

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

WATERLINE REPORT

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The Board of Directors meets regularly on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month at 7 p.m. at the District Office.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Recharge Pond and Pipeline

This project will help ensure a high quality water supply, replenish our aquifer and provide insurance against a local Water Crisis

Did you know...that the World Water Council has identified a *World Water Crisis*? And, have you heard about *California's Water Crisis*?

As drought continues, water worries increase, and new methods of obtaining usable and drinkable water are conceived and refined. Extracting drinkable water from sea water is one. Another, the "Toilet to Tap" approach, treats sewage water so that it can be used in the home.

These methods are extremely complicated and costly. Here in Joshua Tree, we are far from any ocean and let's just say that the "toilet to tap" option would be a last resort for us.

Experts agree that the most important remedies to a water crisis are: more effective and efficient water use, saving existing water resources, and improving and increasing drinking water supply.

We are fortunate that we are not affected yet by the state and global water crisis; we have a clean and adequate groundwater supply. But, this water will not last forever.

For many years, we have **overdrafted** our natural aquifer - if that continues, quality will suffer because the water lower down is poor quality. Also, it's much more costly to bring to the surface.

In 1991 Joshua Tree voters approved a tax to help pay for the Morongo Basin Pipeline to bring supplemental water. This water comes from the high Sierras. The pipeline was built and ends at our District boundary. Now we need to build a pipe to bring that water into the District and **recharge** the aquifer.

When the project is complete, we will be able to receive water that comes from the high sierras, originating as snowmelt. The water will be piped in to percolate in the ponds and be further refined as it travels underground to replenish our aquifer.

In this difficult economy, JBWD has applied for grants and other funds to pay for the project. The District has already been promised three million dollars, and we continue to search for any opportunity for funding.

Rather than waiting until a *local water crisis* happens, we are planning and working to remedy our overdraft situation so that we can continue providing high quality water far into the future.



The Morongo Basin Pipeline was installed to provide supplemental water to three water districts, including JBWD. When the Recharge Project is complete we will be able to receive the water

Expand Your Water Vocabulary

Aquifer (or basin): a natural underground layer, often of sand or gravel, that contains water.

Contamination: substances or wastewater that, if mixed with fresh water, makes it unfit for drinking.

Groundwater: fresh water found beneath the earth's surface, stored underground between sand or gravel particles, or in rock crevices.

Overdraft: pumping of more water out of an aquifer than there is flowing into it; this depletes the groundwater and lowers the level of the aquifer.

Potable Water: water that can be used for drinking.

Precipitation: rain, snow, hail, sleet, dew, and frost.

Recharge: water added to an aquifer such as rain or pond water that seeps into the ground to refill the aquifer.

Reservoir: a pond or basin for water storage.

EPA, USGS



Keeping Summer Water Use Low

During the summer months, water use can really increase. Using evaporative, or "swamp" coolers is one contributor; frequent and longer showers to beat the heat is another.



One of the biggest added water costs during summer is increased outdoor watering. We know that as the weather gets hotter and drier, our plants get thirstier just like we do. But overwatering can happen, even during summer. Here are a few tips to help your outdoor plants through the season without overdoing it:

- **Water when the sun is low or down**, winds are calm, and temperatures are cool - between evening and early morning - to reduce evaporation. You can lose as much as 30% of water to evaporation by watering midday.
- **Water only when needed:** Saturate root zones and let the soil dry. Watering too much and too frequently results in shallow roots, weed growth, disease and fungus.
- If you use an automatic irrigation system, inspect it and **check for leaks**, broken or clogged heads, and other problems. Consider a drip irrigation system or "smart" controllers that use sensors to evaluate the moisture conditions and automatically adjust the watering rate.
- Finally, if you decide to change your landscape, **choose native and low-water-use plantings**. Once established, they need little or no water. Visit our *Water Wise Demonstration Garden* for inspiration.
- For more information, go to www.epa.gov/watersense

Source: EPA WaterSense

Check out our water-efficient landscape designs, available on our website, www.jbwd.com.

Plant of the Month

CALIFORNIA BUCKWHEAT - *Eriogonum fasciculatum foliolosum*



California Buckwheat is a tough sweet-heart of the southwest. Very drought tolerant and hardy to -10° , this plant is an important source of nectar for bees and butterflies. Flowers appear in dense, frilly clusters, starting with pink buds, turning white when they open and aging into an attractive rust brown in the fall.



For more information on low water use gardening, see www.jbwd.com or www.hdawac.org

Photos courtesy of Las Pilitas Nursery

California Buckwheat
E. fasciculatum foliolosum