



**Independence Day Office Closure**

In observance of Independence Day and the 250th Anniversary of the United States, the District office will be closed on Thursday, July 2, and will reopen on Monday, July 6.  
For water emergencies or leaks, call (760) 366-8438. Our crews are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to emergencies.

**THE METER READER**  
**JULY 2026**

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

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- What's In Our Water? The New Water Quality Report Is Here!
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*agenda*

**Board Meetings:**

- Regular Board Meeting: 07.01.26 **Cancelled**
- Regular Board Meeting: 07.15.26 at 5pm

**Other Meetings, Classes, or Events:**

**Mark your calendars!**

- Storm Water Preparedness/Rain Harvesting Class (Virtual): 08.12.26 @ 6PM **FREE!**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Seed Swap Social: 08.20.26, JBWD Board Room @ 5PM. Please RSVP your attendance to: [kjradnich@gmail.com](mailto:kjradnich@gmail.com) (see next month's *Meter Reader* for more details!)

**Monthly Water Use**  
**APRIL 2026: 97.88 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!**



# JULY

## WATER SAVING TIPS



Our desert's hot, windy, and dry conditions make it perfect for brush fires. As we celebrate our nation's Independence Day—and every day—please be extra careful with sparks, flames, and anything flammable. Our tap water is the primary resource for putting out local fires, so stay alert and report any suspicious fire threats before they can harm beautiful desert or deplete our water supply!

### Curious Minds Want to Know

Enjoy the question of the month.



#### Question:

Lately, we've been getting a lot of questions like, "How much water do we actually have?"

#### Answer:

As Joshua Tree has grown over time, studies by the USGS found that our community was using more groundwater than was being naturally replenished. To help protect our long-term water supply, the District pursued a solution known as aquifer recharge — bringing in State Water Project water from Northern California to replenish, or "recharge," our underground water basin.

This investment helps support a more sustainable water future for Joshua Tree. Because imported water must be purchased and transported, it does come at a significant cost to JBWD ratepayers. That is why everyday water conservation is so important: when we all use water wisely, we help reduce costs, protect our aquifer, and preserve this essential resource for future generations.



### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

With summer's heat settling in and soil temperatures turning unfriendly to young plant roots, the outdoor planting season takes a break until cooler weather returns in the fall.

Now's the perfect time to start your indoor seeds or take cuttings from your water-wise plants for an early fall planting!



### JULY AT OUR LOCAL FARMERS MARKET BOOTH:

July, we'll dive into the details of our underground water storage (the aquifer) and share hard copies of our brand-new annual Water Quality Report for anyone eager to learn more!

We proudly serve safe, refreshing, great-tasting water, cold, at our Saturday market booth from 8 AM to 1 PM.



# YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

CALL  
TO  
ACTION



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

## Action Calendar results from June 3, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (All were approved unanimously):

- Adoption of the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan/Resolution No.26-1086.
- Employee Compensation Plan/Resolution 26-1087
- Adoption: 25/26 Revised and 26/27 Proposed Budget

## Action Calendar results from June 17, 2026 Regular Board Meeting (All were approved unanimously):

- Temporary Labor Staffing Agreement with waterTALENT
- Approval of Water Availability (Standby) Charges for FY 26/27 and Collection Via the County Tax Rolls
- Annual Resolution to Authorize the County to Collect Copper Mountain Mesa Assessment District Charges Via the County Tax Rolls

# chromium 6 update

A recent Fresno County Superior Court ruling denied the legal challenge to California's Chromium-6 drinking water regulation. In its decision, the Court found that the State Water Resources Control Board acted within its legal authority, properly reviewed the science, considered technological and economic feasibility, and followed public participation requirements.

The Court also determined that the regulation could remain in place even if it may be costly to implement. In other words, "economically feasible" was interpreted to mean that treatment is possible, even if it is expensive.

Given the significance of this regulation and its potential cost impacts to water agencies and ratepayers, an appeal may be likely. In the meantime, JBWD is working toward compliance and continues to proceed in accordance with its approved compliance plan.

The District will continue to monitor the legal process, regulatory requirements, and potential impacts to our community as more information becomes available.

You can find information about Chromium 6 on our website: <https://www.jbwd.com/chromium-6-information-page>

# WHAT'S IN THE **WATER?**

## JBWD'S 2025 WATER QUALITY REPORT IS HERE!

Joshua Basin Water District's Annual Water Quality Report (also known as the "Consumer Confidence Report" or the "CCR") can be fully reviewed by visiting our website.

Learn what is (and what isn't) in our great tasting water!

[www.jbwd.com/water-quality](http://www.jbwd.com/water-quality)



## “SMART IRRIGATION MONTH”

*Here are some great tips to make July a month of “Smart Irrigation”:*

- If water starts pooling during irrigation instead of soaking quickly into the ground, it could be due to a caliche buildup in the soil. To fix this, try using a Yard Butler device to break through the underground blockages, which you can easily purchase online.
- Avoid watering when it's windy, as more water will evaporate than will soak into the soil.
- Watering in the early morning is best since the soil has cooled overnight. If you water in the early evening when the soil is still warm, it can lead to faster evaporation of water in the soil.

# July 2026 Plant of the Month



## Sugar Bush

*Rhus ovata*

Plant Form: Evergreen shrub  
Water Use: Low  
Mature Size: 8 - 15' tall & wide  
Exposure: Full sun, part shade  
Bloom Time: Spring (March - May)  
Native to: California, Arizona, and Mexico (between 3,000 - 5,000 feet)  
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 0°F

Sugar Bush is a very long-lived, evergreen, aromatic shrub with lush, deep green, leathery leaves that are slightly folded like a taco shell. Maroon twigs and leaf stems, as well as reddish bracts that enclose the flower buds, strike a nice contrast with the deep green foliage. Pinkish flower clusters in late winter or spring produce red berry-like fruits (drupes) in summer that are coated with long strands of sugar, giving the bush its name. Traditionally, and even today, people harvest and soak these "berries" in water to make a refreshing drink like lemonade. This multi-branched sumac can be pruned into an attractive, single- or multiple-trunk shade tree. A workhorse of many southwest gardens, Sugar Bush is ideal for screens, hedges, windbreaks, for erosion control on slopes, or as a specimen on its own. Although slow-growing, it is worth the wait.



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](http://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac)

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Produced by The SummerTree Institute ([www.SummerTree.org](http://www.SummerTree.org))



## GARDENING TIPS FOR YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE

- Smart water-wise practices pay off now: Climate-adapted plants + Mulch + Deep watering = Less water use
- Check irrigation emitters, valves and lines for clogs, leaks, and breaks
- Flush out lines by removing end caps with your water system on; sand or deposits in lines can clog emitters
- Leave a dripping hose at the drip-line of trees and shrubs to deeply soak soil once a month; set a timer to remind you to move your hose to the next plant)
- Add to mulches as they decompose to conserve water, keep roots cool, and reduce frequency of watering
- Encourage repetition blooming by pinching or cutting back annuals and perennials



## HISTORIC MEDICINAL USES OF SUGAR BUSH / *Rhus ovata*

*The Cahuilla Indians used *Rhus ovata* leaves to make tea for treating colds and coughs. They also enjoyed the fresh fruits as food, eating them raw, dried, or grinding them into mush.*

# UNDERSTANDING OUR AQUIFER

“Where’s the water? You’re standing on it!”

**Joshua Basin is a significant aquifer that supplies Joshua Tree with water from an ancient source. However, increased population and changes in climate have necessitated water replenishment via “recharge ponds”. Below explains and shows the aquifer, its basin and the sub-basins.**

- An **aquifer** is an underground layer of water-bearing rock or sediment, such as gravel, sand, or silt, that stores and transmits groundwater. Groundwater in aquifers is mainly used for agricultural, home, and industrial purposes.
- An aquifer **basin** is a geological formation that contains a large underground reservoir of water, typically made up of permeable materials like sand or gravel, which can store and transmit groundwater. These basins are crucial for supplying water through wells and maintaining local water supplies.
- An aquifer **sub-basin** is a smaller, defined area within a larger groundwater basin that contains its own distinct underground body of water. These sub-basins can have specific boundaries and may have unique characteristics regarding water inflows and outflows.

