



# IN THE KNOW ABOUT H<sub>2</sub>O

EDITION #5 – SPRING 2022

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

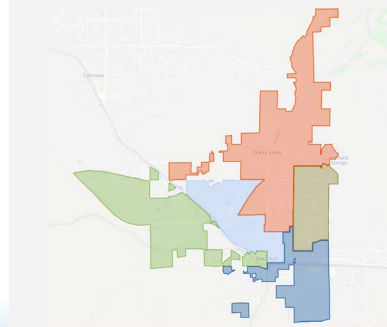
Lona Williams, **President**, Division 2  
Andy Ramirez, **Vice President**, Division 1  
John Covington, **Treasurer**, Division 4  
David Hoffman, **Secretary**, Division 5  
Daniel Slawson, **Director**, Division 3

*Board meetings are open to the public and take place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month.*

## STAY UP TO DATE WITH BCVWD

 **Facebook:** [facebook.com/bcvwd](https://facebook.com/bcvwd)  
 **Twitter:** [twitter.com/bcvwd92223](https://twitter.com/bcvwd92223)  
 **Email:** Sign up to receive email notifications at [bcvwd.org/email-notifications](mailto:bcvwd.org/email-notifications)

**Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District**  
(951) 845-9581 | [BCVWD.ORG](https://bcvwd.org)  
560 Magnolia Avenue, Beaumont, CA 92223



## Voting Boundary Review Ensures Fair Customer Representation

Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) is committed to representing the public in an equal manner. Using the latest U.S. Census results, BCVWD reviewed its voting divisions to confirm balanced representation of the community on the Board of Directors. After an extensive process, including the opportunity for public comment, the Board adopted a final map at a public hearing on March 24, 2022.

Redistricting maintains balance between voting lines by making sure each area has roughly the same number of people. Residents in each division vote for the member who represents them on the Board of Directors.

The community was encouraged to participate in the process by reviewing draft maps online, using the mapping tool, attending any of three public hearings and providing feedback.

BCVWD hired an independent consultant to facilitate the redistricting process, which occurs every 10 years. Redistricting ensures compliance with the Voting Rights Act and was required to be completed by April 17, 2022. The final map was submitted to the Riverside County Registrar of Voters for use in the next election.

Learn more at [bcvwd.org/redistricting](https://bcvwd.org/redistricting).





## Celebrating Storm Protection Success

This winter the community was faced with several back-to-back storms that threatened our neighborhoods, businesses and families. The danger was amplified by the burn scars from the 2020 Apple and El Dorado fires, which increased the risk of flash floods, mudslides and debris flows.



BCVWD is grateful for the employees who defended the community and protected the water delivery system. Staff monitored, prepared and responded throughout the downpours and collaborated with partners to redirect storm flows, prevent street flooding and capture mud and debris before it entered the community.

BCVWD remains committed to protecting customers and water service and has emergency plans in place. Customers should also prepare for potential disasters by considering the need for flood insurance, developing a family emergency plan, and signing up for Riverside County emergency alerts at [rivcoready.org/alertrivco](https://rivcoready.org/alertrivco).



## Rates & Fees – Where Does the Money Go?

The rates and fees you pay cover only the cost of providing water and water service – nothing more and nothing less. As a not-for-profit government organization, BCVWD is legally not allowed to earn a profit.



To ensure we are meeting this requirement, the District undergoes a comprehensive cost-of-service study and rates evaluation every five years. The most recent assessment was in February 2020, and the resulting rate adjustments are scheduled to take place every February 1 through 2024.

To help customers better understand their water bill and where the money goes, BCVWD created a How to Read Your Water Bill handout, available online at [bcvwd.org/how-to-read-your-water-bill](https://bcvwd.org/how-to-read-your-water-bill).

- 💧 **The bi-monthly flat rate** is a fixed service charge, based on the size of the meter, that covers the costs of reading and maintaining meters and customer service. The rate remains the same each billing period, no matter how much water is used.
- 💧 **The tier or volumetric commodity charge** varies with water usage, increasing by tier as more water is used. These rates cover water supply, system and operating costs, and system improvements and maintenance. BCVWD has three tiers:

Tier 1: 0-16 units	\$0.76 per unit
Tier 2: 17-34 units	\$0.94 per unit
Tier 3: 35+ units	\$1.57 per unit

*1 unit of water = one hundred cubic feet, or 748 gallons.*  
**Rates as of February 1, 2022.**

- 💧 **Pass-through charges** cover the costs of imported supplies used to replenish water pumped from the Beaumont Basin and the electricity used to pump water. BCVWD does not control these rates. They are passed directly from the service provider to our customers.
- 💧 **Drought surcharges** are only implemented during severe water shortages, usually triggered by a State declaration. They are applied to each tier rate based on the drought stage. You will be notified in advance if drought rates are activated.





## Springing Into a New Season During Drought

California continues to face extreme drought and BCVWD remains focused on taking steps to provide a safe, long-lasting water supply. Customers play a key role in minimizing the effects of extended dry periods by using water as efficiently as possible indoors and out.

Since **up to 70 percent of a home's water use is outside**, the yard is a great place to start conserving. Here are some simple steps you can take to conserve this spring and summer:



Plant native, water-wise flowers and shrubs, which use much less water. Remember to group plants with similar watering needs together to get the most out of watering time. **Examples include:**

- *Clarkia-unguiculata* (Clarkia)
- *Festuca californica* (California Fescue)
- *Arctostaphylos* 'Emerald Carpet' (Manzanita 'Emerald Carpet')
- *Verbena lilacina* 'De La Mina' Cedros (Island Verbena)



Frequently check and adjust sprinklers so only the lawn is watered, not the sidewalk, house or street.



Water during the early morning when temperatures are cooler to minimize evaporation. Placing a layer of organic mulch around plants also reduces evaporation.



Reduce runoff and allow for better water absorption by dividing your watering cycle into shorter periods.



Use drip irrigation on trees, shrubs and flowers. Watering at the roots is more effective, be careful not to over water.

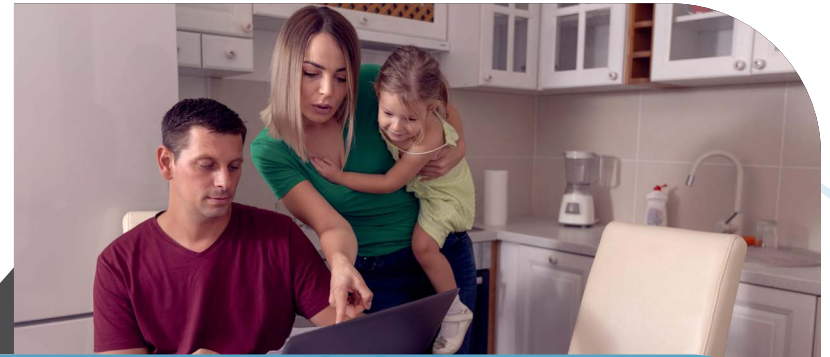
Find even more conservation tips at [bcvwd.org/water-conservation-tips](https://bcvwd.org/water-conservation-tips).



**Did you know? BCVWD offers many ways to pay your bill.**

- Autopay
- Mail
- Online
- Dropbox
- Phone
- In-person

Go to [bcvwd.org](https://bcvwd.org) for details on how to make a payment.



## Struggling to pay your bill? We are here to help.

At BCVWD, we understand that it can be hard to keep up with bills, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Customers who fall behind on their water bill should contact BCVWD immediately to discuss payment options.

All customers with an overdue balance can inquire about a payment plan, regardless of income level. The BCVWD team is also available to help customers determine other local assistance programs for which they may qualify.

Accounts that remain overdue are subject to BCVWD's water shutoff policies. Customers will be notified at least five days in advance before a service disconnection for nonpayment. The process includes two written notices and one phone notice at least 10 days before disconnection, as well as a final phone notice three to five days before service is shut off. The District's shutoff policy is available online at [bcvwd.org/documents/sb-998](https://bcvwd.org/documents/sb-998).

**"Our goal is to assist people through difficult times and allow them to keep their water running. BCVWD does not want to shut off water for any of our customers,"** said Director John Covington, on behalf of the Board of Directors. **"We urge anyone experiencing hardship to contact us as soon as possible."**

To find out more about payment plans and assistance programs, contact **951-845-9581** or [info@bcvwd.org](mailto:info@bcvwd.org).





## Prestigious Awards Demonstrate Devotion to Service

Customers come first at BCVWD, and the District is proud to have earned awards and certificates that speak to its commitment to fiscal responsibility, accountability, safety and good governance.



### Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

BCVWD received one of the highest forms of distinction in governmental accounting and financial reporting for its 2020 Annual Comprehensive Finance Report. This is the fourth consecutive year BCVWD has earned this highly respected award, which is presented by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA). The certificate is a testament to the dedication of staff in ensuring fiscal responsibility on behalf of customers. Read the press release online at <https://bit.ly/3EputAp>.



### President's Special Recognition Award and Risk Control Grant Funding

The Association of California Water Agencies/Joint Powers Insurance Authority (ACWA/JPIA) presented BCVWD with an award and grant funding, demonstrating the District's dedication to workplace safety and fiscal stability. The award recognizes the agency's low number of workers' compensation and property insurance claims. Lower insurance premiums translate into savings for customers.

ACWA/JPIA also awarded BCVWD a \$10,000 risk control grant in 2021 to purchase communications equipment that provides more reliability and enhances employee and community safety during emergencies. Learn more about the grant and the award at [bcvwd.org/notices/increased-workplace-safety-translates-into-savings-for-customers](https://bcvwd.org/notices/increased-workplace-safety-translates-into-savings-for-customers).



### California Municipal Treasurers Association (CMTA) Investment Policy Certification

Further illustrating the District's commitment to sound financial practices, BCVWD received certified honors from CMTA for its investment policy. Recipients of the certification must pass an extensive 18-section process that reviews investment best practices. The certification validates that BCVWD's policies adhere to State of California Government Code, which benefits customers through responsible financial decision making.



## Guarding Local Groundwater Ensures Supply Reliability



The month of March included National Groundwater Awareness Week, providing an opportunity for the community to get involved in protecting local water resources.

Almost one-fourth of the BCVWD water supply comes from the Beaumont Basin, which is fed by rain and snowmelt in the surrounding watershed. The District preserves groundwater by buying and storing surplus water in the basin when it is available, and partners with other agencies to capture stormwater and recycled water.

**The community also plays a role in groundwater protection. Follow these tips to help ensure a dependable supply for generations to come:**



Conserve water by shortening showers, fixing leaks around the home, running the dishwasher and washing machine only when full, and planting a native garden. See page 3 for more outdoor conservation tips.



Discard medications, chemicals, and other hazardous materials properly, not by pouring them down the drain or flushing them in the toilet. Learn how to dispose of these items at [beaumontca.gov/1110/Recycling-Programs](https://beaumontca.gov/1110/Recycling-Programs).



Learn more about the importance of groundwater at [ngwa.org](https://ngwa.org). Find more information on BCVWD's sustainability practices at [bcvwd.org](https://bcvwd.org).