

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

WATERLINE REPORT

Forum: Water and Development

The population of Joshua Tree has increased by about 10% since 2000 and new housing development proposals are anticipated in the future. This raises questions about the responsibilities of the Joshua Basin Water District, the role of the County, and how they inter-relate.

To respond to these questions, JBWD and the County of San Bernardino are sponsoring a Water and Development Forum next month to learn about water and land use policy. The Forum begins with an overview presentation on Thursday night, February 18 followed by an all-day session Friday February 19 at the Joshua Tree Community Center.

The Forum will bring experts from throughout the state, including Jeff Loux, Chair of the Land Use and Natural Resources Program for UC Davis Extension. He and other presenters will discuss the roles our agencies have and how county development code, state laws and court decisions apply to our Joshua Tree community. The event offers an opportunity to understand the process that is necessary to formulate our water policy for new development.

We are pleased to present this Forum, making it possible to learn and understand these processes at a time when little development is occurring. This will allow us to be better prepared when the time comes that development in this area accelerates again. While the Forum is focused on Joshua Tree, it will be applicable to other jurisdictions as well. Members of the public are welcome to attend. Reservations are encouraged, call 760-366-8438.

BOARD of

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The Board of Directors meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the JBWD Office. Some meetings are cancelled, please check with the District offices before planning to attend.



Joshua Basin Water District is an equal opportunity provider.

Water and Development

**What do we know?
What can we learn?**

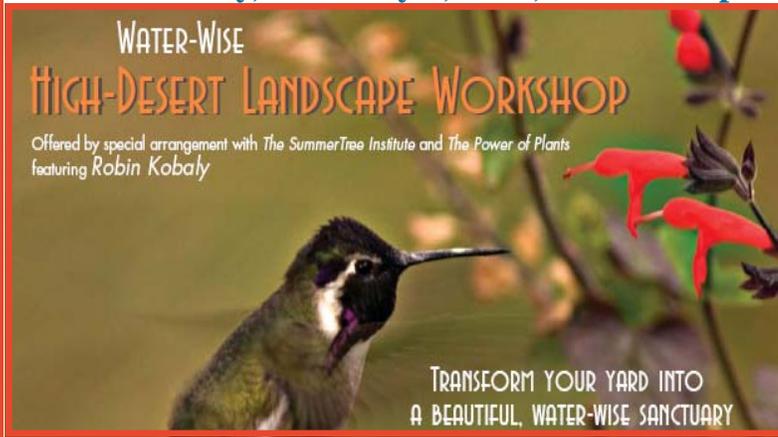
A public forum on water and land use policy hosted by
Joshua Basin Water District
and
San Bernardino County Supervisor Neil Derry

Joshua Tree Community Center
6171 Sunburst Drive

February 18-19, 2010

Join Us for Our Next Landscape Workshop!

Saturday, February 6, 2010, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Joshua Tree Community Center



Robin Kobaly, botanist and executive director of the SummerTree Institute, will be presenting the workshop.

The workshop is sponsored by Joshua Basin Water District, the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation, Bighorn-Desert View Water Agency, Town of Yucca Valley and Hi-Desert Water District.

To reserve your space, call (760) 228-6267. The cost of \$25 covers the workshop and class materials.

CALLING ALL DOCENTS!

D`o -cents: (*definition: n. Well informed guide; as in a museum.*)

The Joshua Basin Water District's Demonstration Garden is nearing completion and will be open to the general public just in time for residents to start planning their spring planting season!



Self-walking tours will soon be available during District business hours, however opportunities for *informative* walking tours are now in the planning stages with volunteer docents. Do you love native plants? Do you enjoy interacting with the general public? Do you love the outdoors? A one-hour general information meeting will be held for individuals just like you! Join us on Tuesday, January 19th at 10:00 am at the District office to find out more!

December Plant of the Month INDIAN RICE GRASS - *Oryzopsis hymenoides*

Indian rice grass is a native grass that can be a lovely accent in your planned xeriscape. It grows one to two feet tall and has delicate lacy seedheads. Winter and spring rains will bring new growth and green shoots. By June, it turns straw colored and remains this color until the next spring.



It grows in many types of soil, but does especially well in sandy areas.

Oryzopsis hymenoides is an important food supply for animals and birds in the wild.

The open spangled appearance is very attractive. It is often found in flower markets and used in flower arrangements.



For more information on low water use gardening, visit www.jbwd.com and www.hdawac.org