

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

WATERLINE REPORT

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Protect Your Groundwater Day September 11, 2012

Everyone can and should do something to protect groundwater. Why? We all have a stake in maintaining its quality and quantity. There are two fundamental ways to protect our groundwater: **keeping it safe from contamination**, and **Using it Wisely**, by not wasting it.

To help protect Your Groundwater, remember: don't pour toxic chemicals or medications down the drain to get rid of them.

◆ Take household hazardous waste to a collection facility. The County Household Waste Collection Center is open the 3rd Saturday of each month from 9 am to 1 pm at 62499 29 Palms Highway in Joshua Tree, and it's free. For more information, call 1.800.OILY CAT (1.800.645.9228). Many household-generated items are accepted:

- ◆ Weed Killers
- ◆ Cleaners
- ◆ Gasoline
- ◆ Wood Preservatives
- ◆ Paint, Paint Products
- ◆ Pool & Hobby Supplies
- ◆ Outdated Medications
- ◆ Motor Oil, Oil Filters
- ◆ Antifreeze
- ◆ Auto & Household Batteries
- ◆ Auto & Furniture Polish
- ◆ Chemical Drain Cleaners

Speaking of Water Expand Your Water Vocabulary

Aquifer: an underground layer, often of sand or gravel, that contains water.

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

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

Recharge: water that seeps into the ground to refill the aquifer.





September is National Preparedness Month

This September marks the ninth annual National Preparedness Month. Citizens nationwide are encouraged to plan and actively prepare for disasters or emergencies.

Are you prepared? Reports show that just more than half of people have readiness items in their home set aside for use in disaster; and less than half have supplies in their car.

National Preparedness Month reminds us to set up or replenish our emergency kits, update family emergency plans, and share readiness information.

Don't have a kit? Don't have a plan? Now is the best time to create one. And remember, the first item on your preparedness list should be water, and plenty of it!

Non-perishable food, battery operated radio and flashlight, and a first aid kit are some other essentials. And, remember to include your pets' needs when preparing supplies and plans.

For more information, see www.ready.gov and www.calema.ca.gov



Plant of the Month

Autumn Sage - *Salvia greggii*



Autumn Sage is an erect, bushy, evergreen shrub whose scarlet red flower spikes attract hummingbirds. Its long flowering season extends from late spring, through fall, and even into winter in our area. Prune old flowering wood by half after flowering declines to start a new flush of growth, usually in mid-February, mid-May, and late August.

This valuable xeriscape plant loves hot, dry areas, and requires well-drained soil.

Plant Form: Evergreen shrub
Mature Size: 2' - 3' tall & wide
Water Use: Low
Exposure: Full sun, Part sun
Bloom Time: March - November
Native to: Texas, Mexico
Hardiness: Cold Hardy to <math><0^{\circ}</math> F

Autumn sage is great for hummingbird and butterfly gardens, and is effective when planted in masses. Plant near paths to enjoy its clean fragrance.

