

TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



AUGUST 2023

**May 2023 Residential Gallons Per Capita
Water Use: 74.94 Gallons**

Note: Water savings data reflects water use three months in the past. Also, "gallons per capita" is the standard of "measure" for tracking water conservation efforts.

The State has determined our water use per person per day is 47 gallons by 2025, and 42 gallons by 2030. Keep saving, Joshua Tree!



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
To provide, protect, and maintain
Joshua Tree's water - our vital
community resource.



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- Back by popular demand! LIWAP Day 3

Upcoming Events and Meetings:

AUGUST

Board of Directors meetings:

- Regular Meeting -
Wednesday, August 2 at 5:30
PM **Cancelled**
- Regular Meeting -
Wednesday, August 16 at
5:30 PM

Committee meetings:

- Finance Committee -
Wednesday, August 9 at
9:00AM
- Water Resources & Ops-
Wednesday, August 9 at
10:30AM

Visit www.jbwd.com for agendas,
Zoom links, and other info.



FIRE! The Toll on Water...

QUESTION: Who pays for firefighting water?

ANSWER: The community.

Traditionally, fire season peaks from June through August, but in recent years, in the absence of rain, it can go on for many months more. Wildfires/brush fires can burn millions of acres of land at shockingly fast speeds, consuming everything in their paths. These rolling flames travel up to 14 miles an hour, which converts to about a four-minute-mile pace and can overtake the average human in minutes.

THE "TOLL ON WATER" FORMULA:

- **You need (in general) a gallon of water to put out every 3 square feet of brush that's on fire. By the way, a fire hose spraying 300 gallons of water a minute can fill about 8 bathtubs at once!**
- **If One acre = 43,560 square feet, then that means it could take 14,520 gallons of water for a one-acre brush fire!**

DID YOU KNOW?

While most home insurance policies cover fire-related damage, **fire damage that is due to arson (and sometimes negligence) is excluded from coverage.** It is crucial to understand what arson is, why it is excluded, and how it may be determined to be the cause of a fire.

Fire damage happens very frequently in the U.S. According to the National Fire Protection Association, a fire department in the country responds to a fire every 23 seconds as of 2022--and most often, **water is used as an extinguishing method.**

Most of these fires occur in residential properties around the country. This common occurrence can be devastating to a community's water supply. It can also be devastating to a homeowner if it is their home that is damaged or destroyed by one of these fires. A homeowners policy is important to be economically protected from fire damage, but if the fire is the result of arson (and /or sometimes negligence), not only is the home damaged or destroyed, but now the economic reimbursement may be gone as well (if deemed an act of arson). This leaves the homeowner to foot the bill for any sort of repairs or replacement.

It is with this understanding that we urge all residents to be fire *smart* and on fire watch. More information can be found here: <https://homeownersinsurancecover.net/arson/>

FIRE RESISTANT PLANTS

It is often touted that cactus is the most fire resistant native plant here in the desert. But truth be known, while the water within many of our local cactus seem to guard against catching fire, the reality is that they will burn--eventually--especially if they are stressed and dried from lack of water. There are, however, three amazing desert plant specimens that are unique fire survivors:



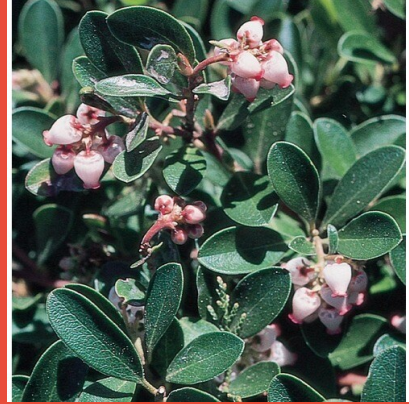
Yucca

Icon of the desert west, the yucca is actually tolerant of a wide range of conditions. The towering spires of yucca's blooms will dazzle in almost any environment—so long as they get plenty of sun. No strangers to fire, yucca's tough, filamentous leaves burn slowly and many species quickly re-sprout after being burned.



Ocotillo

A true desert native, the ocotillo needs warm, freely-draining soil and a good dose of hot sun to thrive. No stranger to fire, this leggy shrub will re-sprout after a burn, wasting no time re-growing its long, architectural stems and bright red trumpet-shaped blooms.



Manzanita

A gorgeous shrub laden with pendant flowers come spring, the manzanita is one of the West's best fire-resistant plants. In the wild, many species of this rugged genus actually require fire to help them germinate. In the garden, the leaves of full-grown specimens will quickly burn in a fire, leaving the green wood of the shrub untouched. This ensures a quick recovery after a fire.



AUGUST WATER SAVING TIPS:

SAVE WATER WITH THESE TOP TIPS FOR FIRE PREVENTION

- Consistently monitor defensible space for maximum fire prevention within 30 feet of a structure.
- Remove flash fuels such as dead grass (Do NOT remove live native plants from natural open space areas).
- Trim trees within the 30-foot defensible space on a residential lot so the canopy is not touching the ground; remove any dead branches or leaves.
- Trim foliage around trees.
- Keep gutters, eaves, and roofs clear of leaves and other debris.
- Do not stack wood or other flammable materials within the 30-foot defensible space.
- Keep a rolled-up garden hose with a nozzle attached to an outside hose valve connection--ready for use.
- Do not smoke in natural open space areas.
- Consistently monitor the defensible space for maximum fire

prevention.

Be vigilant! Please help prevent wildland/brush fires in your community. Keep your eyes open for signs that indicate the Fire Danger Level throughout the year. Create a defensible space to keep you and your property protected and prepared this fire season.

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

"Water in the Desert" ART EXPO

Final submission date is August 18, 2023. For more information, go to: <https://bit.ly/WaterArtExpo2023>



The Mojave Water Agency, a state water supplier for many desert regional water providers, has partnered with the Hi-Desert Cultural Center's flagship art gallery in Greater Joshua Tree to launch a premier Art Expo focusing on *Water In The Desert—Preserving Our Oasis*.

With water presenting itself as the new California "gold," this large juried exhibition invites all mediums of visual art expressions to highlight the overarching message that water is life—creating inspiration and dialogue that captures the plenishing life-giving force water offers for our quality of living.

**JURIED COMPETITION: 3 CATEGORIES
\$500 1ST PRIZE EACH CATEGORY**

**CALL FOR ART: JUN 15-AUG 18, 2023
EXHIBITION OPENING GALA: SEP 8, 2023
PUBLIC DISPLAY: SEP 8-17, 2023**



JTGCCA.COM

JOSHUA TREE
CULTURAL
CENTER



CURIOUS MINDS WANT TO KNOW:

Often, at our Farmers' Market booth or on social media, we get good questions that others may be asking. Here's more of a sample:

Q: Last month the new "Water Quality Report" came out, but I could not find the PH of our natural drinking water. What is it?

A: That's an excellent question!

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) determines what we will (must) test for and report on annually. Some items are not in our report because there is absolutely no trace of it in our water, So, if it is not in print, it is not in our water!

However, all water has a PH measurement, right? So...

Oddly, DWR does not require us to report on the PH of our water, but we can tell you the PH is at "8". That means our great tasting tap water leans towards the alkaline side of the PH scale.

"CAREERS IN WATER" IS BACK!

The variables for opportunities abound!

WELCOME JBWD'S THREE NEW EMPLOYEES:



Audriana Sheehan

Audriana comes to JBWD from Big Bear, although she claims her initial roots began in Arizona. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Human Resources.

In her former employment, she had been recognized for operational excellence, situational awareness, fastest growth, and exceptional customer service.

A combination of factors that include acting with integrity, driving for results, and a distinctive sense of adapting to an independent or team-oriented environment, makes her confident in her ability to benefit Joshua Basin Water District in her new position as **Human Resources and Risk Generalist**.



Dani Paulino

A local resident for 32 years and wife and mother of four children, Dani had a wonderful opportunity to take a *Temp* position at JBWD in which she thought it would give her a chance to have self-growth in customer service while being able to serve the public.

Dani believes a successful Customer Service representative needs social skills, such as communication and listening for effective communication. She hopes customers will come to know her for her desire to be proactive, insuring tasks will be done in a timely manner, and that she will strive to understand their needs-- doing all she can to help solve any issues they may have.

Dani is extremely excited to be part of the JBWD team and looks forward to serving the community in her new position as JBWD's **Customer Support Specialist 1**.



Triston Taylor

Only 18 years young, Triston is "home grown"--living his whole life in the Morongo Basin and graduating from Yucca Valley High School. He immediately thereafter began working in a family business installing garage and other doors.

In short order, Triston learned general construction practices and how to weld, but began looking for "career stability". Growing up, he was often encouraged by friends and neighbors working with several of the local water providers to consider getting into the *water industry*. When he saw an opening at JBWD, he applied-- and was hired!

Full of smiles and eager to learn, Triston's first tool was a shovel, and first assignment was working with a field crew installing a new *air vac* for the Tilford Phase 2 Pipeline Project as a **C.I.R.P. Laborer**.



RAIN HARVESTING: FREE WATER FOR YOU

PHOTO CAPTION: An actual rain harvesting (capturing) system at a residence in Joshua Tree utilizing the rain off their rooftop

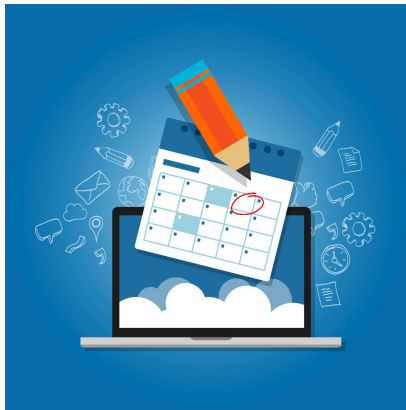
With an El Niño in the forecast this year, what better time than now to prepare for capturing some free water! If the monsoonal season itself doesn't leave you in puddles every summer, or even worse--running off your property and down the street-- consider what you could do with *any* of that rain collected to help offset your landscape water needs.

According to the US Climate Data Source, Joshua Tree *averages* about five inches of rain annually. Using the rainwater harvesting calculator (link below), that means an average home's rooftop of 1,000 square feet could

produce 3,111 gallons of free water -- saved for watering your landscape!
[rainwater-harvesting-calculator](#)

Simple methods to collect rain range from economical to expensive, and offer a multitude of decorative collection barrels that can blend in with your property's esthetics. They also can be as plain as the barrels pictured. These self-contained systems **do not** provide water for drinking at the "basic" level; however, those systems do exist as well, loaded with critical information to make your water safe for personal use. When it comes to rain harvesting, your research time can make a huge difference in costs and your health and safety. Here are a few websites to get you started:

[This Old House Rain Collection](#)
[Family Handyman Rainwater Harvesting](#)
[Morning Chores Rainwater Harvesting](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

A new class this coming September: "Storm Water Preparedness"

Join us September 13, Wednesday, 6 PM-7 PM for a basic class that addresses mitigating stormwater erosion that is more than just losing real estate: it can bring soil contaminants onto you and your property, destroy your landscape, undermine foundations and flat work...and more. Look for our flyer in the September edition of the Tier Drop Newsletter for more information on how to register for this ZOOM class!

FREE Sand Bags and Tips on Preparing and Using Them:

San Bernardino County Fire will be staging a free sandbag give-away program complete with tips on the effective way to fill your own bags "quickly" so that the power of rushing stormwater doesn't undo all your hard work! Believe it or not, there is a *technique* that makes a huge difference, and they'll show you how on Saturday, September 30th, 3-4 PM at the Joshua Basin Water District parking lot. Open to all Morongo Basin residents, this opportunity is just in time for a potentially wet El Niño season! So, spread the word and bring a neighbor and friend!



STANDBY FEE Refund Program

Did you know that you may be eligible for a Standby (water availability) refund?

The Uniform Standby Charge Procedures Act authorizes any local agency that provides water or sewer



HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY Annual Seminar

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 19
6:30PM-7PM
via ZOOM

Mark your calendars for a quick update on water issues impacting those owners/managers who have short-term, long-term, and food service



DOCENT TRAINING

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 5-6PM at JBWD

Mark your calendars!

Come one, come all--new and returning Volunteer Docents are welcome to this seasonal

services to impose a standby charge in connection with the provision of that service.

These standby charges provide equity between existing ratepayers and future customers by spreading the cost to maintain water and sewer systems to owners of unimproved property who may eventually develop. However, standby charges may also be imposed on developed properties as well to finance water and sewer service expansions, recycling projects and conservation programs.

The 2016-2019 Standby fees were recalculated. To determine if you might be due a refund, please check the following for a list of eligible parcel numbers:

- [HTTPS://CIVICMIC.COM/JBWD](https://civicmic.com/jbwd)
- [HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/JBWDSTANDBYREFUNDS](https://tinyurl.com/jbwdstandbyrefunds)
- Or call 760-974-0081 and provide your parcel number

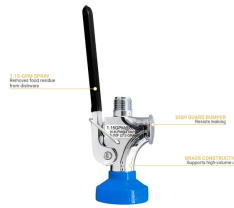
This program will expire on 12/31/23.

businesses with Joshua Tree and nearby communities.

Businesses with commercial kitchens who tune in will be eligible for a free \$50 new *water saving* Fisher Pre-Rinse faucet (see *image below*).

As this is a virtual meeting, attendees must RSVP in advance to kjradnich@gmail.com.

Watch for more information on topics to be covered at this meeting in our September Tier Drop newsletter.



training at the District Office as we ramp-up for our fall season.

Highlights of this training meeting will include pest fighting plants--alone, or for companion gardening.

Volunteers trained in wildcrafting are welcome to bring any native plant seeds recently collected.

Of note: Cat Claw Acacia seeds (cleaned) are especially in need for our on-going native plant sales.

We'll also cover creating a drought hardy four-variety lavender plant garden, complete with their historic and modern day uses.

Please RSVP to: kjradnich@gmail.com with your name, email and phone number.



IN MEMORIAM STEVE CORBIN

February 26, 1958-- July 16, 2023

It is with deep sadness and a heavy heart that we share the news of the sudden passing of our beloved colleague, Steve Corbin.

A long-time Morongo Basin resident and a 16-year devoted JBWD team member, Steve came on board as a United States Marine Corps Veteran with pre-established skill sets as a

Processing Engineer and a Production Welding Fabricator, along with holding a State Certified Water Distribution I credential. He was originally hired for the (then) position of Maintenance II/Pump Maintenance operator and rose to the critical position of Production Supervisor.

Steve was an exceptional individual and made a significant impact on our team and the District as a whole. His unique contributions were numerous over the years. That being said, some accolades of mention include:

- Installing depth "sounders" in all our wells to help determine the water levels.
- Producing the Annual Water Quality Report for JBWD.
- Being an integral player in getting Well 14 back online (our largest producing well).
- Receiving the "Water Operator of the Year Award" from the California Rural Water Association for his tank cleaning invention that saves huge amounts of water annually.

His dedication and genuine kindness will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of working with him. All at JBWD offer our deepest sympathies to his wife, daughter, and



YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

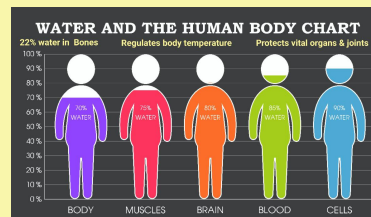
Recent Board Action Items of Note:

Due to the Independence Day holiday, the Joshua Basin Water District Board of Directors only met for one regularly scheduled Board meeting in July. At that meeting, all agenda items were for information only. No "action items" were presented.



AUGUST FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH: "Rain Harvesting"

We have rain harvesting "how to" information, and lots of options to show you how big or small, how basic or decorative you can make your system to meet your needs, Come visit us at the Joshua Tree Farmers' Market Saturday mornings in August between 8AM -1PM at the JBWD Market Booth on the West end to learn more!



La Contenta Middle School's 8TH GRADERS' 2023 WATER EDUCATION FESTIVAL

Looking for a minute+ of high energy action? Then click on the link below for a quick glimpse of your local water providers stepping up to educate our local youth about water!

<https://youtu.be/nrNDo7FI2gk>



**JOSHUA BASIN
WATER DISTRICT**

*Proudly providing water from an ancient
source...well into the future*

JOSHUA BASIN WATER DISTRICT'S

LIHWAP

LOW INCOME HOUSEHOLD WATER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

DAY 3

- FREE COFFEE AND DONUTS -

10AM - 12PM
LUNCH BREAK 12PM-1PM
1PM-2PM RESUME

AUG 10, 2023

JBWD

BOARD ROOM

61750 CHOLLITA RD
JOSHUA TREE, CA

ITEMS TO BRING (REQUIRED)

- 1) Current Water Bill
- 2) Household income for last 4 weeks
(noncash benefits, state/federal help,
SNAP, EBT, IHSS, SSI, SSDI)
- 3) Current Government Photo ID

LIHWAP REPRESENTATIVES FROM
COMMUNITY ACTION PARTNERSHIP
WILL ASSIST YOU WITH THE APPLICATION!

Juniper Pipe Break

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (C.I.R.P.)

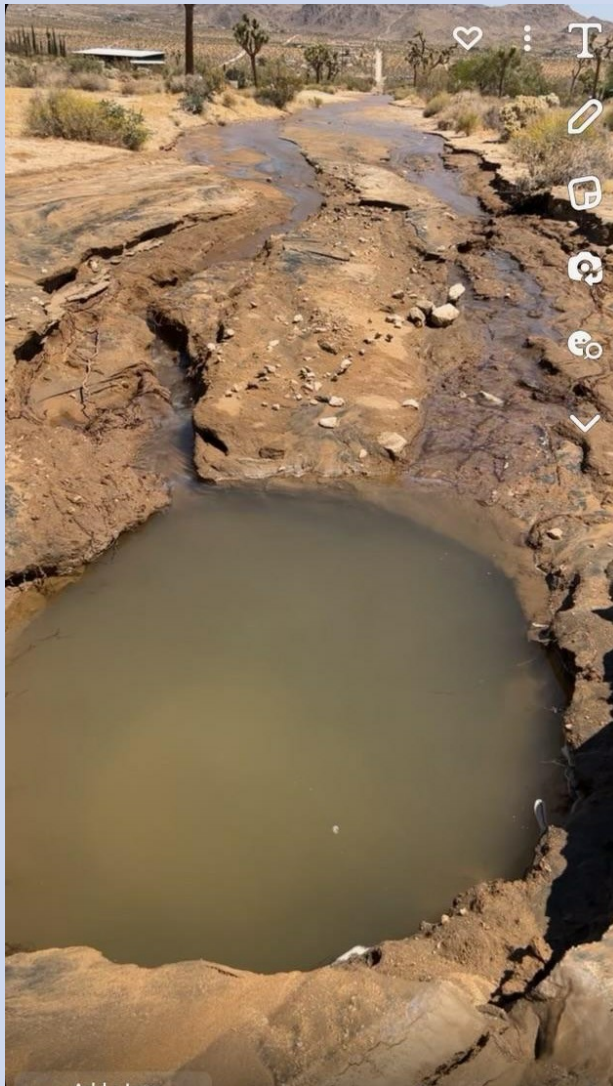
Regardless of our crew's scheduled days off, when a pipe breaks, it's all hands on deck...

An early July Saturday morning, visitors and locals noticed copious amounts of water and mud flowing down Highway 62 in the heart of Joshua Tree. The leak notification came in to



our call center at 9:30AM. With the help of our three trucks, a tractor and a dump truck, a water vacuum system and a water pump on site with five employees, the massive leak was repaired at approximately 6:30PM.

From start to finish, the eight hour leak spilled a total of one million gallons of water, which was a result of a 16-year old 8-inch PVC fracture pipeline break.



DESERT-SMART GARDENING TIPS FOR JUNE

August Watering Schedule: Before 9:00 AM and after 6:00 PM

Reduce your water bill during peak temperatures by cutting just one watering day per week out of your daily watering

HISTORIC USES OF:

**Blue Grama Grass
aka: "Blonde Ambition"**

- Blue Grama Grass (*Bouteloua gracilis*) has long been held in

schedule. This can lower your water use by as much as 10 to 15 percent.

THIS MONTH IN YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

- Walk irrigation lines to check for clogs, leaks, and breaks
- Deadhead spent flowers, trim off dead flowering stems (save any seeds for replanting)
- Continue deep-watering trees and shrubs once a month
- Keep adding to mulches to conserve water, keep soil and roots cool, and reduce the frequency of watering

high esteem as a forage grass by stockmen in the Great Plains region of the United States

- It is a nourishing feed and relished by all grazing animals
- It has gained much favor as a native grass for reseeding abandoned farm land and depleted pastures
- It is resistant to drought
- It has been used successfully for revegetation as it adapts to most soils with good drainage

August 2023 Plant of the Month

Blue Grama Grass
Bouteloua gracilis 'Blonde Ambition'

Plant Form: Perennial grass
Water Use: Very low
Mature Size: 2-3 ft. tall and wide
Exposure: Full sun
Bloom Time: Spring (Mar – May), Summer (June – Aug)
Native to: Southern California, Canada, North America, Mexico
Hardiness: Cold hardy to -30°F

Blue Grama Grass is a long-lived bunchgrass with distinctive seed heads that look like curved combs or blonde sets of eyelashes. Its unique seed heads hover horizontally above green foliage from summer into fall, starting out chartreuse, then turning brown, and finally blonde (hinting at this selection's name). In winter, its leaves also dry to a tan color; this warm-season bunchgrass looks best when cut back in early spring to 2-3 inches above the ground to remove last winter's dry leaves and flower spikes. Don't prune too soon, though—the dried, tan seed heads are interesting all winter. This drought-tolerant, extremely cold-hardy grass fits into any garden style, including rock gardens, Mediterranean gardens, meadow gardens and naturalized areas. Lovely as a specimen plant, or along sunny paths, in borders and beds, in containers, or massed as a groundcover. Tolerates foot traffic and mowing, so it makes a great choice for drought-tolerant lawns. Interesting flowers work wonders in dried arrangements.

awac
Water-Conserve Today for Tomorrow
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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Joshua Basin Water District
www.jbwd.com



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