



JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

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

The District Office will be closed on Monday, May 25, in honor of the Memorial Day Holiday.



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:

- Regular Board Meeting: 05.06.26 **Cancelled**
- Special Board Meeting: 05.11.26 at 1pm
- Special Board Meeting: 05.18.26 at 1pm
- Regular Board Meeting: 05.20.26 at 5:00PM

Other Meetings, Classes, or Events:

- Wildcrafting Course: First four Friday mornings in May (1,8,15, 22). Class is full (for wait list contact: kjradnich@gmail.com)
- Citizens Advisory Council: 05.12.26 at 5PM

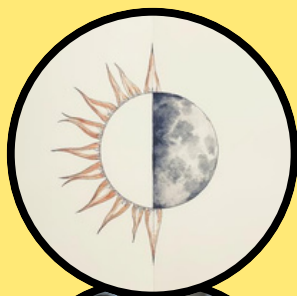
Monthly Water Use

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!

MAY WATER SAVING TIPS



As weather heats up, change watering schedule from mid-day to early morning or evening to minimize loss through evaporation.

Catch warm tap water (while waiting for the cooler stream of water) in a bucket or water pitcher instead of letting it just run down the drain. Reuse it for watering household plants, for your pet's water dishes, or for cleaning, etc.

»» Curious Minds Want to Know

Enjoy the question of the month.

Question

We keep hearing about JBWD being subjected to “unfunded mandates”. What is that exactly, and who has the power to do this?

Answer:

An *unfunded mandate* is a law or regulation that requires entities, such as state or local governments, to perform certain actions without providing the necessary funding to cover the costs of those actions. This can lead to increased financial burdens on the affected entities. As JBWD must answer to 25+ regulatory agencies, the costs keep adding up.



»»» IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Last month we had a crowd of garden visitors looking to transform their properties into a water saving desert escape. Come visit JBWD's garden now for inspiration before the heat arrives!

For a free tour, email: kjradnich@gmail.com or meander on your own during business hours.



**Farmers
MARKET**



This year we'll be sharing a live baby tortoise (hatchling) at our May market booth every Saturday from 8AM-1PM. This amazing desert survivor really knows how to conserve water--come hear its story! Spoiler alert: the “cuteness factor” is off the charts! You may wish to adopt one, too. We'll tell you how!

YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

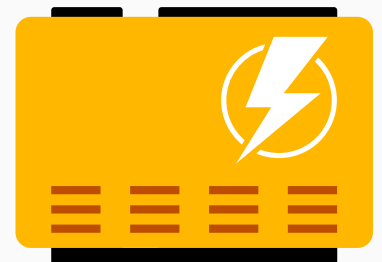
CONSIDERATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL EARTHQUAKE INSURANCE



The Board considered, discussed, and by a unanimous 5-0 vote, deemed it appropriate to direct the General Manager to enter into an agreement for supplemental earthquake insurance. More on this complicated topic can be reviewed in the meeting minutes found at jbwd.com.

NEW EMERGENCY GENERATOR

After incidences where power outages were not resolve by using the District's aged-out (irreparable) emergency generator, the Board voted 5-0 in favor of authorizing the General Manager to execute an agreement with Quinn Power Systems in the amount of \$88,050 for procurement and installation of a new emergency generator and automatic transfer switch for the District Office.



JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

Chromium-6 Updates

You may have seen recent notices from JBWD about changes to Chromium-6 regulations in California and what this means for you, as a JBWD customer. This poster is designed to provide some quick takeaways regarding changes to regulations, what JBWD is doing to meet these regulations, and what it all means for you. For more information, visit JBWD's Chromium-6 webpage at jbwd.com/chromium-6-information-page.

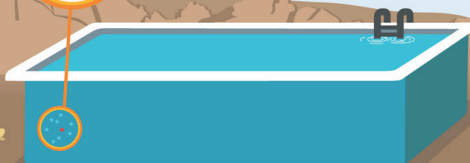
WHAT ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

- Chromium-6 is also referred to as "Hexavalent Chromium", "Cr(VI)", or informally as "Chrome 6." These terms all refer to the same thing.
- The entity responsible for setting drinking water standards for the State of California is known as "the CA State Water Resources Control Board," or "SWRCB."
- Chromium-6, like many other contaminants, is regulated at a "parts per billion" level, or "ppb." A part per billion is very tiny!

WHAT IS GOING ON?

- The SWRCB recently set new state standards for Chromium-6. These standards took effect in October 2024. The SWRCB implemented the updated standard on October 1, 2024.
- JBWD's water quality has not changed. The water remains the same quality you have always received. Only the regulatory threshold for Chromium-6 has changed.
- JBWD's Chromium-6 levels exceed the new state standard. Recent water tests show average levels of 23 ppb of Chromium-6 - above the new state maximum of 10 ppb but well below the EPA standard of 100 ppb.
- JBWD is not out of compliance and there is no formal violation. Systems of JBWD's size have until October 1, 2027 to fully comply with the new standard.
- JBWD is working to remain in compliance with the State. JBWD has submitted a Compliance Plan to the SWRCB and is actively working towards solutions. JBWD is collaborating with engineers to implement the Best Available Technology for Chromium-6 removal.

One part per billion (1 ppb) is sometimes described as being roughly equivalent to one drop of water in an Olympic sized swimming pool or a pinch of salt in a ton of potato chips.



Federal & State Standards

UNITED STATES

100ppb Chromium-6 Standard

CALIFORNIA

50 ppb Chromium-6 Standard prior to October 1, 2024

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT

23ppb Average Chromium-6 Levels as of January 2026

CALIFORNIA

10 ppb Chromium-6 Standard

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR YOU AS A JBWD CUSTOMER?

- This is not an emergency. There is no immediate health risk, and the water remains safe to drink. If there were an emergency, customers would have been notified immediately.
- There is no need to use bottled water. Customers can continue using their regular water supply. No alternative water sources are necessary.
- Customers are encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns. You can reach JBWD at (760) 366-8438 or via email at customerservice@jbwd.com.

Created March 2026



2026 DISTRICT TOURS



(Left) President Doolittle welcomed tour guests with a brief overview of JBWD



(Right) Tour attendees get a glimpse of the advanced water technology used called "SCADA"



Staff demonstrates tools that help them find our under-ground pipelines



Exploring our largest tank!



Observing Well 14's periodic flushing



Leak repair demonstration--*stand back!*

May 2026 Plant of the Month

White Sage

Salvia apiana

Plant Form: Evergreen shrub
Water Use: Very low
Mature Size: 2-3' tall x 3-6' wide
(flower stalks add another 2-6' in height)
Exposure: Full sun
Bloom Time: Spring (April - June)
Native to: California to Baja (below 4,500 feet)
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 15°F

White Sage is an aromatic, slow-growing, evergreen shrub prized for a variety of qualities. Gardeners treasure this drought-tolerant native for its beautiful white foliage, almost luminous in the early evening and on moonlight nights. Bees love this prolific bloomer, and make a flavorful honey from its white to lavender-tinged flowers. California Indians revere this shrub as sacred, burning its leaves as incense during purification and other sacred ceremonies. In spring, tall flower stalks grow rapidly. Trim back these stalks when they dry to a tan color in late summer to keep plants from becoming leggy, and to prevent wind damage. This shrub is virtually pest free. Its hollow stems break easily, so place it where hoses or passers-by won't hit it. White sage makes a striking focal point in a border, and is valuable massed on slopes to deter erosion.

awac

Water-Conserve Today for Tomorrow

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

- Rising temperatures cause changes in plants. Water before 9:00AM and after 6:00PM
- Maintain a good mulch of organic matter covering garden soil throughout the summer to hold in moisture
- Remove ("deadhead") spent flowers unless you want to collect seeds (such as from Penstemons) to stimulate repeat blooming
- Keep in mind that hotter weather heats up the desert's surface soil, making this time of year potentially a bad time to plant seedlings. Fall planting is now advisable



HISTORIC MEDICINAL USES OF WHITE SAGE

Salvia apiana

White sage, or Salvia apiana, has several medicinal properties, including antimicrobial and antioxidant effects. It has been traditionally used to treat ailments such as stomach aches, headaches, and respiratory issues, and is also known for its soothing properties in gynecology and digestive health.

Due to inclement weather, this event has been rescheduled for May 9th. Don't miss out!

HELP YOURSELF HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

MORONGO BASIN 8TH ANNUAL COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS EVENT

A FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY FAIR FEATURING INTERACTIVE EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS, LIVE DEMONSTRATIONS, AND OPPORTUNITIES TO MEET LOCAL RESPONDERS.

FUN & PRACTICAL EVENT DESIGNED TO HELP YOU AND YOUR NEIGHBORS STAY PREPARED FOR ANY SITUATION.



JOIN THE FUN!

MAY 9TH 2026
9AM-1PM

WALMART PARKING LOT
IN YUCCA VALLEY

