



JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

Proudly providing water from an ancient source...well into the future

Wishing all
Happy seasons!
SPECIAL Edition!

THE METER READER

January 2026

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

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- Docent/Volunteer Winter Meeting
- Native Plant Workshop @ JTNP
- Seed to Salad 12 week course (see info below)



agenda

Board Meetings:

- Regular Board Meeting: 1.07.26 at 5:00PM
- Regular Board Meeting: 1.21.26 at 5:00PM

Other Meetings, Classes, or Events:

- January 13, 2026: CAC Meeting at 5PM
- January 23, 2026: Docent/Volunteer Mtg., Fri. at 5PM (for new and returning members)
- January 30, 2026: Free Native Plant Workshop at JTNP 9 AM, 29 Palms
- Seed to Salad 12 week Gardening Course (see below)

Monthly Water Use

October 2025: 88.36 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!

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

General Manager, Sarah Johnson

Dear Joshua Basin Water District Customers and Community Members,

As 2025 comes to a close, Joshua Basin Water District reflects on a year of steady progress and continued service to the community. Despite increasing regulatory demands and operational complexity, the District remained focused on its core mission...

To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water – our vital community resource.

Through the combined efforts of District staff and the leadership of the Board of Directors, key initiatives advanced, fiscal and operational discipline was reinforced, and the District remained well-positioned to address both current needs and future challenges. This work reflects a shared commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship of public resources.

Highlights from 2025 include:

- **Chromium-6 Compliance Planning:** The District made meaningful progress toward compliance with the State's new Chromium-6 drinking water standard by advancing technical evaluations, coordinating with partners, and beginning long-term planning for treatment solutions and funding strategies.
- **Strategic Plan Implementation:** Implementation of the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan began, aligning annual priorities, capital planning, and resource allocation with Board-approved long-term goals.
- **Water System Reliability and Risk Reduction:** Continued focus on preventive maintenance and operational planning strengthening system reliability and reduced operational risk.
- **Financial Stewardship and Long-Term Planning:** The District began a new approach to multi-year financial planning to address rising operational costs and future regulatory compliance while maintaining fiscal discipline and sensitivity to community affordability. In addition, the District broadened its investment strategy by incorporating the California Asset Management Program (CAMP).
- **Customer Assistance Program Expansion:** The District updated its Low-Income Assistance Program and the Customer Account Assistance Program (CAAP), expanding eligibility to better support customers and improve access to assistance.

STATE OF THE DISTRICT

General Manager, Sarah Johnson

Ongoing and Emerging Challenges:

The District continues to navigate a number of external and internal pressures that require careful planning and disciplined execution:

- **Chromium-6 Treatment Implementation:** Moving from planning to implementation of Chromium-6 treatment will require significant capital investment, complex engineering, and careful scheduling to meet regulatory timelines while managing community impacts.
- **Sustainable Funding and Affordability:** Sourcing grants and securing long-term financing for regulatory-driven projects while maintaining rate affordability remains a critical challenge.
- **Organizational Capacity:** Increasing regulatory, reporting, and project demands continue to place pressure on limited staffing resources, requiring careful prioritization.
- **Aging Infrastructure:** Ongoing replacement and maintenance of aging system components must be balanced alongside new regulatory requirements.
- **Regulatory and Environmental Uncertainty:** Evolving regulatory requirements, coupled with climate-related operational stressors such as extreme heat and drought, add complexity to long-term planning.

Summary:

As General Manager, I remain committed to advancing the goals established by the Board of Directors, managing District resources responsibly, and ensuring long-term water system reliability. I am grateful for the Board's leadership, the dedication of our staff, and the continued trust of our community.

Together, we have made meaningful progress, and I look forward to building on this foundation as we move into 2026 with focus and optimism.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Johnson
General Manager



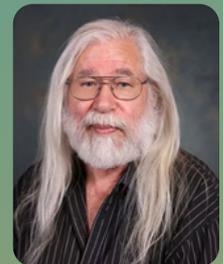
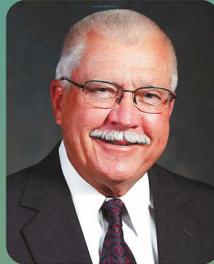
YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

Newly elected Board Officers :

Top Row left to right:
Stacy Doolittle, President
Thomas Short, Vice President



Bottom Row left to right:
Director Tom Floen
Director Jane Jarlsberg
Director David Fick



FARMERS MARKET

JBWD's Market booth will be on holiday for Saturday, January 3rd, returning on Saturday, January 10th. If you haven't already, stop by and get your new 2026 Desert Gardening calendar! We'll also be sharing about "Careers in Water"--where opportunities abound!



DISTRICT HOLIDAY CLOSURES



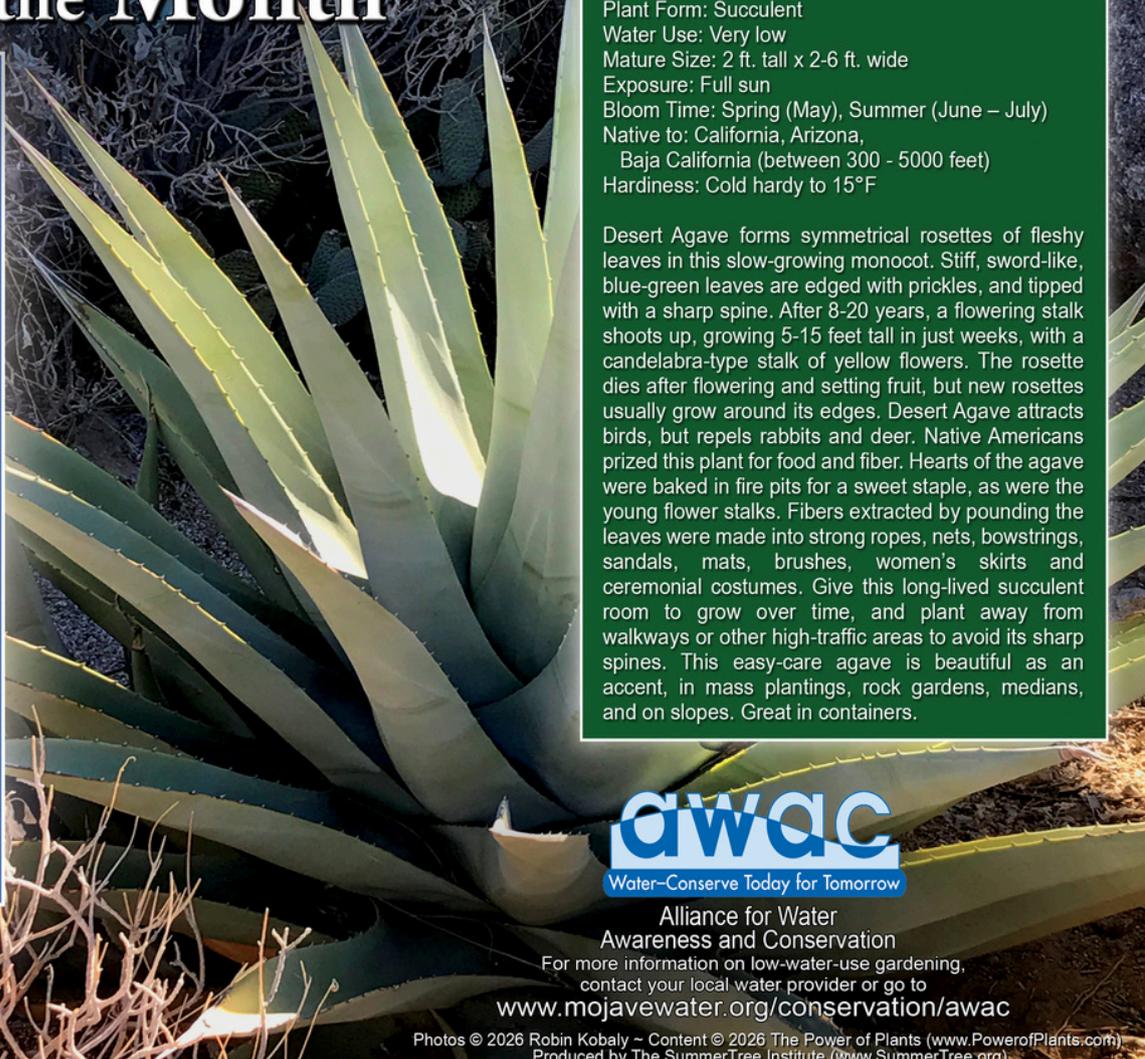
The District Office will be closed in observance of the New Year holiday on Thursday, January 1, 2026.



Monday, January 19, 2026, the District office will be closed for the Martin Luther King holiday.



January 2026 Plant of the Month



Desert Agave *Agave deserti*

Plant Form: Succulent
Water Use: Very low
Mature Size: 2 ft. tall x 2-6 ft. wide
Exposure: Full sun
Bloom Time: Spring (May), Summer (June – July)
Native to: California, Arizona,
Baja California (between 300 - 5000 feet)
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 15°F

Desert Agave forms symmetrical rosettes of fleshy leaves in this slow-growing monocot. Stiff, sword-like, blue-green leaves are edged with prickles, and tipped with a sharp spine. After 8-20 years, a flowering stalk shoots up, growing 5-15 feet tall in just weeks, with a candelabra-type stalk of yellow flowers. The rosette dies after flowering and setting fruit, but new rosettes usually grow around its edges. Desert Agave attracts birds, but repels rabbits and deer. Native Americans prized this plant for food and fiber. Hearts of the agave were baked in fire pits for a sweet staple, as were the young flower stalks. Fibers extracted by pounding the leaves were made into strong ropes, nets, bowstrings, sandals, mats, brushes, women's skirts and ceremonial costumes. Give this long-lived succulent room to grow over time, and plant away from walkways or other high-traffic areas to avoid its sharp spines. This easy-care agave is beautiful as an accent, in mass plantings, rock gardens, medians, and on slopes. Great in containers.



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

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Produced by The SummerTree Institute (www.SummerTree.org)



GARDENING TIPS FOR YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE

- Water after 9AM and before 3PM. Turn off irrigation timers if it rains.
- Frost is likely on dry, windless, clear nights; keep plants watered to help prevent frost damage.
- Apply mulch around plants to retain water and soil, and to feed nutrients into soil with each rain. Use bark, compost, or gravel.
- Prune roses and summer-blooming, deciduous trees.
- Don't prune frost-damaged plants until spring growth appears
- Plant bare-root trees and shrubs now through early March



HISTORIC MEDICINAL USES OF DESERT AGAVE

Agave deserti

Agave has several medicinal uses, including its application as an antiseptic for wounds and burns, and it can aid in wound healing due to its anti-inflammatory properties. Additionally, the sap of the agave plant is used to treat gastrointestinal issues and can provide hydration for the skin.



New and Returning

»» Docent / Volunteer Meeting

Friday, January 23, 2026 - 5PM @ the District Office

Are you looking to “expand” your community involvement while learning more about our desert water, arid region gardening, and conservation? Consider joining the fun with JBWD’s volunteer enrichment program. No pressure, no costs, just exceptional interactive opportunities to participate, learn and share, such as:

- Helping at our March Native Plant Sale
- Giving Water Wise Demonstration Garden Tours for various events
- Teaching students in our “outdoor classroom” (aka: the garden!)
- Assisting at Water District Informational booths at community events



5th grade students actively engage in hands-on “outdoor classroom” water conservation lessons last spring

To RSVP: Email: kjradnich@gmail.com

»» NATIVE PLANT WORKSHOP

Friday, January 30, 2026 @ JTNP’s Nursery, 29 Palms



Back by popular demand, this volunteer workshop on native plants allows you to learn how the Joshua Tree National Park grows / revegetates native plants while helping to propagate plants for the annual JTNP/JBWD Native Plant Sale in March, 2026.

The workshop is held at the Park nursery from 8:30AM-12:30AM. Workshop size is limited to 15 attendees. For more information, or to RSVP, email: kjradnich@gmail.com

From Seed To Salad

A free 12-week online gardening course
in partnership with



- **Water Efficient Gardening**
- **Residential Gardens, Small Places**
- **Home Orchards**
- **Raised Beds & Containers**
- **Sustainable Methods**
- **Organic Gardening & Pest Control**



*Hosted by VVC Professor
Carlos Ruiz*

Starting Wednesday
January 28
6-7 PM on ZOOM

Register HERE



(760) 946-7000
www.mojavewater.org