

THE METER READER

AUGUST 2026

Mission Statement: To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

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- JBWD Grant Recipient Award!
- New Water And Growth Committee
- Storm Water Preparedness / Rain Harvesting Class
- Seed Swap Social Event



agenda

Board Meetings:

- Regular Board Meeting: 08.05.26 at 5PM
- Regular Board Meeting: 08.19.26 at 5PM

Other Meetings, Classes, or Events:

- Storm Water Preparedness/Rain Harvesting Class (Virtual): 08.12.26 @ 6PM **FREE!** *See flyer below
- 3rd Annual Seed Swap Social: 08.20.26, JBWD Board Room @ 5PM. Please RSVP your attendance to: *See flyer below

Monthly Water Use

MAY 2026: 94.78 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!

>>> WATER SAVING TIPS AUGUST



As monsoonal flows challenge our indoor cooling systems, outdoor water play tends to grow high in popularity. Don't just run sprinklers or place kiddie pools in open areas--consider placing them near thirsty landscape or where water run-off benefits existing plants. Reduce the time running the sprinklers should ground water "pooling" become evident. Lastly, if you're trying to cool-off using household showers, remember to "plug the tub" and limit water flows to 10 minutes.

>>> Curious Minds Want to Know

Enjoy the question of the month.



Question:

What time of year does JBWD take recharge waters to replenish the aquifer?

Answer:

There is no "standard" time JBWD imports its water for the recharge ponds, but more often than not, spring and fall are targeted. As is, JBWD began receiving this year's recharge waters beginning July 1, 2026, and it will take until the end of the 2026 calendar year to complete the importing of 1,300 acre-feet of water.



>>> IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Occasional native plant workshops have been held this past year giving you actual hands-on training. In case you missed this wonderful free social learning experience, mark your calendars for Thursday, , 8:30AM-October 1, 8:30AM-12noon, at the Joshua Tree National Park nursery to join in the next one that promises to give you shared insights on growing our local native plants.

More details can found in our September Meter Reader newsletter!



AUGUST AT OUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET BOOTH:

Rain capture/rain harvesting highlights our August theme, especially with a significant El Niño in the forecast for our area. Come check out how much water you could save with very little investment of time or money to benefit your thirsty landscaping needs. The market is open 8AM-1PM every Saturday in August in downtown Joshua Tree.





YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



[Click here to learn more about these Agenda items](#)

Action Calendar “Highlight” results from the July 15, 2026 Regular Board Meeting:

- The Board voted 5-1 in favor of accepting a \$7,500 grant from Mojave Water Agency’s *Strategic Partner Grant Program* for the purpose of obtaining emergency water storage protection.
- The Board also voted 5-1 to approve an “Extra Help Agreement with Ray Kolisz as a Retired Annuitant.”
- Later, the Board discussed proposals from the new (AD-HOC) “Board Retreat Committee” to enlist services for a “Retreat Facilitator”. This initial proposal failed with a vote of 3-2. The committee will reconsider options and return to the Board with a new proposal.
- The newly formed, “Water and Growth Committee” presented its proposed *Committee Charter*. It was approved with a vote of 4-1.

chromium 6 update

The Chromium-6 Pilot Study began on June 25, 2026, with Wells 14 and 16. Additional wells will be added as the study progresses, and the full pilot study is expected to conclude by the end of the calendar year.

The District will also conduct PFAS sampling during this study. Although PFAS sampling is not required as part of the Chromium-6 pilot study, and the District does not currently have identified PFAS concerns, this additional sampling is being conducted out of an abundance of caution. Completing the sampling at the same time allow the District to gather supplemental water quality data efficiently and support future planning or regulatory response if needed.

JBWD EARNES AWARD IN EXCELLENCE FOR OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY



Joshua Basin Water District earned the 2026 Honorary Mention Award for Excellence in Operational Efficiency. This highly competitive Award was bestowed on JBWD from the Tyler Technologies, Inc. firm that has more than 45,000 successful system installations across 15,000 locations, with clients in all 50 states, Canada, the Caribbean, Australia, and other international locations.

JBWD's General Manager announced, "It is an honor for the District to be recognized for this innovative use of the software to foster accountability and transparency in the budgeting process for our disadvantaged community."

Introducing the Water & Growth Committee

By Stacy Doolittle

Chair, Water & Growth Committee

**WATER & GROWTH
COMMITTEE**



Joshua Tree Water District's future is shaped at the intersection of growth and water planning. Every decision about housing, business, tourism, and public projects affects our water.

As these changes continue, an important question is whether water needs and water availability are being considered early enough in land-use decisions for sound long-term planning.

To help answer that question, the Board created the Water & Growth Committee. Vice-President Tomas Short and I serve on the committee, along with District staff.

JBWD is not alone in addressing these issues; water agencies across California are taking a broader look at how future growth may affect their systems.

What We Do

The committee advises the Board of Directors. We do not make land-use decisions or set District policy. Those responsibilities belong to the County and other land-use agencies, along with the full Board.

Committee members look beyond today's projects to see the bigger picture. We examine how many individual decisions can shape our water resources over time. We work to identify major proposals early before the public planning process begins, giving the District and Board more time to consider potential implications. Committee members monitor regional planning efforts, identify trends such as high-water-demand projects, hear from subject-matter experts and partner agencies, and look for opportunities to collaborate.

Together, these efforts support informed decision-making that helps protect a reliable and sustainable water supply.

We Invite You!

Help shape Joshua Tree's water future. Join the water and growth conversation and help us continue our commitment to proudly providing water from an ancient source... well into the future.

The Water & Growth Committee meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 9:00 a.m. at JBWD Headquarters and via Zoom. Meetings are open to the public. The District posts agendas in advance [on its website](#), and every meeting includes an opportunity for public comment. The District later posts the videos on YouTube.

"Water is foundational to everything California is trying to achieve, from building housing and growing our economy to protecting public health and ensuring community resilience."

— Association of California Water Agencies, Vision for Our Water Future

August 2026 Plant of the Month

Desert Almond *Prunus fasciculata*

Plant Form: Deciduous shrub
Water Use: Very low
Mature Size: 6-10 ft. tall & wide
Exposure: Full sun, part sun
Bloom Time: Spring (Mar – May),
Native to: California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona (below 7300 feet)
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 20°F

Desert Almond is a densely-branched, fast-growing, deciduous shrub that makes a good screen or background plant. Its small, linear leaves are arranged in bundles on the stems, which can be lightly thorned at their tips. Even though it drops its tiny leaves in winter, this shrub's dense branching still creates a useful privacy hedge or screen all year. Small white flowers in spring produce round almonds in summer, miniature replicas of commercial almonds which are tasty for humans and wildlife alike. The burst of cherry-almond flavor from a seed smaller than a pea is quite surprising. Like all plants in this genus, the seed contains a small amount of cyanide, so avoid eating large quantities unless they are cooked or leached first. Desert Almond can be pruned into any shape from a hedge to a multi-branched small "tree." This plant attracts songbirds and pollinators, and needs no water or care after it's established. Useful as a foundation plant, wind break, privacy screen, for bank stabilization, or to naturalize a native garden.



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

- Watering schedule is optimum before 9AM and after 6PM
- Good month to sit back and enjoy your garden--few chores besides watering and grooming
- Check irrigation emitters, valves and lines for clogs, leaks, and breaks
- Deadhead spent flowers, trim off dead flowering stems (and save any seeds for replanting)
- Continue deep-watering of trees and shrubs once a month
- Add to mulches as they decompose to conserve water, keep roots cool, and reduce frequency of watering
- Encourage "water play" around thirsty plants



HISTORIC USES OF

Desert Almond / *Prunus fasciculata*

Desert Almond has been historically used by Native American tribes such as the Kawaiisu, who utilized its tough twigs for making arrow shafts and fire-starting drills. Cahuilla pounded and leached the seeds to make flour despite their natural cyanide content, especially in the seeds, which contain too much cyanide to be edible.

RAIN HARVESTING AND STORM WATER



Preparedness Class

Gain life saving information for the whole family!

This online course will cover:

- ✓ Pollutants carried by storm water
- ✓ Unseen dangers
- ✓ Storm water erosion
- ✓ Health issues & solutions

August 12 at 6:00 p.m.



kjradnich@gmail.com 

Register Now

760-946-7054 

www.mojavewater.org

Thursday, August 20, 2026 -5PM-6PM+

Seed Swaps Social

Joshua Basin Water District's Board Rm
61750 Chollita Rd., Joshua Tree, CA



Guest Speaker: Norman Shertzman

Topic: "The Art of Worming" for Healthier Soils

Please bring : Your seeds/seedlings (well identified) and extra empty envelopes or baggies for seeds (*and a friend!*)

PLEASE RSVP by Tuesday, 8.18.26 kjradnich@gmail.com

Note: Light refreshments will be offered