

THE METER READER

OCTOBER 2026

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

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Monthly Water Use

JULY: 137.5 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!



agenda

Board Meetings:

- Regular Board Meeting - 10.07.26 - 5:00PM
- Special Board Meeting - 10.15.26 - 2:00 pm

Classes & Events:

- The "Great Shake Out" *Drop, Cover, and Hold* on October 15 @ 10:15AM
- Flood Preparedness Week. October 17-24, 2026 (see info below)

WATER SAVING TIPS: OCTOBER



Strong chance of desert rain this fall and winter season, so residents are encouraged to save that water for thirsty landscape by capturing it before it runs off your property often (taking some of the property with it!) Learn more during *Flood Preparedness Week* at: <https://water.ca.gov/What-We-Do/Flood-Preparedness/Flood-Preparedness-Week>

>>> Curious Minds Want to Know

Enjoy the question of the month.

NOTE: This topic bears repeating due to the continuous inquiries by our community. A graphic on this topic is also posted within the “Leadership” section in this newsletter for further clarification.

Q: Several major developments are planning to come to Joshua Tree. Why can't the Water District stop the growth impacting our water supply?



A: **BY LAW**, the District **MUST** provide water to all who meet the criteria set to receive water within the District's boundaries. The District may not be pro-growth or anti-growth. The District exists to provide water in accordance with the California State Water Law. The County's Land Use Department determines who may or may not build in Joshua Tree, not the Water District.



>>> IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

Guests on the Mojave Water Agency (MWA) tour were treated to a picturesque stop at JBWD's recharge ponds that were taking on water to replenish our aquifer. The tour visited High Desert Water District and Bighorn Desert-View Water Agency, as well, as they learned how all are impacted by partnering with MWA.





California observes the end of Daylight-Saving Time in Fall 2026 by turning clocks back one hour on Sunday, November 1, 2026, at 2:00 a.m.

Clock Change Details

- Date: Sunday, November 1, 2026
- Time: At 2:00 a.m., local time moves backward to 1:00 a.m.
- Effect: Clocks "fall back" to standard time, giving people an extra hour of sleep and moving sunrise and sunset one hour earlier.

Legislation Status

- Congress is reviewing the Sunshine Protection Act to make daylight saving time permanent.
- No federal law has passed yet, so California must still follow the standard autumn time change.



>>> FARMERS' MARKET



The season of Trick-or-Treating at our Market Booths, candied apples for kids, and delightful costumes will enhance your shopping experience on the last Saturday of October (aka: Halloween) at the Joshua Tree Farmers Market.

Better yet, our Market booth in October will show you how residents and all community members can keep our ground water safe from unwanted hazardous materials, prescription drugs, and more! So stop by any Saturday in October, 8AM-1PM where we'll be available to answer your water questions!



YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

At two Board Meetings in September, Directors (and audiences) were given clarification on JBWD's Jurisdictional Boundaries. Developments go through a process called Plan Check. This is important as it determines the scope of responsibility JBWD must oversee, as well as deliver on services legally within the District's established operational mandates.

NOTE: Plan Check is neither endorsement nor opposition to the development. It is a process to gather necessary information.

JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARY:

JBWD's role is service feasibility — not land-use approval

JBWD decides

- Can water and wastewater service feasibly be provided?
- What facilities, conditions, safeguards and financial assurances are required?
- Whether technical studies satisfy District Rules & Regulations.

The land-use agency decides

- Whether the development should be approved or denied.
- Land-use entitlements, density and project permitting.
- Adequacy of the County's environmental review.

OTHER LEADERSHIP ACTION ITEMS:

On Monday, September 28, a special meeting of the Board of Directors was held to thoroughly discuss the *San Bernardino County Joshua Tree Septic-To-Sewer Initiative*. This initiative is a proposal for the County to fund a third-party study to explore the feasibility of sewers for the Joshua Tree Community.

This topic is an example of how Board leadership requires forward-thinking and long-term planning for issues that may not arise for years or even decades. It is similar to the decisions made by past JBWD Boards to secure access to supplemental water for recharging the District's aquifer, which at the time was experiencing overdraft.

The continuation of this discussion, with a concluding vote, will occur at the next regularly scheduled Board Meeting on Wednesday, October 7th at 5PM.

October 2026 Plant of the Month



California Fuchsia

Epilobium canum/Zauschneria californica

Plant Form: Semi-evergreen perennial

Water Use: Low

Mature Size: 2' tall & wide

Exposure: Full sun, part shade

Bloom Time: Summer, Fall (June – October)

Native to: California, Arizona, and Baja California
(below 10,000 feet)

Hardiness: Cold hardy to 10°F

California Fuchsia is an easy-to-grow, herbaceous, perennial sub-shrub with tubular orange-red flowers that are an important nectar source for hummingbirds during migration (the plant is dependent on hummingbirds for pollination). Also known as Hummingbird Trumpet, this is not a true fuchsia, despite its common name. This late-season bloomer tolerates drought, heat and wind once established, and has abundant blooms when many natives are dormant. Don't prune during its first year or two. After that, pinch back young stems to produce a compact, well-branched plant, and cut back hard every winter after blooming is finished and before new growth appears to keep tidy, lush growth. Plant away from high traffic, as stems are brittle. Stunning when planted in masses among rocks or on slopes, in dry streambeds, or against rock walls, but equally beautiful in pots and baskets.



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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GARDENING TIPS

Watering Schedule: Before 9AM and after 6PM.

- Continue to plant native, drought-tolerant, and other perennial plants and trees, fall plantings develop deep roots while soils are still warm
- Adjust irrigation timers as nights get longer and cooler. Simply making monthly changes to your irrigation schedule can save more water and \$\$
- Fall annuals abound in nurseries, but are mostly high water-use; consider using minimally only as accents amongst water-wise landscapes

HISTORIC USES OF CALIFORNIA FUSIA

*Epilobium canum/
Zauschneria californica*

Historically, California Fuchsia was highly valued by various Indigenous peoples of California and early settlers for its medicinal properties (i.e., sprains, topical wound care, poison oak) and sweet nectar.

PROTECTING OUR Ground Water

DID YOU KNOW?

Simple ways to help keep our water clean and safe:

- San Bernardino County provides a free Hazardous Waste drop-off event the third Saturday of every month at their facility located in Joshua Tree. You'd be amazed at the list of items they'll take and dispose of, at no cost to you. Some of these items include:
 - Motor Oil, Oil Filters
 - Auto & Household Batteries
 - Paints, Paint Products, Paint Thinner & Wood Preservatives
 - Cleaners, Gasoline, Antifreeze, Weed Killers
 - Pesticides & Fertilizers, Pool & Hobby Supplies
 - Auto & Furniture Polish, Chemical Drain Cleaners

Best of all, you don't even get out of your car! They do the lifting and the taking!

To learn more, visit: <https://sbcfire.org/acceptedhwwitems/>

- The local Sheriff's Department has a "no questions asked" drug drop-off box in their lower entrance lobby. *Be sure to scratch out personally identifiable information before depositing them in the box.*
- Other local prescription drugs and over-the-counter drop-off locations may be available at your local pharmacy (inquire with your pharmacy)

NOTE: Never flush drugs down the toilet or your household drains!



Get Ready to Shake Out.



October 15, 2026

Shake
Out™

Register at ShakeOut.org