

# WATERLINE

## JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

# REPORT

*"Joshua Tree... It's the water!"*

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## Water Rates Update

Water rates are on track as of January 1, 2015. **Water rate increases were approved last year in March and the January rates reflect the second step in a five year process to bring us to the target figures mandated by the State of California.** This means the water bills mailed at the **end of February** for consumption from January-February, will reflect the rate increase. Bills mailed at the end of January are still at the old rates, since that includes consumption for part of December, before the rate increase effective date.

Changes are slowly being made to the water rates to encourage conservation. In order to be eligible for future grants *and to comply with grants we already have*, the state requires that our water rates encourage conservation by placing more of the charges (60%) on the variable, consumption rate and less of the charges (40%) on the fixed, basic fee rate. Scheduled rate increase over the next 4 years move us slowly closer towards those goals which we don't currently meet.

The basic fee is increasing about 2% in January and the consumption rate is increasing anywhere from 9% at the lowest tier to 16% at the highest tier. Our **average residential customer** uses 10 units of water per month, and approximately 69% of our customers use this amount *or less* each month. That *average* customer will see their bill increase from \$48.81 per month to \$51.80 per month, **an increase of 6%**. Customers who use 5 units of water per month will see their bills increase from \$38.41 to \$40.20, an increase of 5% per month. A customer who uses one unit of water (we have a few) will see a 3% increase, while a customer who uses 100 units will see a 14% increase. **Overall, water rates are increasing 7%** although individual customer impacts are different based on water consumption.

The biggest increases are to the consumption rates, so the more water used, the more the increase--that's why it encourages conservation and that's an important message.

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### SPECIAL REMINDERS

Board Meeting:  
Wednesday  
January 7th &  
21st at 7PM

Public Information  
Committee Mtg.  
Wednesday,  
9:30 AM Jan. 7th

On Call for  
Water  
Emergencies  
24/7!

A COMMUNITY OWNED  
WATER DISTRICT



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY  
PROVIDER

# WATERLINE

## FREE LANDSCAPE SMART CONTROLLERS!

Do you own large landscape with an irrigation system? If so you might qualify for a brand new "smart controller" system with a weather station—a \$380+ value! To participate in this exciting grant program offered by the Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation (AWAC), send an email of interest before February 2015 to:

[deb@bollingerconsultinggroup.com](mailto:deb@bollingerconsultinggroup.com)

or leave you name and phone number with our Customer Service Representatives at the District Office.

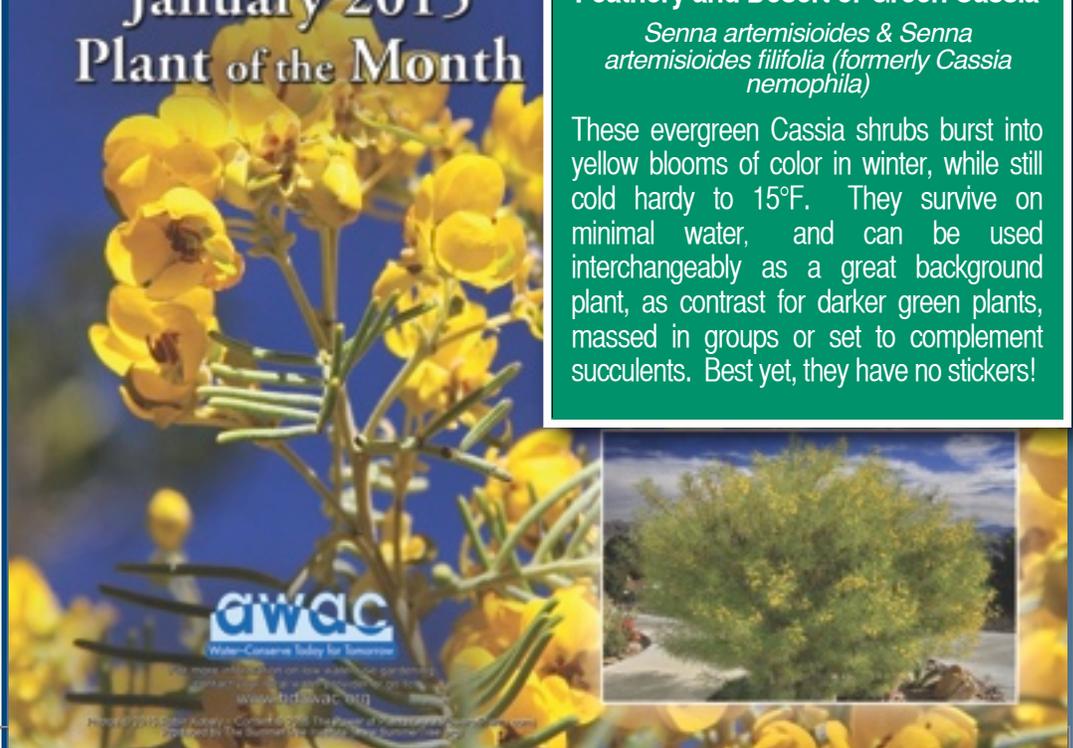
## Drought Ordinance Reminders:

- Do not allow potable water for landscape to runoff *anywhere*
- Wash motor vehicles using a hose shut-off nozzle
- Do not spray off walkways; brush or sweep them clean
- Repair leaks immediately
- Utilize overhead water landscape sprinklers between 8PM and 9AM

Read more about the Drought Ordinance at: [www.jbwd.org](http://www.jbwd.org) and click on:

**DROUGHT UPDATE**

## January 2015 Plant of the Month



### Feathery and Desert or Green Cassia

*Senna artemisioides* & *Senna artemisioides filifolia* (formerly *Cassia nemophila*)

These evergreen Cassia shrubs burst into yellow blooms of color in winter, while still cold hardy to 15°F. They survive on minimal water, and can be used interchangeably as a great background plant, as contrast for darker green plants, massed in groups or set to complement succulents. Best yet, they have no stickers!

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Customers can limit the effect of the rate increase by using less water. Also, since nearly 70% of our customers use 10 units of water or less each month, they will experience a rate increase of 6% OR LESS.

Our water rates have increased an average of 1.07% (less than one and one-tenth percent) each year over the last 18 years. During the same timeframe, the consumer price index has increased 2.9% per year (171% more than our rates--*per year*) and the social security index has increased 2.4% per year--our water rates have not kept pace with inflation.

The District faces several significant financial challenges in the future including aging infrastructure that needs replacement, and over-drafting of our aquifer, which necessitate the rate increases. This doesn't even address the solution to the Chromium VI problem, which we don't have a price tag for yet.

**YOU ARE INVITED!** *Want to learn about native plants, meet people and more? Join the JBWD Volunteer Docent team Friday, January 30, at 3PM at the District Office! For more information, call 760.821.5716, or email [kjradnich@jbwd.com](mailto:kjradnich@jbwd.com).*