



Special “Your Leadership in Action”  
article on pages 3 & 4.


# THE METER READER

## THE METER READER

Mission Statement: To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree’s water - our vital community resource.

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## agenda

### Board Meetings:

- Special Board Meeting: 4.01.26 at 9AM
- Regular Board Meeting: 4.15.26 at 5:00PM

### Other Meetings, Classes, or Events:

- April 19th: Landscape Tours at JBWD’s Water Wise Garden
- April 20th & 21st: JBWD District Water Tours
- Mark your calendars! Wildcrafting Course: Friday mornings in May
- See flyers below for these great events!

## Monthly Water Use

**FEBRUARY 2026: 79.07 GPCD**

The measure used for reporting water conservation is called Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD). The GPCD value reported here reflects water usage from three months earlier. California aims to achieve 42 GPCD by the year 2030.

**Keep saving, Joshua Tree!**

# APRIL WATER SAVING TIPS



April is California's "Earthquake Preparedness Month" and saving water to drink in an emergency has a whole new meaning when the tap water stops flowing!

- Do you know *how much* water you need to save-up for your household?
- Do you know how to *dissinfect* your emergency water?
- Do you know how to *store* your emergency water?

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to manage an emergency water supply, but without the proper **tips** on how to do it, you could, unknowingly, create a health problem (which is the last thing you need to deal with in a disaster situation!) Learn more NOW: <https://www.jbwd.com/water-emergency-preparedness>



## Curious Minds Want to Know Enjoy the question of the month.

### Question

I have heard discussions in the community about plans for a sewer system in Joshua Tree. How do we learn more?

### Answer

The County of San Bernardino is currently in the preliminary stages of discussing a sewer feasibility study. These processes require considerable time and financial resources. San Bernardino County has allocated funds to initiate this study.

A presentation by the County on this matter is scheduled for April 1st, during the Joshua Basin Water District's Special Board Meeting at 9 a.m. For more details, please visit [jbwd.com](http://jbwd.com) to view the Board Agenda.



## »» IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Spring is here and there's been buzzing everywhere! Be forewarned: bees have a tendency--especially in spring--to form additional hives and go looking for a new home.

One of their favorite locations are water and irrigation boxes. So, take extra care when opening those boxes!



## Farmers MARKET BOOTH

April is known for being a "happening month". This year is over the top with opportunities! Our display will focus on water for emergencies, but we'll also be sharing about our upcoming Landscape Tours (in conjunction with the Morongo Basin Conservation Association), our JBWD Tours, and our Wildcrafting course on growing native plants (4 sessions) starting Friday, May 1st.

**NOTE: We will be absent from the Market on April 11th.**



SIGNUP FOR OUR ANNUAL FREE WILDCRAFTING COURSE AT OUR MARKET BOOTH!



## Joshua Basin Water District Advances Legislative Efforts to Address Chromium-6 Compliance Costs

The Joshua Basin Water District continues to make significant strides at both the federal and state levels in pursuit of funding and policy solutions to address the costly implementation of chromium-6 (CrVI) treatment requirements.

In late February 2026, Vice President Tomas Short, Director Tom Floen, and General Manager Sarah Johnson traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with federal representatives, including Congressman Jay Obernolte, Senator Adam Schiff, and Senator Alex Padilla. The purpose of these meetings was to raise concerns about the financial burden that CrVI treatment regulations will place on local ratepayers, particularly in a community already facing economic challenges.



District representatives reported that each meeting was productive and encouraging. Congressional offices were receptive and engaged, demonstrating a clear understanding of both the regulatory requirements and the disproportionate impact on small and disadvantaged communities. Discussions focused on the need for federal support to offset what is currently an unfunded mandate.

Momentum from the federal visit carried into a subsequent March 2026 trip to Sacramento, where Board President Stacy Doolittle, Director David Fick, General Manager Johnson, and Community Advisory Committee Chair Dave Carillo met with Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh, Assemblymember Greg Wallis, and Assemblymember Tom Lackey. These meetings yielded similarly positive outcomes, with state leaders expressing genuine interest in the District's challenges and openness to exploring legislative solutions. There is early discussion of a potential future bill, possibly led by Assemblymember Wallis in collaboration with other legislators.



# LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Special Edition  
Continued

April 2026



## Continued..

State officials noted that while California is currently facing a budget deficit, limiting available funding opportunities. District leadership emphasized the importance of actively pursuing Community Project Funding and budget requests, underscoring that local taxpayers deserve to see their tax dollars reinvested back into their community.

Encouragingly, Congressman Obernolte's office has selected the District's project for a federal funding request of \$3.5 million. Additionally, Senator Padilla's office indicated they would have supported the project had it not been selected through the House, reinforcing that the District has strong bipartisan and bicameral support. Securing funding through the House is considered advantageous, as appropriations typically originate there.

Despite this progress, District officials caution that the process is still in its early stages. The funding request must move through multiple committee reviews in both the House and Senate before ultimately reaching the President's desk for approval. The requested amount may be adjusted due to budget constraints and competition, and there is no guarantee of final funding. This process could take approximately one year.



In parallel with legislative advocacy, the District is actively pursuing pilot programs and evaluating treatment technologies in an effort to identify more cost-effective solutions for CrVI compliance. The goal is to reduce the financial impact on ratepayers while maintaining regulatory compliance and water quality standards.

"Our priority is to do everything in our power to minimize the burden on our community," said GM Johnson. "We are advocating aggressively for funding, exploring innovative solutions, and working with partners at every level of government. We appreciate the continued support and engagement from our community as we navigate this complex challenge."

The District remains committed to transparency and will continue to provide updates as the legislative and funding processes move forward.



# WATER TOURS RETURN!

## FROM GROUND WATER TO TAP WATER

Please note:  
Seating is extremely limited.  
Early RSVPs are required!  
Two separate tours are available.

Monday, April 20

Start Time: 8:00 am  
End Time: 12:30pm  
Location:  
JBWD District Office



Tuesday, April 21

Start Time: 8:00 am  
End Time: 12:30pm  
Location:  
JBWD District Office



OR



Please RSVP by April 16 to: [kjr@dnich@gmail.com](mailto:kjr@dnich@gmail.com)

**April is California Earthquake Preparedness Month!**  
**Are you ready for a water emergency?**  
**Stop by JBWD'S booth and we'll help you get started!**

# HELP YOURSELF HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR



**APRIL 11TH  
9AM-1PM**

**FREE & FAMILY FRIENDLY**

**A perfect blend of fun, learning, and community spirit aimed at empowering you and your neighbors for any situation.**

- Meet 1st & 2nd Responders
- Emergency Preparedness
- Interactive & Hands-on
- Community Fair
- Workshops
- Demos

**Yucca Valley Walmart Parking Lot**



ALL NEW SITES!

*Desert-Wise Living*   
**LANDSCAPE  
TOUR**

15TH ANNUAL

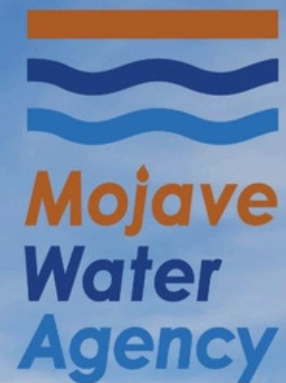


Sunday April 19, 2026 | 9am-4pm | [#mbconservation/tour](https://www.facebook.com/mbconservation/tour)

**Spring 2026 ANNUAL DESERT Wildcrafting Course**

A four-part training seminar helping you to grow native plants—FREE! Friday mornings in May (1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 22<sup>nd</sup>)--Class size is extremely limited! To learn more or to RSVP by Monday, April 27, email [kjradnich@gmail.com](mailto:kjradnich@gmail.com), or see us at the Farmers Market in April.

Learn how to save water and money with  
this free, hands-on class.



## Summer Irrigation

Join the Mojave Water Agency for a seasonal workshop on how to save water (and energy) throughout the warm summer months. This online course is FREE and open to the public.

### This course will cover:

- ✓ Water-saving tips and benefits
- ✓ How to protect your landscape
- ✓ Water meter monitoring
- ✓ Methods to conserve energy

April 15 at 6:00 p.m.

[Register Now](#)



[www.mojavewater.org](http://www.mojavewater.org)

760-218-2822

# April 2026 Plant of the Month



## Bladderpod

*Peritoma arborea* (Formerly *Isomeris arborea*)

Plant Form: Evergreen shrub  
Water Use: Very low  
Mature Size: 4'-6' tall & wide  
Exposure: Full sun  
Bloom Time: Year-round; heaviest bloom Feb - June  
Native to: California (between 200 - 6000 feet)  
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 25°F

Bladderpod is a hardy, drought-tolerant, evergreen shrub with gray-green leaves. This relative of cape produces showy yellow flowers year-round with occasional water. Bladderpod derives its name from seed pods that are shaped like small balloons or inflated "bladders" which enclose this plant's pea-like fruit. This underappreciated native of both high and low deserts of California makes a great border or filler, and is a magnet for hummingbirds and butterflies. The bright, all-season flowers more than make up for its odd-smelling leaves. Prefers well-draining soil. Avoid overwatering in summer, when it is normally dormant in the wild. Bladderpod is easily grown from seed sown directly in place.



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](http://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac)

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Produced by The SummerTree Institute ([www.SummerTree.org](http://www.SummerTree.org))



## GARDENING TIPS FOR YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE

- Test run your irrigation system to check for leaks and spray heads that are broken or out of adjustment
- Reset irrigation schedules and increase watering time as temperatures rise
- Work compost or soil amendments into planting beds to improve moisture retention as summer approaches
- Plant cold-tender perennials, preferably in pots so winter protection is easier
- Keep mulch on the soil to temper the drying and heating effect of the sun; irrigation will be more effective with less frequency and quantity
- Continue pulling weeds before they form seed heads (if weeds are brown, you waited too long); you'll have fewer weed problems later



## HISTORIC MEDICINAL USES OF BLADDERPOD

*PERITOMA ARBOREA* (FORMERLY *ISOMERIS ARBOREA*)

*Bladderpod has been traditionally used by some Native American tribes for its edible flowers and pods, but specific medicinal properties are not well-documented. It is primarily valued for its nutritional aspects rather than for medicinal uses.*