2015-16 Annual Review

Making every drop count since 1918

Inside:

Coachella Valley Water District

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Contact Us

Payment Address
P.O. Box 5000
Coachella, CA 92236

Correspondence Address
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236

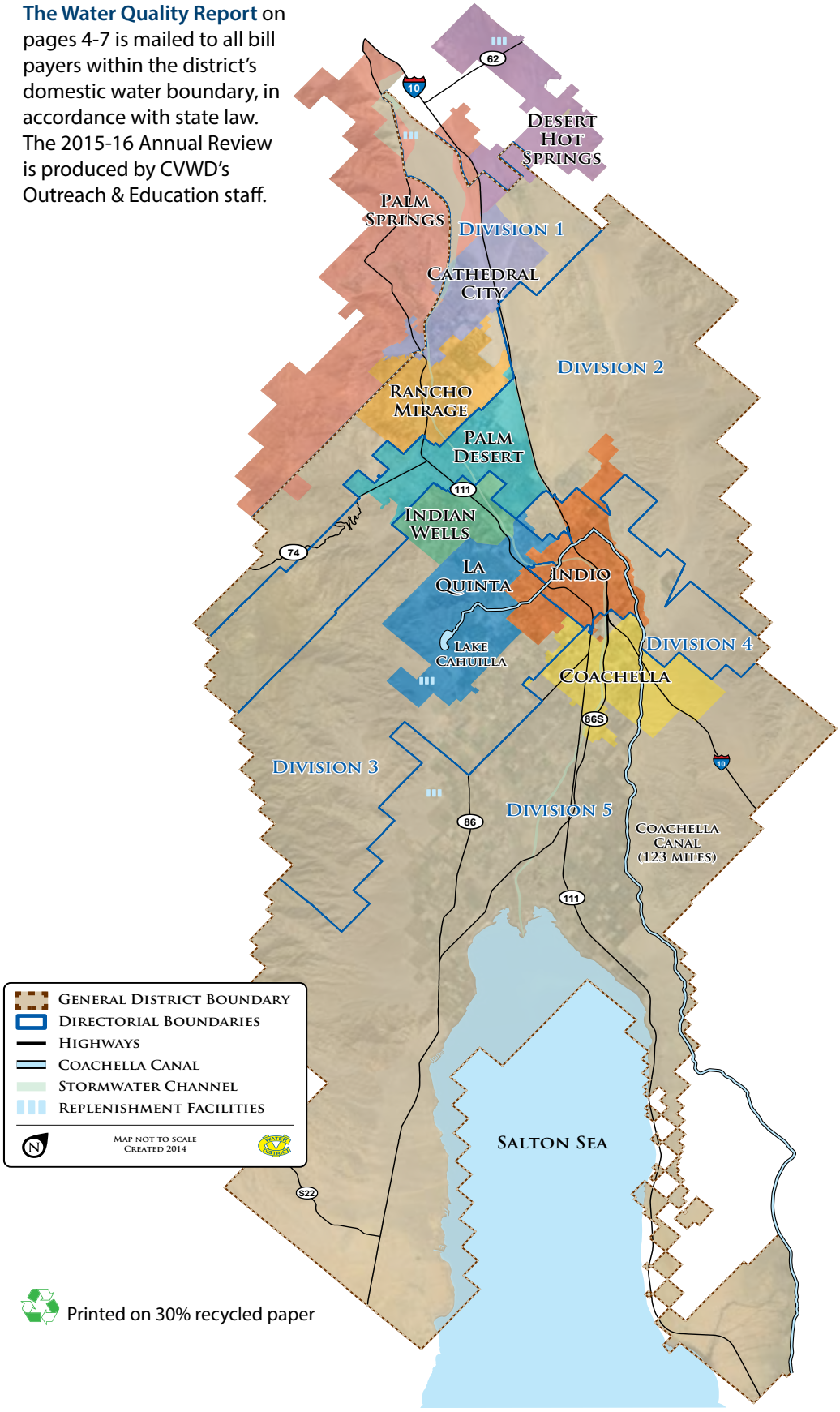
Offices
75-515 & 75-525 Hovley Lane East
Palm Desert
51-501 Tyler Street
Coachella

Cover photo: Lake Cahuilla, located in La Quinta, serves as the endpoint and reservoir for CVWD's canal system. It can hold about 1,300 acre-feet of water.

Established in 1918, the Coachella Valley Water District is a government agency run by a five-member Board of Directors, elected to represent the five divisions within CVWD's service area. The directors serve four-year terms.

Board meetings are open to the public and generally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 9 a.m. at district offices. The first meeting of the month is typically held in Palm Desert and the second is held in Coachella. To confirm meeting details, call the water district or view the meeting agenda on the website at www.cvwd.org

The Water Quality Report on pages 4-7 is mailed to all bill payers within the district's domestic water boundary, in accordance with state law. The 2015-16 Annual Review is produced by CVWD's Outreach & Education staff.



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Message from our General Manager

California's ongoing historic drought kept water conservation in the headlines again this year. CVWD instituted drought penalties in July 2015, in response to the State's mandate that CVWD customers reduce water use by 36% (later adjusted to 32%) compared to 2013. Since drought penalties began, CVWD customers have reduced water use by 25%, a remarkable achievement.

Now CVWD's Board of Directors has lifted drought penalties in response to the state's transition to water supply-based conservation targets. This common-sense approach makes more sense to an area like the Coachella Valley that has a strong supply that isn't tied to users outside the region. The board also extended water-use restrictions through January and will continue to enforce these rules. These restrictions are outlined on page 2 of this publication. CVWD invested $6.7 million in funding for conservation this fiscal year. These programs will remain in place to help homeowners, businesses and homeowner associations reduce water use.

CVWD urges customers to continue managing water wisely. Conservation has always been an important tool in the long-term plan to eliminate overdraft of the Coachella Valley's aquifer.

Guided by the findings of a comprehensive cost-of-service study, CVWD staff this year proposed rate changes to the board of directors. **The most current domestic water rates** are on Page 8 of this publication. Additional information about other rates and about conservation programs are available at our website, www.cvwd.org

A key driver for domestic water rates is the cost of meeting the new state standard for chromium-6, a mineral that occurs naturally in areas of the Coachella Valley. CVWD has made significant progress this past year in developing plans to build treatment facilities necessary to comply with the regulation.

Groundwater levels continue to improve in the west valley and continue to rise in the east valley thanks to the successful implementation of the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan. Imported Colorado River water is sent to the Thomas E. Levy Groundwater Replenishment facility in South La Quinta, where it percolates into the aquifer. In total, 3.31 million acre feet of water has been replenished into the aquifer by CVWD and DWA since 1973.

CVWD thanks its customers for the commitment to conservation shown this year. Together we can maintain a sustainable water supply for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Jim Barrett

> "Thanks to our customers, we have saved a tremendous amount of water but we must keep saving. The drought has taught us to become water-smart Californians. It's part of who we are."

Our Mission Statement

To meet the water-related needs of the people through dedicated employees, providing high quality water at a reasonable cost.

Water-use restrictions remain in effect, including those below:

Application of water to outdoor landscaping during and within 48 hours after measureable rainfall is prohibited.

Irrigation of ornamental turf on public street medians is prohibited.

Broken sprinklers shall be repaired within 24 hours of notification and leaks will be repaired as soon as practical.

Serve water only upon request in eating or drinking establishments, including but not limited to restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, and bars, is prohibited.

Hotels and motels shall provide guests with the option of choosing not to have towels and linens laundered daily.

Applying water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes runoff such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas such as sidewalks and roadways is prohibited.

Use a hose with a shut-off nozzle when washing your vehicle or windows.

Refer to www.cvwd.org for a complete list.

Customers show commitment to conservation

Since 2010, CVWD customers have removed **9,038,181** square feet of grass in conjunction with the district's turf rebate program.

That's the equivalent of 207 acres. It's also the equivalent in linear feet of a foot-wide path of 1,711 miles — about the same as the driving distance from Palm Desert to Baton Rouge, Louisiana!

Some of these conservation efforts were fueled by the historic statewide drought. On April 1, 2015 Gov. Jerry Brown mandated a 25% reduction in urban water use across California. The state based conservation targets on residential gallons per capita per day use and assigned CVWD a 36% conservation mandate, later adjusted to 32%.

CVWD invested more than $6.5 million in conservation programs this year and residents have taken advantage of these programs in record numbers to reduce water use. Since June of 2015, customers have reduced use 25% compared to 2013.

The most recent action by the state establishes long-term water conservation measures, including extended water use restrictions and monthly reporting requirements. Additionally, agency conservation targets will be based on local water supplies.

CVWD continues to prioritize conservation as a way of life in the desert and therefore supports the concept of long-term water conservation strategies.

For the latest information about ways to conserve, including rebate programs and tips, and information about ongoing water-use restrictions, visit our website at **www.cvwd.org**.

Groundwater replenishment remains key district priority

CVWD and Desert Water Agency have jointly replenished more than **3.3 million acre-feet (more than 1 trillion gallons)** of imported water into the aquifer to date.

This commitment to the long-term health of the aquifer goes back to CVWD's formation in 1918 when one of its first actions was to design facilities at Whitewater to capture natural run-off from the mountains. Later, CVWD and DWA also recognized the need to obtain imported water for the valley.

The agencies expanded the Whitewater Groundwater Replenishment Facility and became two of the original 29 State Water Project Contractors to be entitled to imported water from the Sierra Nevada snowpack for replenishment efforts.

In the east valley, CVWD operates a replenishment facility, which is an element of the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan, that has been shown to increase groundwater levels in the area.

This year, CVWD expects to receive 60% of its entitlement from the State Water Project, a much greater amount than originally projected because of the statewide drought. This allocation is used for replenishment of the aquifer.

These efforts are part of an ongoing commitment to protect the aquifer through these actions:

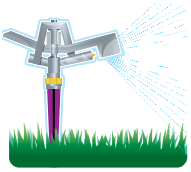
- Increase the amount of imported water for groundwater replenishment
- Continue to provide alternative water sources, such as Colorado River water and recycled water, to large irrigation users, including farms and golf courses.
- Continue to promote conservation and wise water use.

Recycled and other non-potable water use continues to grow

Increased use of recycled and other nonpotable water sources **helps to alleviate overdraft of the aquifer** and increases the ability of water agencies such as CVWD to balance the new supply of water with demand, including that brought about by growth and development.

27 holes at one golf course and its HOA were added to CVWD's recycled water distribution pipeline system in 2015.

37,759 acre-feet of nonpotable water was used in 2015, a 6% increase over 2014, making a like amount of water available for drinking and other potable purposes.



17.5 golf courses within CVWD's boundaries will be using recycled water by the end of 2016 after four more are added to the system.

31.5 golf courses will use canal water delivered directly from the canal distribution system by the end of 2016 and another 5 receive imported water via the Mid-Valley Pipeline.

54 of the **105** golf courses in the Coachella Valley within CVWD's boundaries will be using a water source other than groundwater by the end of 2016.

This annual report communicates the results of CVWD's water quality monitoring. The State Water Resources Control Board Division of Drinking Water (DDW) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) requires routine and comprehensive monitoring of CVWD's drinking water supply.

CVWD's commitment

Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) is committed to delivering high quality drinking water. Water is delivered to customers from wells drilled into the Coachella Valley's groundwater basin.

Highly trained employees monitor the water systems and collect drinking water samples that are tested at CVWD's state-certified laboratory.

A few specialized tests are performed by other certified laboratories. In addition to the detected constituents listed in the table on pages 6-7, CVWD's Water Quality staff monitors for more than 100 other regulated and unregulated chemicals that are not detected during this monitoring.

CVWD is governed by a locally elected, five-member board of directors who normally meet in public session at 9 a.m., on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meeting locations rotate between CVWD's Coachella office at 51-501 Tyler Street and the Steve Robbins Administration Building at 75-515 Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert. Call CVWD to confirm meeting time, date and location.

Sensitive populations

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers.

USEPA/Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium (a microbial pathogen found in surface water throughout the United States) and other microbial contaminants are available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791 or www.epa.gov/ground-water-and drinking-water/safe-drinking-water-hotline. Call Safe Drinking Water Hotline to obtain updated link if needed.**

Naturally occurring elements

Arsenic

While all of CVWD's domestic water supply meets state and federal standards for arsenic, drinking water supplied to some service areas does contain low levels of naturally occurring arsenic. The arsenic standard balances the current understanding of arsenic's possible health effects against the costs of removing arsenic from drinking water. USEPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems. All drinking water delivered by CVWD last year complied with the 10 microgram per liter (ug/L) maximum contaminant level (MCL).

Radon

Radon is a naturally occurring, radioactive gas — a byproduct of uranium — that originates underground but is found in the air. Radon moves from the ground into homes primarily through cracks and holes in their foundations. While most radon enters the home through soil, radon from tap water typically is less than two percent of the radon in indoor air.

The USEPA has determined that breathing radon gas increases an individual's chances of developing lung cancer, and has proposed an MCL of 300 picoCuries per liter (pCi/L) for radon in drinking water. This proposed standard is far less than the 4,000 pCi/L in water that is equivalent to the radon level found in outdoor air. The radon level in CVWD wells ranges from none detected to 460 pCi/L, significantly lower than that found in the air you breathe.

Potential contaminants

About Nitrate

Nitrate in drinking water at levels above 45 milligrams per liter (mg/L) is a health risk for infants younger than six months old. High nitrate levels in drinking water can interfere with the capacity of the infant's blood to carry oxygen, resulting in serious illness; symptoms include shortness of breath and blueness of skin. Nitrate levels above 45 mg/L may also affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen in other individuals, such as pregnant women and those with certain enzyme deficiencies. If you are caring for an infant or you are pregnant, you should ask for advice from your health care provider.

Wells that confirm with nitrate levels above 45 mg/L are removed from service.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing.

Responsibility

CVWD is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in customer plumbing components.

Tip

When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds before using water for drinking or cooking. You can capture this flushed water in a container and use it for watering plants.

Resource information

If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water

tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the **Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.**

As noted, all drinking water served by CVWD comes from wells. DDW requires water agencies to state, however, "the sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells.

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity."

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, that can be naturally occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides that may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, that are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff and septic systems.
- Radioactive contaminants that can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, USEPA and DDW prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems.

USEPA and DDW regulations also establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. "Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the USEPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791) or the National Safety Council Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236)."

Drinking Water Source Water Assessments:

CVWD has conducted source water assessments that provide information about the vulnerability CVWD wells to contamination. In 2002, CVWD completed a comprehensive source water assessment that evaluated all groundwater wells supplying the CVWD's six public water systems. An assessment is performed on each new well added to CVWD's system.

Groundwater from these CVWD wells are considered vulnerable to activities associated with urban and agricultural uses.

Urban land uses include the following activities: known contaminant plumes, dry cleaners, underground storage tanks, septic systems, automobile gas stations (including historic), automobile repair shops, historic waste dumps/landfills, illegal/unauthorized dumping, sewer collection systems and utility stations' maintenance areas.

Agricultural land uses include the following activities: irrigation/agricultural wells, irrigated crops, pesticide/fertilizer/petroleum and transfer areas.

The following activities have been associated with detected contaminants: known contaminant plumes, dry cleaners and irrigated crops.

CVWD is committed to supplying high quality drinking water from CVWD's wells to our communities.

For information about chromium-6, see story on page 9 or visit our website at **www.cvwd.org/cr6.**

Definitions & Abbreviations

AL or Regulatory Action Level — The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL or Maximum Contaminant Level — The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. Primary MCLs are set as close to public health goals or maximum contaminant level goals as economically and technologically feasible. Secondary MCLs are set to protect the odor, taste and appearance of drinking water.

MCLG or Maximum Contaminant Level Goal — Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs are set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

mg/L — Milligrams per liter (parts per million). One mg/L is equivalent to 1 second in 11.6 days.

MRDL or Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level — The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG or Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal — The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

N/A — Not applicable. The government has not set a Public Health Goal, Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or Maximum Contaminant Level for this substance.

ND — None detected

ng/L — Nanograms per liter (parts per trillion). One ng/L is equivalent to 1 second in 31,700 years.

NL or Notification Level — Health based advisory level established by the DDW for chemicals in drinking water that lack maximum contaminant levels (MCLs) as stated by DDW.

NTU — Nephelometric turbidity units (measurement of suspended material)

pCi/L — picoCuries per liter. For uranium, one pCi/L is equivalent to one second in 21.1 years.

PDWS or Primary Drinking Water Standard — MCLs and MRDLs for contaminants that affect health along with their monitoring and reporting requirements, and water treatment requirement.

PHG or Public Health Goal — Level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. Public Health Goals are set by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

Secondary Drinking Water Standard — Based on aesthetics, these secondary maximum contaminant levels have monitoring and reporting requirements specified in regulations.

ug/L—Micrograms per liter (parts per billion). One ug/L is equivalent to 1 second in 31.7 years.

uS/cm — Microsiemens per centimeter

What's in my water?

CVWD analyzed more than 18,000 water samples last year to monitor the water quality of drinking water delivered to its customers. Every year, CVWD is required to analyze a select number of these samples for more than 100 regulated and unregulated substances.

This table lists those substances that were detected in CVWD's three service areas. Gray boxes indicate the substance was not detected (ND), existing data is no longer reportable or there is no available data. The data on the chart, which summarizes results of the most recent monitoring completed between 2007 and 2015. CVWD did not have any MCL violations in 2015.

To read this table:

First, determine in which service area you live, by using the footnotes on the opposite page. Then move down the column, comparing the detection level of each chemical or other contaminant with the Public Health Goal (PHG), Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) and Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL).

For example, if you live in La Quinta and want to know the level of fluoride detected in your service area, you would look down the Cove Communities column and stop at the fluoride row. The average fluoride level in that service area is 0.6 mg/L with the range of results varying between 0.1 mg/L and 1.0 mg/L.

Compare these values to the Maximum Contaminant Level in the third column. Fluoride levels in this water comply with the Maximum Contaminant Level of 2.0 mg/L. The range can show a level above the Maximum Contaminant Level and still comply with the drinking water standard when compliance is based on average levels found in each water source or water system.

CVWD 2016 Domestic Water Quality Summary

(Covering the reporting period January - December 2015)

Detected parameter, units	PHG or (MCLG)	MCL[1]	Cove Communities[2] Range (Average)	ID No. 8[3] Range (Average)	ID No. 11[4] Range (Average)	MCL Violation? (Yes/No)	Major source(s)
Arsenic, ug/L	0.004	10	ND-12[5] (ND)			NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Barium mg/L	2	1	ND-0.1 (ND)			NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Chloride, mg/L	N/A[6]		7.2-110 (20)	8.9-26 (16)	260-530 (350)	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Chlorine (as Cl_2), mg/L[7]	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4.0	ND-3.0 (0.4)	0.2-1.4 (0.5)	ND-1.6 (0.6)	NO	Result of drinking water chlorination
Chromium, ug/L[8]	(100)	50	ND-25 (ND)	15-23 (18)		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium-6, ug/L[8]	0.02	10[9]	ND-22[10,11] (8.6)	13-22 (17)[11]		NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Color, units	None	15[1]	ND-1 (ND)			NO	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Copper, mg/L[12] [homes tested/ sites exceeding AL]	0.3	AL=1.3	0.13 [52/0]	0.14 [22/0]	0.18 [21/0]	NO	Internal corrosion of household plumbing
Copper, mg/L	None	1[1]	ND-0.4 (ND)		ND-0.2 (ND)	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP), ng/L	1.7	200	ND-65(ND)			NO	Leaching of banned nematocide which may still be in soils
E. coli, positive samples/month	(0)	#positive[13]	ND-1 (ND)			No	Presence indicates possible animal or human waste contamination
Fluoride, mg/L	1	2.0	0.1-1.0 (0.6)	0.4-0.7 (0.6)	0.5-1.8 (1.2)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Gross alpha particle activity, pCi/L	(0)	15	ND-11 (ND)	ND-7.3 (5.1)	ND-4.6 (ND)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids, ug/L[14]	N/A	60	(ND-6.6) 3.4			NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Hardness (as $CaCO_3$), mg/L	N/A		11-300 (110)	65-210 (140)	210-430 (300)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Iron, ug/L	None	300[1]	ND-230 (ND)			NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Nitrate (as NO_3), mg/L	45	45	ND-56[15] (5.8)	ND-6.4 (2.5)	5.0-10 (7.9)	NO	Leaching of fertilizer, animal wastes or natural deposits
Odor as threshold, units	None	3[1]	ND-1.0 (ND)			NO	Naturally occurring organic materials
pH, units	N/A		7.4-9.1 (8.2)	8.0-8.2 (8.2)	7.7-8.1 (7.9)	NO	Physical characteristic
Selenium, ug/L	30	50	ND-5.8 (ND)		ND-5.6 (ND)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium, mg/L	N/A		18-120 (30)	58-89 (73)	220-300 (250)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Specific conductance, uS/cm	N/A[6]		230-1,100 (390)	520-830 (640)	1,500-2,500 (1,900)	NO	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate, mg/L	N/A[6]		ND-270 (47)	150-240 (180)	220-340 (290)	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Tetrachloroethylene (PCE),ug/L	0.06	5	ND-0.5 (ND)			NO	Discharge from dry cleaners and auto shops
Total Coliform bacteria, positive samples/month	(0)	more than 5%[16]	ND-1% (ND)			NO	Naturally present in the environment
Total dissolved solids, mg/L	N/A[6]		83-680 (240)	260-570 (400)	920-1,500 (1,200)	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Total trihalomethanes, ug/L[14]	N/A	80	ND-16 (12)	7.4-11 (11)[17]	6.4-7.8 (7.8)[17]	NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity, NTU	None	5[1]	ND-0.7 (ND)	ND-0.3 (ND)	ND-0.6 (0.2)	NO	Leaching from natural deposits
Uranium, pCi/L	0.43	20	ND-14 (4.4)	1.9-4.1 (3.3)	2.4-2.9 (2.7)	NO	Erosion of natural deposits
2015 Unregulated contaminant monitoring							
Chlorate, ug/L[19]	N/A	NL=800	ND-52 (6.5)			NO	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22), ug/L[19]	N/A		ND-0.18 (ND)			NO	Refrigerant
1,4-Dioxane, ug/L[19]	N/A	NL=1	ND-0.14 (ND)			NO	Leaching from historical disposal sites
Molybdenum, ug/L[19]	N/A		ND-19 (8.7)			NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Strontium, ug/L[19]	N/A		140-2,000 (420)			NO	Erosion of natural deposits
Vanadium, ug/L[19]	N/A	NL=50	4.9-36 (17)			NO	Erosion of natural deposits

Footnotes:

(1) Values with this footnote have fixed Secondary MCLs, remaining values are Primary MCLs unless identified otherwise.
(2) Includes the communities of Rancho Mirage, Thousand Palms, Palm Desert, Indian Wells, La Quinta, Mecca, Bombay Beach, North Shore, Hot Mineral Spa, and portions of Bermuda Dunes, Cathedral City, Indio, Oasis, Riverside County, Thermal and Valerie Jean.
(3) Includes the communities of Indio Hills, Sky Valley & select areas within and adjacent to Desert Hot Springs.
(4) Includes the communities of Desert Shores, Salton Sea Beach & Salton City.
(5) Although an individual sample may exceed the MCL, compliance is based on a running annual average.
(6) This constituent monitored for aesthetics such as taste and odor. No fixed consumer acceptance contaminant level has been established for this constituent.
(7) The reported average represents the highest running annual average based on distribution system monitoring.
(8) Although regulated, chromium and chromium-6 were included in 2015 unregulated contaminant monitoring per USEPA. CVWD performed this monitoring at select CVWD domestic facilities in Cove Communities. Chromium monitoring results: 0.3 ug/L-20 ug/L (9.2) and Chromium-6 results: 0.1 ug/L - 20 ug/L (9.1).
(9) California's Chromium-6 drinking water MCL became effective on July 1, 2014.
(10) Data includes results prior to state adoption of Chromium-6 (Cr6) MCL effective July 1, 2014.
(11) Initial compliance monitoring for Chromium-6 ongoing in 2015. CVWD has a DDW approved compliance plan that includes construction of ion exchange treatment plants to lower naturally occuring Chromium-6 in local groundwater.
(12) The reported values are 90th percentile levels for samples collected from faucets in water user homes.
(13) An MCL violation occurs when a routine sample and a repeat sample are total coliform positive and one of these samples is E. coli positive.
(14) The reported average represents the highest locational running average (LRAA) based on distribution system monitoring.
(15) Nitrate was detected in one well above 45 mg/L and was removed from service resulting in no MCL violation.
(16) Systems that collect 40 or more samples per month (Cove Communities).
(17) Annual monitoring results.
(18) In 2015, USEPA required unregulated contaminant monitoring (identified as UCMR3) for select CVWD domestic facilities in Cove Communities.
(19) Unregulated contaminants are those for which USEPA and DDW have not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist both regulatory agencies in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

More information:

To receive a summary of CVWD's source water assessments or additional water quality data or clarification, call CVWD's Water Quality Division at (760) 398-2651.

Complete copies of source water assessments may be viewed at CVWD's office at 51-501 Tyler St., Coachella, CA 92236.

Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo ó hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. También puede llamar al CVWD al número de teléfono (760) 398-2651.

Paying your bill

Pay online with a credit card

Customers can now view bills and pay them online using a credit card. Visit the Pay My Bill section at www.cvwd.org.

Automatic electronic payment

Your monthly payment can be automatically deducted from your checking account. To submit your request online, please visit the Pay My Bill section at www.cvwd.org. Should you have any questions, call Customer Service at (760) 391-9600.

Electronic notification when bill is due

Save paper by enrolling in our electronic notification program and be notified by e-mail when your new bill is available to view online. To submit your request online, please visit the Pay My Bill section at www.cvwd.org.

Pay by phone

To pay by phone, call the CVWD automated system 24/7 at (760) 391-9600. Customer Service representatives are available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express are accepted.

Pay by mail

Mailed payments should be sent to P.O. Box 5000, Coachella, CA 92236.

Pay in person

Drop boxes are available at offices in Palm Desert (75-525 Hovley Lane East) and Coachella (51-501 Tyler Street). The Palm Desert drop box is open 24 hours a day.

Water budget rates for volumetric use

As of July 1, 2016

Tiers	Rate Per CCF	Single Family	Multi-Family (per unit)	Commercial	Landscape
1	$.95	Up to 8 CCF		n/a	
2	$1.32	Up to 100% of budget		8 CCF per EDU*	Up to 100% of budget
3	$2.46	100% up to 175%			
4	$4.67	175% up to 300%			
5	$6.13	300% or more			

Note: Tier 1 is considered as indoor use for necessity and is applied to single and multi-family dwelling units only.
*EDU is a term used to compare the wastewater flows generated from a commercial business to those generated by a single family residential unit. Consistent with the policy for residential accounts, each EDU is currently given 8 CCF (hundred cubic feet) for its water budget.

Fixed monthly rates by meter size

As of October 1, 2016*

Meter Size	Single Family**	Multi-Family	Commercial	Landscape
3/4"	$9.26	$10.57	$6.64	$22.95
1"	$15.41	$17.62	$11.07	$38.28
1-1/2"	$30.82	$35.33	$22.13	$76.56
2"	$49.34	$56.48	$35.41	$122.54
3"	$92.46	$105.90	$66.31	$229.75
4"	$154.10	$176.48	$110.57	$382.87

*These rates will be reevaluated in September 2016 for possible downward adjustment when additional revenue data are available to determine if revenue streams are sufficient for regulatory purposes.
**Most single family homes are fitted with a 3/4" meter.

Tier categories

Tier 1 = Excellent	Water budgets are unique to each account based on a number of factors. Customers pay the tier rate for all water used within that tier. See the table above for percentages of water budgets for tier rates that will be applied.
Tier 2 - Efficient	
Tier 3 = Inefficient	
Tier 4 = Wasteful	
Tier 5 = Excessive	

New CVWD App coming August 2016

Pay your bill, report water waste, find upcoming events, view job opportunities and much more! Download from the App Store or Google Play.

Domestic and sewer projects include chromium-6 work

One of the most notable projects at the district this year was CVWD's work on the design and environmental approvals for the Chromium-6 Treatment project, which is estimated to cost approximately $250 million.

The project comes after the state of California announced a new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for chromium-6, a mineral that occurs naturally in large portions of the Coachella Valley's groundwater aquifer at levels above the new MCL.

The Environmental Impact Report for the project will be presented to the board at the end of June 2016.

The design of the treatment facilities is expected to be completed the following month with construction starting shortly thereafter.

Based on a comprehensive evaluation of treatment technologies, CVWD selected resin-based ion exchange treatment for its compliance approach. The project will involve Strong-Base Anion (SBA) exchange treatment at 23 existing well sites and Weak Base Anion (WBA) exchange treatment for multiple wells at one site.

A Central Resin Regeneration Facility is proposed for existing CVWD property in Thermal. It will regenerate resin for reuse at the SBA sites.

More information about chromium-6 is available at www.cvwd.org/Cr6

CVWD also is completing the design, environmental approvals, and right-of-way acquisition for the Highway 86 Water Transmission Main and Pump Station Project. This project will provide additional water supply and improved water quality to communities located along the west shore of the Salton Sea.

In addition, the construction drawings have been completed and the lease agreement obtained for a 6.5 million gallon Mission Hills reservoir that will provide additional domestic water and fire flow storage for the Mission Hills area in Rancho Mirage.

On the sanitation side, CVWD made significant upgrades to the largest Wastewater Reclamation Plant in Palm Desert. The work included replacing the aeration blower system and installing new electrical switchgear and a standby generator at the plant. A building extension was added to the existing Septage Receiving Facility to allow the ability to receive larger septage truck haulers and install improved equipment. The upgrades improved treatment efficiency and reduced overall energy consumption by 20%.

District's toilet rebate program expands

CVWD has processed more than 1,000 rebates to replace old, inefficient toilets with new, low-flush versions. The program is open to homeowners and businesses.

JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa is one of many businesses to take advantage of the program by replacing 890 old inefficient toilets. The resort estimates it will save about 15 million gallons of water per year with water-efficient toilets that only use 0.8 gallons of water per flush.

District, state launch certification program

CVWD and the State Water Resources Control Board have announced a new program to help professional landscapers in the Coachella Valley be more efficient water users.

The new online program will teach professional landscapers the best practices for achieving water efficiency when creating outdoor environments. The certification course will be required for any new or existing professionals seeking a landscaping business license in any city or county in the Coachella Valley.

More information will be available soon at **www.cvwd.org**

Program helps farmers, water supply

Local growers this year received rebates to convert their irrigation with Colorado River water from flood to the more efficient drip method.

Qualifying applicants received rebates of $1,500 per acre, with a maximum of 160 acres ($240,000) per project. CVWD received a $1 million grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to fund the new conservation program.

A portion of the water will be retained in Lake Mead to help maintain the lake's water level; the rest will be used by CVWD for groundwater replenishment.

Crop reporting praised for technology

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recognized the district this year with the John W. Keys III Award for CVWD's new GIS Crop Reporting system.

The system uses technology to gather data about which crops are grown, the type of water used and the method of irrigation to identify potential water conservation opportunities. The technology has streamlined the data collection process to make it more efficient, accurate and transparent.

Crop Report

(Covering the reporting period January - December 2015)

Crop production on Coachella Valley land irrigated with Colorado River water

Value of year's production: $745,704,920

Total acreage irrigated (includes double cropping & irrigated but not harvested): 70,470

Average gross value per acre: $10,280

Crop	Acreage	Yield in tons	Value per acre	Total value
Fruit	**23,417**	**207,588**	**$14,972**	**$350,538,158**
Dates	8,211	19,706	$5,040	$41,383,440
Figs	177	1,487	$8,400	$1,486,800
Grapes - (table)	7,592	62,520	$20,587	$156,300,300
Grapefruit	576	8,078	$8,291	$4,775,760
Lemons & Limes	3,902	64,500	$26,753	$104,388,255
Mangos	117	954	$15,485	$1,811,745
Olives	86	765	$13,331	$1,146,474
Oranges & Tangerines	1,656	16,428	$8,504	$14,082,984
Peaches	103	510	$14,400	$1,483,200
Strawberries	332	7,370	$42,550	$14,126,600
Watermelon	665	25,270	$14,440	$9,602,600
Vegetables	**26,332**	**554,724**	**$10,875**	**$286,348,110**
Artichoke	883	7,098	$10,862	$9,591,552
Basil	66	185	$4,000	$264,000
Green Bean	1,208	5,463	$9,312	$11,249,005
Bok Choy	354	4,381	$7,875	$2,787,750
Broccoli	953	5,841	$6,465	$6,161,421
Cabbage	58	435	$5,700	$330,600
Carrots	4,572	155,448	$5,950	$27,203,400
Cauliflower	1,134	8,268	$8,952	$10,151,659
Celery	659	14,338	$10,458	$6,891,891
Sweet Corn	1,279	13,094	$6,120	$7,827,160
Eggplant	221	4,860	$27,224	$6,016,420
Lettuce	2,930	40,559	$9,674	$28,344,615
Okra	791	3,283	$4,150	$3,282,650
Onion - Dry	60	1,697	$11,876	$712,530
Onion - Green	305	6,192	$14,500	$4,422,500
Oriental Vegetables	1838	19,299	$7,875	$14,474,250
Peppers (bell)	5,044	105,167	$23,727	$119,680,501
Peppers (chili)	152	1,375	16,637	2,258,789
Potatoes	971	11,031	$3,510	$3,408,443
Radish	249	1,451	$7,992	$1,990,008
Spice	1,364	3,819	$4,000	$5,456,000
Spinach	668	9,178	$13,786	$9,208,914
Squash	318	127,200	$4,200	$1,335,600
Tomatoes	255	5,064	$11,876	$3,028,451
Forage	**2,245**	**6,112**	**$772**	**$1,732,220**
Alfalfa hay	671	5,368	$2,080	$1,395,680
Irrigated pasture[1]	1,450	–	$150	$217,500
Sudan grass	124	744	$960	$119,040
Nursery	**1,506**	–	**$20,495**	**$30,865,470**
Duck Ponds	**775**	**4**	**$43**	**$33,580**
Fish Farms	**165**	**865**	**28,383**	**4,683,195**
Golf Courses	**6,043**	**634,515**	**$9,493**	**$57,366,501**
Polo Fields	**473**	**49,665**	**$9,493**	**$4,490,213**
Turf Grass	**1,011**	**106,155**	**$9,493**	**$9,597,474**

All financial figures are rounded off to the nearest dollar. Crop categories are as established by the Bureau of Reclamation.

[1]Yield is in animal units per month (AUM)

Stormwater protection improvements continue to help Valley residents

With the recent completion of the environmental documents, construction is expected to begin this year on a portion of the North Indio Flood Control Project (NIFCP), which connects the flood conveyance channels of Sun City Palm Desert to those of Sun City Shadow Hills.

When completed, the multi-year project will accept flows from the Sun City Palm Desert channels and convey them to the existing Sun City Shadow Hills channels and ultimately to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. Improvements were also made within the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel to provide concrete slope protection for the Whitewater Park and adjacent properties in Rancho Mirage. The project will provide flood protection for the park and adjacent properties. Emergency construction of concrete slope protection was also completed on the south bank of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel downstream of Adams Street Bridge.

The project included the repair of approximately 580 lineal feet of concrete slope protection, including the extension of cut-off walls and the replacement of three existing storm drain outlets.

(See photo below)

Local input helps guide stormwater work

In late 2015, CVWD conducted a series of workshops for residents and business owners in the eastern valley who will be affected by a new FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the region. Once the FIRM is finalized, expected later this year, anyone within the boundaries of the FIRM with a mortgage on a home, business or other building financed by a federally insured or federally regulated lender will be required to buy flood insurance.

CVWD worked with FEMA to update flood risk for properties adjacent to the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel. Affected parcels within areas that include Mecca, Oasis and Thermal are being remapped within a Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Additional information is available at **http://www.cvwd.org/340/Flood-Maps-for-eastern-Coachella-Valley**.

District presented with budget award

CVWD's annual budget document for the 2015-16 fiscal year has received the Distinguished Budget Presentation award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada .

This is the fourth consecutive fiscal year for which CVWD has received this award.

In order to receive this award, CVWD had to publish a budget document that meets GFOA program criterial as a policy document, an operations guide, a financial plan and a communications device. The GFOA uses a panel of independent reviewers to examine the budget documents of award candidates.

Emergency Preparedness & Drinking Water

Responding to a boil order notice:

Bottled water

In the unlikely event that CVWD's water system is compromised, you could be advised to not use tap water. Your first choice for replacing tap water for drinking and cooking should be bottled water. Everyone should include in their emergency supply kit a 7-day supply of bottled water (at least 1 gallon of water per person per day, plus extra water for pets). You can purchase commercially bottled water or store your own.

Boiled water

If you don't have bottled water, you should use boiled tap water. Boiling water will kill most types of disease-causing organisms.
If the water is unusually cloudy, murky or colored, filter it first through a clean cloth or allow it to settle and draw off the clear water for boiling. Then, bring to a rolling boil and leave for one minute.

Bleached water

If you are unable to boil water, your next best choice is to disinfect it with household bleach. Bleach will kill some (but not all) types of disease-causing organisms.

If the water is unusually cloudy, murky or colored, filter it first through a clean cloth or allow it to settle and draw off the clear water for disinfection.

Then, add 1/8 teaspoon (or 8 drops) of regular, unscented liquid household bleach for each gallon of water, stir well and let it stand for 30 minutes before using. Store disinfected water in clean containers with covers.

Never use scented, powdered or swimming pool bleach. These products may contain dangerous amounts of chemicals not intended for consumption. A faint chlorine smell is normal.

How do I know if my tap water can be used for drinking and cooking?

In the event of a disaster, CVWD may issue a boil water notice as a precautionary measure if water quality is in doubt. CVWD will inspect and test the water system. If the test results are unacceptable, a boil water notice will be issued and remain in place until the problem is located and solved, and the water system tests are acceptable. Notification will be made through the media or direct contact and door hangers. CVWD's web site (www.cvwd.org) and posted fliers in public spaces may also be used.

Is boiled tap water always safe to use?

It is possible that following a natural disaster, you will be notified that the tap water will need to be boiled before use for drinking and cooking. However, it is possible for tap water to be contaminated with a chemical that is not safe to consume even after boiling and may even be a risk during bathing. In this unlikely event, you will receive specific notification to not use the tap water for any purpose.

Your first choice for replacing tap water for drinking and cooking should be bottled water. Everyone should include in their emergency supply kit a 7-day supply of bottled water (at least 1 gallon of water per person per day, plus extra water for pets). Your next best choice is to disinfect the tap water with household bleach.

Can I use the water inside my water heater?

While bottled water is preferred, the water in your water heater can be used for drinking and cooking, provided that the water heater remains upright and you turn off the main water valve to your home immediately after the disaster occurs. To access this water, turn off the heating element and open the drain faucet at the bottom of the water heater. To start the water flowing, close the water intake valve at the top of the tank and open a hot water faucet in the home.

When CVWD announces that you can resume normal use of your tap water, don't forget to refill the water heater before turning on the heating element.

Turn off sprinklers

A disaster may result in reduced water pressure and limited water supply, caused by leaks in the distribution system or by wells temporarily out of service. If this happens, it will be important to restrict water use to drinking, cooking and other emergency purposes, such as fire suppression.

Please turn off your irrigation sprinklers so you aren't wasting what may be a limited supply on non-essential uses.

CVWD's brochure, Emergency Preparedness & Drinking Water, is an excellent reference for preparing and responding to an emergency. It is printed in both English and Spanish.

Download a free copy at our website **www.cvwd.org**. You also can order a copy by using the postcard inside this Annual Review.

By the Numbers

Drinking water treatment & delivery

Irrigation drainage collection

Recycled water distribution

Wastewater collection & treatment

Groundwater management

Promotion of water conservation

Regional stormwater/flood protection

Irrigation water importation & distribution;

General information

511 Number of employees dedicated to ensuring reliable water delivery, stormwater protection, infrastructure maintenance, groundwater management, wastewater collection and much more.

639,857 acres account for CVWD's total service area.

Domestic (drinking) water

Service information

Population served	318,217
Active accounts	109,167
Average daily demand	74.9 mgd
Total water delivered	83,869 af

System information

Active wells	92
Total well capacity	231 mgd
Distribution reservoirs	61
Storage capacity	135 mg
Distribution piping system	1,993 miles

Wastewater

Service information

Population served	272,982
Active accounts	93,969
Average daily flow	17.04 mgd

System information

Wastewater reclamation plants	6
Total daily plant capacity	33.5 mgd
Collection piping system	1,129 miles

Groundwater Management

(In cooperation with Desert Water Agency)

Replenishment facilities	3
Replenishment from imported water	38,298 af
Imported supply since 1973	3,309,508 af

Canal water

Service information

Irrigable acres for service	76,456
Active accounts	1,190
Total water delivered	327,010 af
Average daily demand	903 af
Maximum daily demand	1,461 af

System information

Reservoirs	2
Storage capacity	1,301 af
Distribution system	485 miles
Pumping plants	16
Length of canal	123 miles

Non-potable Water*

Service information

Active accounts	46
Non-potable water deliveries	35,356 af

Wastewater System information

Wastewater reclamation plants producing recycled water	3
Total daily capacity	18 mgd
Distribution piping system	29.5 miles

* Includes Colorado River water and/or recycled wastewater.

af = acre-feet. An acre-foot of water is equal to 325,851 gallons, or enough water to cover one acre of land one foot deep.

mgd = million gallons per day.

mg = million gallons.

Stormwater Protection

Service area	381,479 acres
System information	
Number of stormwater channels	16
Length of Whitewater River/ Coachella Stormwater Channel	49 miles
Length of all regional flood protection facilities	134 miles

Agricultural Drainage

Total on-farm drains	2,298 miles
Acreage with farm drains	37,425
District open drains	21 miles
District pipe drains	166 miles

Property valuation: Property within CVWD boundaries had a total combined assessed value in 2015 of $56,970,812,446 as fixed by Riverside and Imperial County assessors and state officials. This figure is used to determine property tax funding for the district.

All information is as of Dec. 31, 2015

Coachella Valley Water District
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236

Presort Standard
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Palm Desert, CA 92260

CVWD WATERING GUIDE

Adjust your irrigation timer monthly according to the Watering Guide below.

Lush, green grass isn't practical during a drought, here is a watering guide to help keep grass a healthy golden-green

	Water-efficient shrubs	Water-efficient trees	Grass on spray system	Grass on rotary system
January	0.7 gal/days, 2 days/week	14 gal/day, 2 days/week	3 min/day, 5 days/week	7 min/day, 5 days/week
February	0.9 gal/day, 3 days/week	21 gal/day, 3 days/week	5 min/day, 5 days/week	13 mim/day, 5 days/week
March	0.9 gal/day, 4 days/week	16 gal/day, 4 days/week	7 min/day, 5 days/week	18 min/day, 5 days/week
April	1.0 gal/day, 5 days/week	17 gal/day, 5 days/week	10 min/day, 7 days/week	22 min/day, 7 days/week
May	0.9 gal/day, 6 days/week	18 gal/day, 6 days/week	12 min/day, 7 days/week	27 min/day, 7 days/week
June	0.9 gal/day, 7 days/week	18 gal/day, 7 days/week	14 min/day, 7 days/week	30 min/day, 7 days/week
July	0.9 gal/day, 7 days/week	18 gal/day, 7 days/week	13 min/day, 7 days/week	30 min/day, 7 days/week
August	0.9 gal/day, 6 days/week	17 gal/day, 6 days/week	12 min/day, 7 days/week	27 min/day, 7 days/week
September	1.0 gal/day, 5 days/week	18 gal/day, 5 days/week	10 min/day, 7 days/week	22 min/day, 7 days/week
October	0.9 gal/day, 4 days/week	16 gal/day, 4 days/week	7 min/day, 7 days/week	14 min/day, 7 days/week
November	0.7 gal/day, 3 days/week	14 gal/day, 3 days/week	4 min/day, 7 days/week	10 min/day, 7 days/week
December	0.7 gal/day, 2 days/week	14 gal/day, 2 days/week	3 min/day, 5 days/week	6 min/day, 5 days/week

Water Restrictions may be in effect, please visit **www.cvwd.org** for more details.

Connect with us!
www.cvwd.org