



IN THE KNOW ABOUT H₂O

EDITION #7 – Spring 2023



Even After a Wet Winter, Conservation is Crucial



Winter storms may have brought more water to California and relieved drought for now, but conservation is still vital. Protecting the groundwater supply in the Beaumont Basin is critical to ensuring we can continue to provide reliable water to your tap in emergencies, including extended dry periods.

BCVWD preserves local groundwater by replenishing the basin with imported water. To do this, we strategically purchase and store water for later use. As a result of rainfall and snowfall this year, BCVWD is working with our State Water Project (SWP) wholesaler, San Geronimo Pass Water Agency, to recharge as much water as possible, safeguarding future supplies.

Customers play a key role in protecting our water supply through conservation. The more we save now, the more we will have during water emergencies.



Some Water Restrictions Lifted Following Winter Storms

California was surprised with significant rain and snow this year that eased severe drought conditions. As a result, Governor Gavin Newsom rescinded certain statewide drought mandates on March 24, 2023. To learn more, read the Governor's executive order at gov.ca.gov/2023/03/24/governor-newsom-eases-drought-restrictions. The BCVWD Board of Directors also removed the District's water restrictions by Resolution 2023-11. Read the resolution at bcvwd.org/documents/2023-resolutions-ordinances.



Here are some simple steps you can take to save water:



1. Check for and fix leaks inside and outside your home. Common culprits are faucets, washing machines, water heaters, dishwashers and outdoor irrigation.



2. Upgrade your landscaping with native, drought tolerant plants that require less water.



3. Restrict outdoor watering within 48 hours of measurable rainfall. Plants don't need water after rain!

4. Use a hose with a shutoff nozzle.

5. Check your irrigation to avoid runoff and make sure water is reaching the lawn, not sidewalks or driveways.

Visit our website for more water-saving tips. Go to bcvwd.org/water-conservation-tips.



Stormwater Capture Project Nears Completion

BCVWD, in collaboration with Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, is approaching the finish line on its stormwater capture project. Called the Beaumont MDP Line 16, the project will reduce flooding in the Cherry Valley community and conserve local water supplies.



Construction began in March 2022 and is now 75% to 85% complete. The agencies are partnering to construct an underground storm drain to collect runoff and send it to BCVWD's existing recharge ponds, which feed the local groundwater basin. The project will capture 150 to 500 acre-feet of stormwater annually, depending on hydrologic conditions – enough water to serve as many as 900 families for one year. The stormwater currently flows along Brookside Avenue into Marshall Creek and is lost downstream.



Bill Payment Help is Available for Struggling Customers

Did you know? There are many ways to get assistance paying your bill. BCVWD can work with customers on individual payment plans or connect them with programs that help qualifying residents. For example, the District works with the Community Action Partnership of Riverside County on the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP).

Learn more about LIHWAP at riversideca.gov/utilities/residents/assistance-programs/lihwap.

For information on other payment options, contact BCVWD at (951) 845-9581 or info@bcvwd.org.



The Value of Stormwater Capture: Sites Reservoir Update

In addition to its own local stormwater capture initiatives, BCVWD supports the Sites Reservoir project in partnership with our water wholesaler, San Geronio Pass Water Agency. Sites Reservoir, just off the Sacramento River near Maxwell, Calif., would address statewide water challenges such as system reliability and drought by capturing and storing water for release to water agencies in times of need.

If the project had been operational during the 2023 storms, it would have captured a year's worth of water for 2.5 million people. Now, without the reservoir, storm runoff is lost downstream to the Pacific Ocean.

The District is committed to investing in the project, a move that increases water supply reliability for our communities and acts as a shield against future drought and water emergencies.



Learn more about Sites Reservoir at sitesproject.org.





Rates and Fees Support Water Reliability

Providing dependable drinking water to our community's homes and businesses is our duty, and we are committed to meeting this mission at the lowest possible cost. There's a lot more behind delivering your water than simply getting it to your tap. Here's a quick update on some of BCVWD's current rates and fees, and where that money goes.



MISCELLANEOUS FEES

BCVWD's water connection and miscellaneous fees cover the costs of facilities and labor needed to provide services. These fees were last updated in January 2023, after a comprehensive evaluation by an independent expert that determined the need for an increase due to rising operational costs. After four public hearings, the BCVWD Board approved a revised Schedule of Miscellaneous Fees and water connection fees. The new fees are now in effect. Miscellaneous fees were last updated in 2012, apart from meter fire service installation fees and deposits, which were revised in 2018. **The fee schedule is available online at bcvwd.org, under Customer Service.**



CAPACITY FEES

These fees are a one-time charge to cover the cost of connecting new developments to water service. BCVWD is evaluating these fees to ensure they cover costs. Any updates would take effect in January 2024.



WATER RATES

Using a third-party financial specialist, BCVWD evaluates water rates every five years to ensure they cover the cost of service. Rate changes are necessary to ensure sufficient funds for the ongoing operations, repairs and maintenance of BCVWD's facilities, and adequate long-term water supply for the region. Rate adjustments were last introduced in 2020 and are being phased in annually through January 2024. As a result, customers saw an increase in their current charges on January 1, 2023. The District will begin the process of evaluating rates again in 2024 to ensure ongoing safe, reliable water service and delivery.

BCVWD rates include a fixed bimonthly service charge (bimonthly flat rate), volumetric commodity rates (tier rates), fire service charge, drought rates and pass-through charges for electricity and imported water. It's important to note that BCVWD bills on a bimonthly basis, meaning your bill includes charges for two months of service. **Learn more about your bill and where the money goes at bcvwd.org/how-to-read-your-water-bill.**



BCVWD is committed to making sure we charge only for the cost of service. As a public agency, we cannot legally make a profit.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Hoffman, *President*, Division 5

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

STAY UP TO DATE WITH BCVWD

 **Facebook:** facebook.com/bcvwd

 **Twitter:** twitter.com/bcvwd92223

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

**Beaumont-Cherry Valley
Water District**
(951) 845-9581 | BCVWD.ORG
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Beaumont, CA 92223



Keeping Customers Informed

As we leave storm season and prepare for wildfire season, emergency updates remain critical to community safety. BCVWD notifies customers about emergencies and issues affecting service, such as frozen pipes, water outages, road closures, in many ways. Messages are posted on the District's website and social media channels and are distributed through our email system.

To receive BCVWD email updates, go to bcvwd.org/email-notifications. Sign up for local emergency alerts at rivcoready.org/alerttrivco.



Snow, Wind and Rain, Oh My!

What a winter! While out in the field protecting your water supply, BCVWD team members captured the following images from this year's storms.



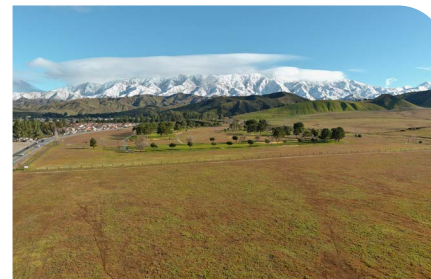
BCVWD headquarters



Cherry Valley, below Mount San Geronio



East of Highland Springs Avenue



Snow-covered Mount San Geronio



*Edgar Canyon Road,
from Oak Glen Road*