desert, not to mention consume countless gallons of water to extinguish. Be wise and watchful for any signs of unsanctioned fireworks activity during this time of community celebration. Please participate only in commercially sponsored firework display events. Have a "safe" 4th of July!

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- Upcoming Events and Meetings
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- Understanding our Aquifer
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- It's High Water Use Season--July water saving tips
- In Case You Missed It & LIWAP 2!
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- Your Leadership in Action
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Upcoming Events and Meetings:

Board of Directors meetings:

- Regular Meeting - Wednesday, July 5 - **CANCELLED**
- Regular Meeting - Wednesday, July 19 at 5:30 PM
- Finance Committee -Wednesday, July 12 at 9:00 AM - **CANCELLED**
- Water Resources & Ops- Wednesday, July 12 at 10:30 AM

Citizens Advisory Council:

- Tuesday, July 11 at 5:00 PM

- C.I.R.P. Update
- July Desert Gardening Tips
- Plant of the Month

Visit www.jbwd.com for agendas, Zoom links, locations and other info.

WHAT'S IN OUR WATER? THE NEW WATER QUALITY REPORT IS HERE!

JBWD monitors our water quality on a daily basis, 12 months out of the year. Those results are sent to the State (which is required by law) for review and evaluation by them, to determine if we are protecting our community's water. Each year by July 1st the Annual Water Quality Report (also called the Consumer Confidence Report) is published for the previous year. Click to view our new [2022 Water Quality Report](#)

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

Reporting Year 2022



Presented By



Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

PWS ID#: CA3610025

UNDERSTANDING OUR AQUIFER

1. OUR AQUIFER IS LIKE A BIG SPONGE.

Water fills up in the open spaces of the soil when the

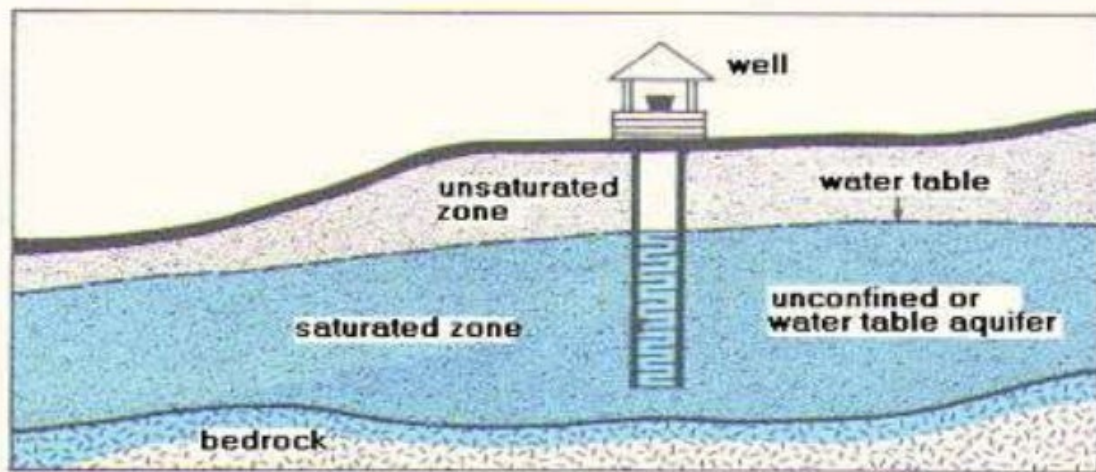


an aquifer is at capacity. As a rule, it does not "collapse" (like some other aquifers comprised of different soils) when water levels drop, and generally retains its integrity while only becoming dryer as the water level goes lower. This explains how our ground water levels

decrease, without experiencing the sinking of our surface soil.

2. UNCONFINED AQUIFER (WATER TABLE AQUIFER):-

- × **Unconfined aquifers** are those into which water seeps from the ground surface directly above the **aquifer**.



Water Banking and \$Recharging\$ the Aquifer

Our water source is ancient, with very little natural replenishment from our annual rains. "Recharging" or *refilling* the aquifer, is a responsibility of the District, as mandated by the State of California. This is done generally each year by JBWD, who must *purchase* wholesale water (not potable)--then import it via the Morongo Basin Pipeline, and cleanse it naturally via our percolation ponds. This water is not free but is our best source for maintaining the water levels in our underground storage: the aquifer.

During our last drought, our Leadership Team initiated a contract with the State of California to be a recipient of excess water during heavy rainfall years. As our aquifer is massive, the storage space can accommodate far more water volume than we afford to buy each year. This means we can increase the underground water levels by storing the State's excess water, which improves the aquifer's health while preventing the State's water from just running out to the ocean. The State gives us a discount on the cost of this water *only when we draw on it*. This arrangement is called, "water banking"--and it's a win-win for everyone!

Good news! This year JBWD has been notified of the potential to water bank excess water.

GREATER JOSHUA TREE ART EXPO

SEP
8-17
2023

WATER IN
THE DESERT
— PRESERVING
OUR OASIS

JURIED ART
COMPETITION



The Mojave Water Agency, a state water supplier for many desert regional water providers, has partnered with the Hi-Desert Cultural Center's flagship art

**JURIED COMPETITION: 3 CATEGORIES
\$500 1ST PRIZE EACH CATEGORY**

CALL FOR ART: JUN 15-AUG 18, 2023

Cultural Center's flagship art gallery in Greater Joshua Tree to launch a premier Art Expo focusing on *Water In The Desert—Preserving Our Oasis*.

With water presenting itself as the new California "gold," this large juried exhibition invites all mediums of visual art expressions to highlight the overarching message that water is life—creating inspiration and dialogue that captures the plenishing life-giving force water offers for our quality of living.

EXHIBITION OPENING GALA: SEP 8, 2023

PUBLIC DISPLAY: SEP 8-17, 2023



JTGOCA.COM

JOSHUA TREE
GALLERY



OF CONTEMPORARY ART



IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Photo caption above: Locals inspect a few of the 90 free Palo Verde and Mesquite tree specimens offered by the University of California Riverside (UCR)/Master Gardener's program at the free tree giveaway held at JBWD in June.

- **The "Free water wise shade tree event** was so successful, that efforts to have a second event are being explored. Trees were purchased via grant funds obtained by UCR and provided by regional nurseries.
- **LIWAP**, also known as the "Low Income Water Assistance Program" visited JBWD for an onsite application assistance event on June 22. District staff and LIWAP representatives helped dozens of customers qualify for assistance.

Another LIWAP Day has now been slated! Check out the announcement



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: How hard is our water?

A: Water with a high concentration of dissolved minerals--especially calcium and magnesium--that seemingly makes it difficult to lather with soap--generally identifies water as being *hard*.

The State Water Resources Control Board sets the range for measuring hard water. The *low* is 110 to a *high* of 300 parts per million.

The good news is: JBWD's water generally falls at the mid-point of this range. This means our water has enough good tasting *healthy* minerals within each glassful you drink from the tap, without it being overwhelmingly

JBWD Customers!

Our first Low Income Household Water Assistance program (LIHWAP) event was a HUGE success. Our approved customers saved over \$16,000. Representatives from the Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino will once again be joining us to assist in completing applications. Details listed on the flyer. We hope to see you on July 20th!

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT
Proudly providing water from an ancient source... well into the future

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT'S

LIHWAP

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DAY 2

- FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS -

<p>10AM - 3PM</p> <p>JULY 20, 2023</p> <p>JBWD</p> <p>BOARD ROOM</p> <p>61750 CHOLLITA RD JOSHUA TREE, CA</p>	<p>ITEMS TO BRING (REQUIRED)</p> <p>1) Current Water Bill</p> <p>2) Household income for last 4 weeks (noncash benefits, state/federal help, SNAP, EBT, IHSS, SSI, SSDI)</p> <p>3) Current Government Photo ID</p>
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OUR FRIENDLY STAFF AND LIHWAP REPRESENTATIVES WILL ASSIST YOU WITH THE APPLICATION!



IT'S HIGH WATER USE SEASON: JULY WATER SAVING TIPS

- Read your water meter weekly--checking for evidence of small leaks before they get big.

See: [How to read your meter](#)

- Be sure all garden hoses have a shut-off nozzle *that don't leak*
- Use a commercial car wash service (they have to recycle water)
- If you are car washing at home, wash by "thirsty landscape or trees"
- Maintain your swamp cooler for maximum efficiency: [Tips to maintain a swamp cooler](#)
- Check your toilets for sneaky leaks using dye tabs or food coloring : [How to test your toilet for unseen/unheard leaks](#)
- Pre-chill / refrigerate drinking water to minimize running the faucet to gain cooler water
- Replace outdoor faucet O-ring washers if dripping

FIGHT THE BITE! Red Alert: Mosquitos Are Here... Maybe it's because we had a wet spring, or maybe it's because these unwelcome visitors hitch-hiked a ride with tourists and decided there's enough remnant water sources to call it home. Regardless, they are here. Did you know it only takes a bottle-cap full **of water** to provide a home for mosquito breeding? Or that it only takes seven to ten days for one mosquito alone to lay an average of 100 eggs each time? To learn more, visit: [Fight the Bite!](#) Meanwhile, protect yourself! **See below.**

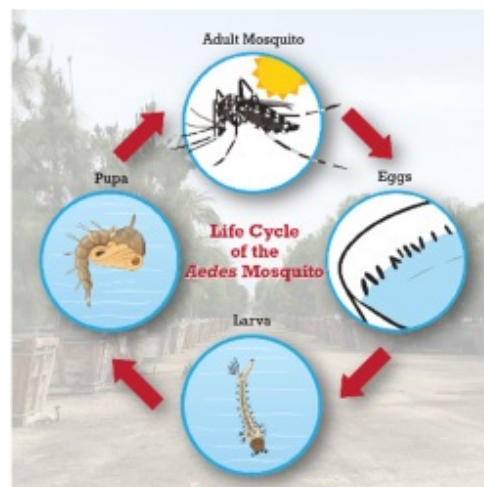


Invasive Mosquitoes are in Your Community and We Need Your Help

A new type of mosquito—invasive *Aedes*—is in your neighborhood, and they like to bite! These mosquitoes are not normally found in California, so they don't thrive in natural areas, but they live and thrive in cities and can be an extreme nuisance. Controlling these mosquitoes will not harm the ecosystem, but WILL help prevent pesky mosquito bites and the possible spread of diseases to people such as Zika, dengue, chikungunya, and yellow fever.

Aedes mosquitoes live in urban environments and often in people's backyards and patios—areas where mosquito and vector control districts can't easily inspect. **That's where you come in!** Be on the lookout for:

- ✓ Small, black mosquitoes with white stripes (about 1/4 inch long)
- ✓ Mosquitoes that bite during the day and at night—even indoors!
- ✓ Mosquito larvae (wigglers) swimming in stagnant water
- ✓ Eggs that look like tiny black seeds found on the insides of water containers



Aedes aegypti (Yellow Fever Mosquito)



Aedes albopictus (Asian Tiger Mosquito)



Aedes notoscriptus (Australian Backyard Mosquito)



Aedes aegypti mosquito eggs



Aedes notoscriptus mosquito larvae

Continued

What Happens in the Yard Stays in the Yard

Don't hand over your yard to the bloodsuckers

PROTECT YOURSELF



Do you have standing water in your yard? Check the following sources:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tires | <input type="checkbox"/> Toys | <input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle/mechanical supplies, wheelbarrow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appliances | <input type="checkbox"/> Grills, furniture | <input type="checkbox"/> Fountain, pond, pool |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Buckets, bottles, cans | <input type="checkbox"/> Trash, recycling, | <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn ruts, holes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plants, pots, saucers | <input type="checkbox"/> Storage bins | <input type="checkbox"/> Gutters, drains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pet dishes | <input type="checkbox"/> Air conditioner, swamp cooler | <input type="checkbox"/> Valves, pipes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bird baths | | |

If you have standing water, dump it!

- Dump and drain any standing water in the yard
- Empty water from saucers under pots and water-holding plants, such as bromeliads
- Throw away or turn over containers that could hold water
- Remove unused appliances, tires, or other items that could collect water

Stay safe from mosquitoes!

- Install/repair window and door screens to keep mosquitoes outside of your home
- Wear long-sleeve shirts, pants, and socks
- Wear repellent – at home and while traveling – when mosquitoes are active

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

With Recent Board Action Items of Note:

New Meter Rates

At a special meeting in June, the Board of Directors voted 5-0 in favor of



increasing the cost of new development meters to offset the District's increased costs for installing them.

Background Information:

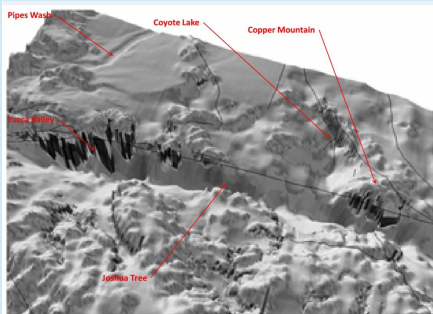
Years ago, our "Community Owned Water District" changed its business practice of absorbing or subsidizing the cost of "new construction" in a directive declaring that new development needs to pay its own way. With the recent exorbitant cost increase in product and materials, labor, and compliance mandates, the new meter charges are intended to cover the current outlay of the District's expenses to meet the requests for new construction meters.

Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission

Joshua Basin Water District held the quarterly Morongo Basin Pipeline Commission meeting in June. The Commission is made up of representatives from the project's benefactors: Marina West (Mojave Water Agency), Megan Close-Dees (Bighorn Desert-View Water Agency), Bob Stadum (Hi-Desert Water District), and JBWD's Board President, Tom Floen, Commission Chairperson.



The Commission oversees the shared use of the pipeline which provides supplemental water to our various aquifers. At this meeting, presenters from Mojave Water Agency discussed the State's water overage situation from the past 6 months, along with indicators that the State was considering water banking of its surplus water.



**JULY'S FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH:
"Where's the Water?"
Understanding Our Aquifer**

If you are new to the area and looking around for signs of our "natural" source of drinking water, you might want to stop by our Farmers' Market Booth in July to learn about where it is.

You'll also learn what goes into JBWD maintaining the largest aquifer in the area. We'll have on display an X-ray vision-type photo--that will help you see below the earth's surface at the underground storage for our great tasting water.



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (C.I.R.P.)

"60,243,332 gallons or 164 acre feet..."

That's how much water was returned to the ground through broken pipes last year! This water is often referred to as "water loss"--even though much of it, but not all of it--may seep back down to our aquifer. Unfortunately, that process can take years...

Market hours are 8AM-1PM. JBWD's booth is located on the west end of the Market.

Our C.I.R.P crews are working hard to save our water by replacing our old pipes. Meanwhile, our community must continue to identify and fix their own leaks quickly to also help save our water.

DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR JULY

June Watering Schedule: Before 9:00 AM and after 6:00 PM

To prevent water from running off your property and flowing into streets or neighboring property, allow time for the water to soak into the soil; apply water for only 3 to 4 minutes--wait an hour, then repeat.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

Smart water-wise practices pay off now: Climate-adapted plants + Mulch + Deep watering = Less water use

- Check irrigation emitters, valves, and lines for clogs, leaks, and breaks
- Flush out lines by removing end caps with your water system on; sand or deposits in lines can clog emitters
- Leave a dripping hose at the drip-line of trees and shrubs to deeply soak soil once a month; set a timer to remind you to move hose to next plant
- Add to mulches as they decompose to conserve water, keep roots cool, and reduce frequency of watering
- Encourage repeat blooming by pinching or cutting back annuals, perennials, and shrubs

HISTORIC USES OF: Carob Tree *Ceratonia siliqua*

On Crete, this tree is called "harupya" (in Greek). In Mediterranean culture, the carob tree is revered as sacred, and has been a staple for centuries. What is it famous for?

1. Carob contains natural syrup, which is sweet and does not contain sugar, therefore it is recommended for people for whom sugar is avoided in their diets.
2. Carob, having a chocolate flavor, unlike cocoa and coffee, does not contain caffeine therefore it is often recommended as a useful substitute for coffee and cocoa for those who cannot drink coffee.
3. The product does not cause allergic reactions and is allowed to be consumed during pregnancy and breastfeeding.
4. Carob from not fried fruits acts as a reliable remedy for diarrhea, soothes the stomach. The environmentally friendly product is recommended even for babies.
5. Carob is a very useful product containing many vitamins and minerals: potassium, phosphorus, magnesium, vitamins A, B and B2. The main components of it are vitamin B9 and, especially, vitamin D, which is considered to have impact on growth, therefore, the syrup, containing it, is often recommended for children to prevent rickets.

The presence of calcium (24.3%) makes Carob a valuable product for those who have problems with bones, and, namely, people with the disease osteoporosis caused by a lack of calcium in the bones.

July 2023 Plant of the Month

Carob Tree *Ceratonia siliqua*

Plant Form: Evergreen tree, shrub
Water Use: Very low
Mature Size: 30-45 ft. tall x wide
Exposure: Full sun
Bloom Time: Fall (Sept – Nov), Winter (Dec)
Native to: Mediterranean region, Iran
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 20°F

Carob Tree, best known for its cultivated seed pods used as a substitute for chocolate, is also valued for its ornamental landscape qualities. Its dense canopy of glossy, evergreen foliage makes a wonderful shade tree. Allowed to grow naturally, it retains its bushy form as a multi-stemmed shrub with branches to the ground, useful as a big hedge. If the plant is trained as a tree, with lower branches removed, it grows into a dense, rounded tree. Trees are either male or female, with both needed to produce carob fruit. Female trees produce flattened, brown leathery pods 1 foot long, which can be messy and may require occasional clean-up. Request a male tree to avoid fruit drop. Young trees may need winter protection the first year or two. Water infrequently and deeply until established, after which little or no summer water may be needed. Use as a shade tree, windbreak, sound barrier, or tall hedge.



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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Joshua Basin Water District
www.jbwd.com



Joshua Basin Water District | 61750 Chollita Rd. , Joshua Tree, CA 92252

[Unsubscribe sjohnson@jbwd.com](mailto:sjohnson@jbwd.com)

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