



IN THE KNOW ABOUT H₂O

EDITION #6 - 2022



Cool-Weather Conservation is Critical

With fall and winter months here, it's easy to start thinking the need for conservation has passed. But the state is expected to face drought for the foreseeable future and saving water remains important.



Beaumont-Cherry Valley Water District (BCVWD) implemented conservation measures last spring, in response to state mandates, including restricting irrigation, prohibiting the filling of new swimming pools and other water-saving actions. The requirements are part of the agency's Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) and Urban Water Management Plan and are designed to ensure our service area continues to have the water it needs to meet demand.

To help spread the word about drought, its regional impacts, and necessary next steps, BCVWD and other area water agencies participated in a presentation to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors and a local symposium aimed at residents, both in September. The District is also part of a regional group of water agencies that works to secure a stable water supply for the area.


BCVWD regularly monitors water supply and demand, strategically plans for water shortages and stores water for future use. The District's WSCP is designed to preserve water in the Beaumont Basin, which supplies the service area. Despite adequate groundwater resources, the region relies on imported water to refill the basin, making conservation vital.


Local water efficiency efforts over the summer helped the region weather California's drought, but the situation is still serious. Residents who do not follow the conservation mandates are subject to penalties. Get more information on current restrictions and conservation tips at bcvwd.org/current-water-restrictions.





Regional Drought Update provided to the Riverside County Board of Supervisors
Top Left to Right: Chuck Washington – District 3, Jeff Hewitt – District 5, Kevin Jeffries – District 1, Manuel Perez – District 4. Second Row Left to Right: Joe Mouawad – EMWD, Dan Jagers – BCVWD, Victoria Llor – CVWD, Craig Miller – WMWD, Robert Grantham – RCWD

Current Water Prohibitions:


 Watering of decorative, non-functional turf at commercial, industrial and institutional locations, including HOAs, by order of the State Water Resources Control Board


 Filling of new swimming pools


 Outdoor watering during and within 48 hours of measurable rainfall


 Runoff from outdoor watering onto hard surfaces and non-irrigated areas

The use of drinking water for:

 *Washing cars with a hose that does not have a shutoff nozzle*

 *Hosing down sidewalks, driveways, patios or other hard surfaces*

 *Decorative fountains or filling/topping off ponds or lakes*


 *Street cleaning or construction site preparation, unless necessary to protect public health and safety*

For a full list of current conservation mandates, go to: bcvwd.org/current-water-restrictions.



Watering Schedule Changes

Watering of residential lawns, parks, sports fields, schools and grass used for recreational purposes or community events is limited to between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. Between November and April, watering is limited to two days per week:

 **Monday and Friday** for addresses ending in odd numbers

 **Tuesday and Saturday** for addresses ending in even numbers



We need your help!

In addition to saving water at home, you can support conservation by reporting water waste, such as leaks or sprinkler runoff. Go to bcvwd.org/report-water-waste.



Protecting Water Resources and Public Health with Cost-Effective Service

Meeting our mission of providing safe, reliable drinking water at the lowest possible cost extends beyond just the daily operations of delivering water to your tap. Financial accountability plays a key role, and BCVWD is committed to making sure we charge only for the cost of service, nothing more.

As part of that goal, the District regularly evaluates its rates, charges and fees. BCVWD hired an independent consultant to review its water connection fees and miscellaneous fees, which cover the costs of facilities and labor needed to provide services. Operational costs have increased, and the current fees do not reflect today's costs to the District.

The resulting Miscellaneous Fees Update study, revised Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees and proposed water connection fees will be considered for adoption by the Board of Directors following a public hearing process. Three public hearings took place this fall and the process has been extended to January, with a fourth public hearing scheduled for January 11, 2022, at 6 p.m. As part of the update, the Board will also consider a resolution to approve revisions to the District's Regulations Governing Water Service, Part 5: Charges, which references miscellaneous fees and should be updated simultaneously.



The miscellaneous fee schedule is designed to reflect current costs of providing services, bring fees closer to full cost recovery, add new fees when applicable for new services, and eliminate fees for discontinued services. Miscellaneous fees were last updated in 2012, apart from meter fire service installation fees and deposits, which were revised in 2018.

Learn more at bcvwd.org/notice-of-public-hearing-2 or by contacting BCVWD at 951-845-9581 or info@bcvwd.org.





Fire and Water Services Benefit from Grant Funding

More than \$2.5 million in grants from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), funded through the County of Riverside, are helping pay for two critical water projects that will benefit BCVWD customers by improving water reliability and fire services.



The 3040 Pressure Zone Cherry Avenue/International Park Road Transmission Pipeline Project will construct a 24-inch diameter pipeline to increase the capacity of the water and transmission system at Cherry Avenue. The project will increase water distribution capabilities for firefighting and fire suppression systems across the District's service area. The total project estimate is \$5.1 million, with nearly \$1.3 million covered by the grant.



The "B" Line Upper Edgar Transmission Pipeline and Facilities Project replaces a 10-inch diameter pipeline that has reached the end of its service life. The new pipeline will provide reliable water transmission and allow for the installation of fire hydrants and booster pumps to improve fire suppression capabilities. The total project estimate is \$2.1 million, with \$1.3 million covered by the grant.



Both project agreements were approved by the County of Riverside Board of Supervisors at an October 25, 2022, meeting. The County of Riverside was allocated \$239 million in funding as part of the \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by Congress in 2021 in response to COVID-19. The funds were intended to address the impacts of the pandemic and lay the foundation for recovery. The County of Riverside identified infrastructure, including water, sewer, and broadband, as one of the categories in its spending plan for the funds.



New Meters Bring Real-time Leak Detection, Water Savings to Customers

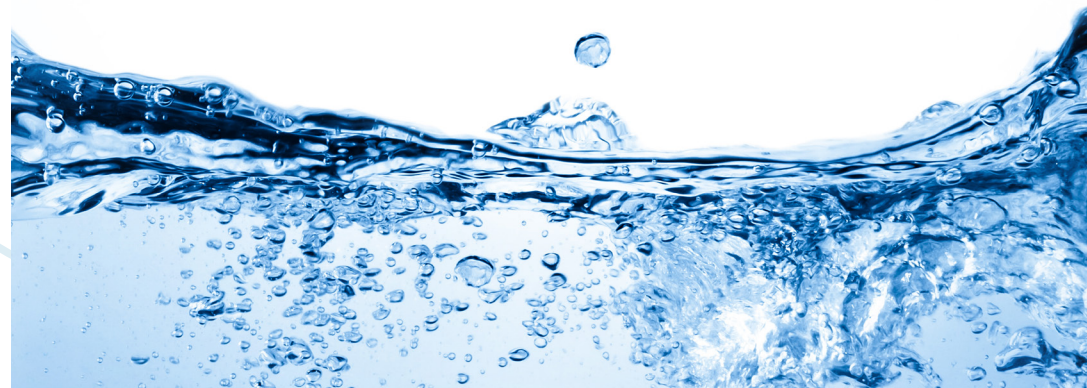
BCVWD is replacing nearly 20,500 meters across its service area with Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), a move that is expected to save up to 900 acre-feet of water annually, reduce reliance on imported water and offset local groundwater pumping.



Customers will be able to monitor their water use with real-time data, allowing them to detect leaks and make adjustments to save water. The project will also increase efficiency and improve customer service with automatic read technology, save energy and reduce costs and errors such as inaccurate metering.

Currently at 85% complete, the \$5.5 million project is partially funded by a \$1.5 million WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Originally expected to be complete in October 2022, BCVWD was granted an extension through December 31, 2023, due to unexpected delays in materials because of supply issues.

To learn more, contact BCVWD at 951-845-9581 or info@bcvwd.org





The Results Are in! BCVWD Recognized for Work Environment, Responsible Finances

For the second year in a row, BCVWD was honored with two prestigious awards that speak to the District's commitment to its customers through sound fiscal practices, transparency, and cultivating a positive employee experience and work environment. The District received:

Accreditation as a Great Place to Work

Designation as an organization fostering a strong company culture, with accreditation as a Great Place to Work. The certification is based on an anonymous employee survey that is compared with other organizations. In high marks, 76 percent of BCVWD employees reported feeling highly engaged and 81 percent agreed that the District is a great place to work. Staff referenced a high level of autonomy, workplace safety, pride in the organization, and meaningful work and contribution to the community. Employees also described BCVWD as transparent, hardworking and family-oriented.

Operating Budget Excellence Award

The Operating Budget Excellence Award from the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers (CSMFO) for its Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget and 2022 – 2026 Capital Improvement Budget. The award recognizes agencies whose budgets reflect a dedication to specific statewide criteria of the highest quality and follow best practices in budget preparation. Receipt of the award demonstrates a significant accomplishment by BCVWD, its employees and management. Agencies that receive the excellence award publish documents that are comprehensive, transparent, and demonstrate exceptional clarity and presentation effectiveness. CSMFO is the statewide organization serving all California municipal finance professionals and is an affiliate of the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

Learn more at bcvwd.org.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lona Williams, *President*, Division 2

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John Covington, *Treasurer*, Division 4

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

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- Email Notifications:** Sign up at bcvwd.org/email-notifications

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