



IN THE KNOW ABOUT H₂O

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Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District
560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223
(951) 845-9581 | BCVWD.ORG
Monday — Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(Closed on Friday)

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Rainy Days Ahead: Protecting You From the Storms



This past fire season we saw more than ever the importance of emergency planning and preparedness, with the Apple Fire and El Dorado Fire threatening our community and fires burning up and down the West Coast.

At Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD), we are incredibly grateful to the firefighters and other emergency responders who worked tirelessly to battle these fires and keep our community safe. Now that the rainy season is here, the danger of fire turns to risk of flash floods, mudslides and debris flow. These events can often cause more damage than a fire itself – flooding homes, forcing evacuations and creating unsafe driving conditions.



The Apple and El Dorado fires burned more than 50,000 acres, leaving burn scars that prevent soil from absorbing the rain. This could cause water, mud, downed trees and other debris to flow downhill, putting families, homes and businesses at risk. The threat of such events will extend into the future since it takes fire-scarred land up to five years to recover.



Keep reading to find out how BCVWD supported fire-fighting efforts, how we are preparing for potential flooding, and what you can do to prepare your family and property ahead of rains.



Teaming up Against Fires and Floods

BCVWD remains committed to delivering safe, reliable water to your tap, including in times of crisis. During the fires, our team worked around the clock to protect District facilities and the water supply. We supported emergency responders by providing access to our ponds and clearing combustible material in the canyon so vehicles could pass. This fall, we prepared for heavy rains. We partnered with the County of Riverside Emergency Management Department (EMD), Riverside County Flood Control and other agencies to mitigate possible post-fire impacts to the community and the water system. We worked with County Flood Control to install stakes on BCVWD property and modify basins to catch mud and vegetation before it enters the Beaumont and Cherry Valley communities. In addition, we moved already cut or disturbed trees in the canyon so they cannot be mobilized by floodwaters.



Know the evacuation zones!

While all of Beaumont, Banning, and unincorporated Cherry Valley are at risk, the following areas are most likely to be evacuated:

- Mias Canyon
- Smith Creek
- Marshal Creek
- Noble Creek
- Little San Gorgonio Creek

Go to rivcoready.org/stormready and click on Apple/El Dorado Fire to view the evacuation maps.

What can you do to prepare?

Just as BCVWD is planning ahead, we encourage our customers to do the same. It's important to take the risk of flooding, mudslides and debris flow seriously and prepare your family and your property.

Go to rivcoready.org/stormready to sign up for local emergency alerts, learn the evacuation zones and get emergency planning tips specific to floods and mudslides. Be sure to make a plan that meets the needs of your household, including children, seniors and pets. For additional resources, including how to involve kids, go to www.ready.gov.



Water service alerts

• Even with advanced preparation, flooding and mudslides are unpredictable and can cause damage and utility outages. If your water service is impacted, BCVWD will activate our outage alert system. Sign up for alerts at bcvwd.org/email-notifications and watch our website for updates.

Important Evacuation Terms



Evacuation Warning: Be ready to evacuate quickly. This is the safest time to leave before the storm.



Evacuation Order: GO immediately. Follow all instructions. If unsafe to leave, get to a point higher than the flow.



Shelter in Place: Roadways may be unsafe. Stay in your home.



Raising the Bar on Reliable Service

Devoted to our community, the BCVWD staff is always here to serve you and prides itself on providing exceptional customer care. BCVWD is proud of our employees, who work each and every day to deliver water to our community's homes and businesses, respond to water emergencies, answer customer questions and keep our water systems working.



Last fall, our employees stepped up as “heroes in the background,” working tirelessly to support firefighters and other emergency personnel battling the Apple and El Dorado fires. The same team also prepared for risks associated with the aftermath of the fires this rainy season.

The month of October 2020 marked both Water Professionals Appreciation Week and Customer Service Week, giving BCVWD the opportunity to recognize our outstanding team that routinely provides exemplary service.

“BCVWD employees routinely go above and beyond to provide water to customers,” said President John Covington. *“We want to take a moment to give extra appreciation to the BCVWD team, who helped support the battles against the Apple and El Dorado fires as they threatened our community. Our team worked around the clock to protect our water supply, ensure uninterrupted service and help fight the fires.”*

Director Andy Ramirez also commended staff. *“BCVWD is proud to have a hard-working, dedicated team that continuously provides high quality service to our community. Our customer service team is here for you, from questions about your bill to conservation tips.”*





Culture of Safety Through COVID-19 and Beyond

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, BCVWD remains committed to providing you with safe, reliable water while also protecting our employees and the public.

Over the past months, our team has effectively adapted the way we provide service, pivoting our operations to meet the needs of our customers. Our field staff continues to respond to emergencies, our water delivery system is fully functioning, and our Board of Directors meetings are open to the public remotely. All staff are following social distancing and other safety guidelines as we continue to provide an uninterrupted water supply to homes and businesses.

While our offices remain temporarily closed to the public, BCVWD is here for you. Our customer service staff is available during normal business hours and can be reached at info@bcvwd.org or (951) 845-9581. Find updates at bcvwd.org as we continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as appropriate. For County of Riverside coronavirus information, go to www.rivcoph.org/coronavirus.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Daniel Slawson

President - Division 3

Lona Williams

Vice President - Division 2

David Hoffman

Treasurer - Division 5

Andy Ramirez

Secretary - Division 1

John Covington

Director - Division 4

Board meetings are open to the public and take place the 2nd Wednesday and 4th Thursday of each month.



BCVWD Board of Directors Focus on Customers

Congratulations to Mr. Andy Ramirez and Ms. Lona Williams, who have been re-elected to serve another 4-year term on the BCVWD Board of Directors. The results of the 2020 General Election were certified December 3, 2020.



"I am honored to be chosen by our local residents to again serve as a member on the BCVWD Board of Directors," said Director Andy Ramirez. "I thank our residents for trusting our leadership in providing safe and healthy drinking water."



"It is a privilege to participate in such a critical component of BCVWD's operations," said Director Lona Williams. "I am grateful for the opportunity to be a decision maker in important issues facing the water industry today and in planning ahead

for the future, while also ensuring customers continue to get the high-quality service they deserve."

