

Making every drop count since 1918

# 2016-17 Annual Review



Winter storms are good news for groundwater replenishment  
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Despite drought end, CVWD customers continue to conserve  
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Water Quality Report provides details about CVWD's drinking water  
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**Coachella Valley Water District**

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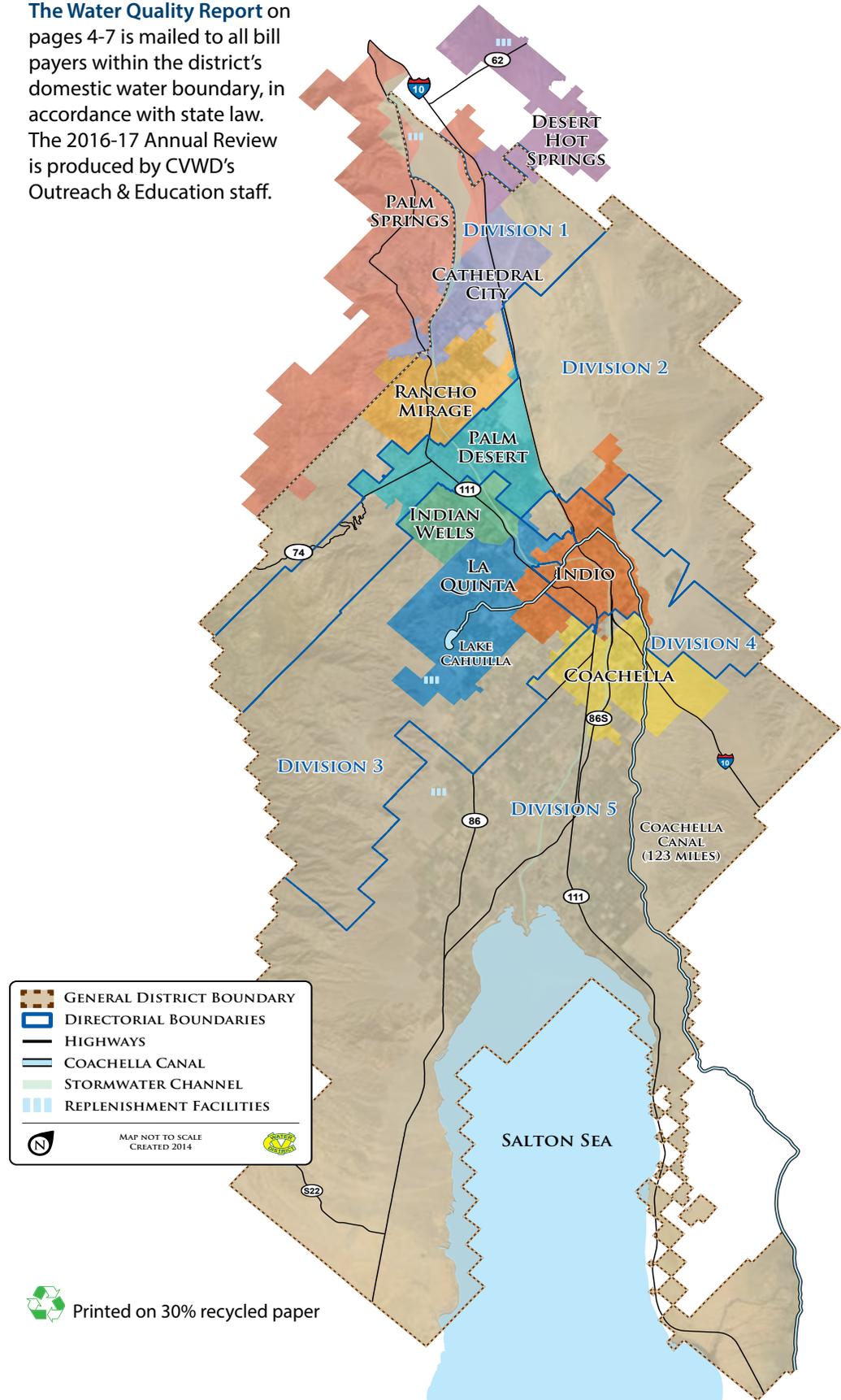
**Customer Service**  
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**Website**  
[www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org)

**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 8 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](http://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 2016-17 Annual Review is produced by CVWD's Outreach & Education staff.



# Message from our General Manager

**B**ountiful rains have erased the statewide drought and that is good news. Storms in the north have led to full reservoirs meaning that Southern California will see more water deliveries through the State Water Project (SWP). This in turn means that it is a strong year in the Coachella Valley for groundwater replenishment as Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and Desert Water Agency (DWA) use SWP allocations to replenish our aquifer. We hope our two agencies will receive more than 300,000 acre feet of water from the SWP this year. In total, more than 3.3 million acre feet of water has been replenished into the aquifer by CVWD and DWA since 1973.

**Conservation remains a way of life for Californians** and CVWD supports those efforts through continued water use restrictions and conservation programs. This year, CVWD allocated \$7 million for conservation programs and customer participation continues to be enthusiastic. **Water use has been reduced by 23% compared to 2013, and customers saved 9.5 billion gallons of water in 2016.**

Guided by a Strategic Planning process and a commitment to best industry practices, **CVWD continues to improve customer service and transparency.** Increasingly we offer customers new ways to manage their accounts and get assistance in water management. A new program unveiled this year helps low-income households with their water bills. (See story on page 10)

Based on the findings of a comprehensive cost-of-service study, CVWD staff this year proposed structural changes for sewer rates and no increase for domestic water rates. **The current domestic water rates are on page 8 of this publication** and other rates and information about conservation programs are available at our website, [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org).

**CVWD and Desert Water Agency will appeal to the Supreme Court** for a ruling on the Agua Caliente tribal lawsuit that asserts rights to Coachella Valley groundwater. We will continue to keep our customers informed about this important legal issue.

**CVWD remains committed to delivering high quality drinking water.** An update on our research to determine the best and least expensive option for removing naturally occurring chromium-6 from groundwater is on page 9 of this publication.

**We thank our customers for their commitment to conservation** during the years of drought in California and for extending those lifestyle changes forward.

Sincerely,



Jim Barrett



“Conservation remains a way of life for Californians and CVWD supports those efforts through continued water use restrictions and conservation programs.”



## Our Mission Statement

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

## Mid-valley facility would aid replenishment efforts

CVWD is moving forward with plans to build a new groundwater replenishment facility in the mid-valley, part of the district's ongoing commitment to water supply sustainability.

The proposed facility would add up to 25,000 acre-feet per year, approximately the same amount of groundwater used by 33,000 homes.

The Board recently approved hiring a consultant to design the new facility, which would be built in two phases with the first set of ponds on CVWD property south of the offices on Hovley Lane East and north of the wastewater reclamation plant on Cook Street. The second phase of ponds would be built within the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel adjacent to the plant.

Construction of the first phase of ponds could begin in early 2018.

Total cost to evaluate, design and construct the facility is estimated at approximately \$9.8 million. These costs include environmental review required for the proposed project. Most of the funding will come from the West Valley Replenishment Fund, which generates revenue primarily from the Replenishment Assessment Charge paid by public and private entities that use a well to pump groundwater.

Under the proposal, additional Colorado River water would be delivered to existing facilities in Palm Desert and diverted into the new replenishment ponds. Colorado River water is a source of drinking water for more than 30 million people. It is high quality and requires no treatment before it percolates into the aquifer through a natural filtration process.



## Groundwater replenishment benefits from winter storms

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

Significant rainfall and snow in Central and Northern California this winter benefits the Coachella Valley's water supply. The intense, water-rich storms have resulted in high levels of runoff leading to full reservoirs in Northern and Central California.

Healthy Northern California reservoirs mean more water for Southern California's supply. CVWD relies on imported water to meet its current and future water needs. One of those

imported sources is the State Water Project (SWP) and it comes from Northern California.

As SWP contractors, CVWD and DWA have a combined allocation of 194,100 acre-feet. The California Department of Water Resources recently announced that SWP contractors will receive 85% of their total allocation this year. The two agencies may receive more than 300,000 acre feet this year, which includes advanced deliveries and would be the most since 1987.

In the Coachella Valley, SWP water is used exclusively for replenishment of the aquifer. Imported water from the SWP and Colorado River are key components to CVWD's long-term water management efforts.

The Coachella Valley Water Management Plan identifies imported water, conservation and increasing the supply of recycled water as the primary tools to eliminating overdraft of the valley's aquifer.

# Conservation remains clear focus for district and customers

Although the drought-related state conservation mandates have been lifted, water-wise conservation remains a way of life for the Coachella Valley.

Water use has reduced by 23% compared to 2013, and customers saved 9.5 billion gallons of water in 2016.

CVWD invested \$7 million this year to fund rebate and incentive programs that support permanent reductions in water use. An award program in the spring and fall recognizes businesses that implement effective water conservation practices and residential customers who transform their yards into water-friendly landscapes.

Customers have converted more

than 13 million square feet of grass to desert landscaping through CVWD's turf rebate program since 2009. Rebates have been awarded to almost 3,775 CVWD customers.

As of July 1, rebates jumped from \$1 to \$2 per square foot of turf removed.

CVWD now offers professional landscapers an online certification course to learn how to help their clients become more water wise.

Thanks to grant funding, local growers can apply for rebates for converting irrigation with Colorado River water to more efficient drip methods and golf courses can apply for rebates to remove turf and replace it with desert-friendly, drought-tolerant landscaping. Six courses are expected to remove 33 acres of turf.

For a complete list of CVWD conservation programs and tips for reducing water use, visit [www.cvwd.org/conservation](http://www.cvwd.org/conservation).



CVWD attends many community events to educate residents about conservation programs and other important issues.

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



Applying water to outdoor landscaping during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall is prohibited.



Irrigating 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.



Eating and drinking establishments may serve water only upon request. This includes, but is not limited to, restaurants, hotels, cafes, cafeterias, and bars.



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.



Using a hose without a shut-off nozzle when washing your vehicle or windows is not allowed.

Refer to [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org) for a complete list.

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) require 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 routinely monitor CVWD's public 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 that generally meets in public session at 8 a.m., on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Meeting locations rotate between CVWD's Coachella office at 51-501 Tyler St. 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](http://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 (as nitrogen) in drinking water at levels above 10 milligrams per Liter (mg/L) is a health risk for infants younger than 6 months. 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 (as nitrogen) in drinking water levels above 10 milligrams per Liter (mg/L) may also affect the ability of 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 (as nitrogen) above 10 mg/L are removed from service.

### About Lead

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 [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/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 byproducts 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.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations and California law 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 Radon Hotline (1-800-767-7236)**."

## Drinking Water Source Water Assessments:

CVWD has conducted source water assessments that provide information about the vulnerability of 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 is 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](http://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 summarizes results of the most recent monitoring completed between 2008 and 2016. CVWD did not have any MCL violations in 2016.

### To read this table:

First, determine your service area by referring to footnotes 2, 3 and 4 on the opposite page. Then move down the corresponding 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 (MCL) in the third column. Fluoride levels in this water comply with the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 2.0 mg/L. The range can show a level above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) and still comply with the drinking water standard when compliance is based on average levels found in each water source or water system.

# CVWD 2017 Domestic Water Quality Summary

(Covering the reporting period January - December 2016)

Detected parameter, units	PHG or (MCLG)	MCL <sup>(1)</sup>	Cove Communities <sup>(2)</sup> Range (Average)	ID No. 8 <sup>(3)</sup> Range (Average)	ID No. 11 <sup>(4)</sup> Range (Average)	MCL Violation? (Yes/No)	Major source(s)
Arsenic, ug/L	0.004	10	ND-10 (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 <sup>(5)</sup>		6.6-110 (20)	8.9-26 (16)	260-530 (350)	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Chlorine (as Cl <sub>2</sub> ), mg/L <sup>(6)</sup>	MRDLG 4	MRDL 4.0	ND-3.2 (0.4)	0.1-1.3 (0.5)	ND-1.6 (0.7)	No	Result of drinking water chlorination
Chromium, ug/L <sup>(7)</sup>	(100)	50	ND-25 (ND)	12-23 (18)		No	Erosion of natural deposits
Chromium-6, ug/L <sup>(7)</sup>	0.02	10 <sup>(8)</sup>	ND-21 <sup>(9,10)</sup> (8.6)	11-24 (18) <sup>(10)</sup>		No	Erosion of natural deposits
Color, units	None	15 <sup>(11)</sup>	ND-1 (ND)			No	Naturally-occurring organic materials
Copper, mg/L <sup>(11)</sup> [homes tested/ sites exceeding AL]	0.3	AL=1.3	0.13 [52/0]	0.09 [21/0]	0.17 [22/0]	No	Internal corrosion of household plumbing
Copper, mg/L	None	1.0 <sup>(11)</sup>	ND-0.6 (ND)	ND-0.8 (ND)	ND-0.2 (ND)	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Dibromochloropropane (DBCP), ng/L	1.7	200	ND-59 (ND)			No	Leaching of banned nematocide which may still be in soils
E. coli, positive samples/month [Total number of positives collected during the year]	(0)	#positive <sup>(12,13)</sup>	ND-1 (ND) <sub>[2]</sub>	ND-1 (ND) <sub>[1]</sub>		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-15 (3.1)	ND-7.3 (5.1)	ND-4.6 (ND)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Haloacetic Acids, ug/L <sup>(14)</sup>	N/A	60	ND-6.6 (2.1)	ND-2.0 (2.0) <sup>(16)</sup>	ND-1.0 (1.0) <sup>(16)</sup>	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Hardness (as CaCO <sub>3</sub> ), mg/L	N/A		11-310 (110)	65-210 (140)	210-430 (300)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (as Nitrogen), mg/L	10	10	ND-9.0 (1.3)	0.5-2.0 (1.1)	1.7-4.0 (2.6)	No	Leaching of fertilizer, animal wastes or natural deposits
pH, units	N/A		7.3-9.1 (8.1)	7.6-8.2 (8.0)	7.7-8.1 (7.9)	No	Physical characteristic
Selenium, ug/L	30	50			ND-5.6 (ND)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium, mg/L	N/A		18-120 (31)	58-88 (73)	220-300 (250)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
Specific conductance, uS/cm	N/A <sup>(5)</sup>		230-1,100 (390)	520-810 (630)	1,500-2,600 (1,900)	No	Substances that form ions when in water
Sulfate, mg/L	N/A <sup>(5)</sup>		ND-270 (48)	150-240 (180)	220-340 (290)	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Total Coliform bacteria, positive samples/month	(0)	5% or 1 <sup>(13,15)</sup>	ND-1% (ND)	ND-1 (ND)	ND-1 (ND)	No	Naturally present in the environment
Total dissolved solids, mg/L	N/A <sup>(5)</sup>		83-680 (250)	260-540 (400)	920-1,500 (1,200)	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Total trihalomethanes, ug/L <sup>(14)</sup>	N/A	80	ND-22 (17)	8.4-23 (23) <sup>(16)</sup>	6.2-7.1 (7.1) <sup>(16)</sup>	No	Byproduct of drinking water chlorination
Turbidity, NTU	None	5 <sup>(11)</sup>	ND-0.7 (ND)	ND-0.2 (ND)	ND-0.6 (0.2)	No	Leaching from natural deposits
Uranium, pCi/L	0.43	20	ND-9.7 (4.0)	1.9-4.1 (3.3)	2.4-2.9 (2.7)	No	Erosion of natural deposits
<b>2015 Unregulated contaminant monitoring<sup>(17)</sup></b>							
Chlorate, ug/L <sup>(18)</sup>	N/A	NL=800	ND-52 (ND)			No	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Chlorodifluoromethane (HCFC-22), ug/L <sup>(18)</sup>	N/A		ND-0.18 (ND)			No	Refrigerant
1,4-Dioxane, ug/L <sup>(18)</sup>	N/A	NL=1	ND-0.14 (ND)			No	Leaching from historical disposal sites
Molybdenum, ug/L <sup>(18)</sup>	N/A		ND-19 (8.7)			No	Erosion of natural deposits
Strontium, ug/L <sup>(18)</sup>	N/A		140-2,000 (420)			No	Erosion of natural deposits
Vanadium, ug/L <sup>(18)</sup>	N/A	NL=50	4.9-36 (17)			No	Erosion of natural deposits

### Footnotes:

- Values with this footnote have fixed Secondary MCLs, remaining values are Primary MCLs unless identified otherwise.
- Cove Communities 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.
- ID No. 8 includes the communities of Indio Hills, Sky Valley & select areas within and adjacent to Desert Hot Springs.
- ID No. 11 includes the communities of Desert Shores, Salton Sea Beach & Salton City.
- This constituent monitored for aesthetics such as taste and odor. No fixed consumer acceptance contaminant level has been established for this constituent.
- The reported average represents the highest running annual average based on distribution system monitoring.
- 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).
- California's chromium-6 (Cr6) drinking water MCL became effective on July 1, 2014. By recent judicial order, the State will reevaluate the level at which to set the Cr6 MCL.
- Data includes results prior to state adoption of chromium-6 (Cr6) MCL effective July 1, 2014. By recent judicial order, the State will reevaluate the level at which to set the Cr6 MCL.
- CVWD has a DDW approved compliance plan that includes construction of treatment plants to lower naturally occurring chromium-6 in local groundwater. CVWD may revise this plan in response to the State's resetting of Cr6 MCL.
- The reported values are 90th percentile levels for samples collected from faucets in water user homes.
- 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.
- All water systems are required to comply with the State's Total Coliform Rule and the Federal's Revised Total Coliform Rule. The USEPA anticipates greater health protection as the new rule requires water systems that are vulnerable to microbial contamination to identify and fix problems.
- The reported average represents the highest locational running average (LRAA) based on distribution system monitoring.
- Systems that collect 40 or more samples per month (Cove Communities): 5.0% of monthly samples are positive. Systems that collect less than 40 samples per month (ID No. 8 and ID No. 11): 1 positive monthly sample.
- Annual monitoring results.
- In 2015, USEPA required unregulated contaminant monitoring (identified as UCMR3) for select CVWD domestic facilities in Cove Communities.
- 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.



## New program helps those on limited budgets

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United Way of the Desert

CVWD Customer Assistance Program

73710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite #104

Palm Desert, CA 92260

**For more information about the program**, visit [www.cvwd.org/H2OHelp](http://www.cvwd.org/H2OHelp).

## Crop Report

(Covering the reporting period January - December 2016)

Crop production on Coachella Valley land irrigated with Colorado River water

**Value of year's production: \$738,581,760**

**Total acreage irrigated (includes double cropping & irrigated but not harvested): 76,345**

**Average gross value per acre: \$10,691**

Crop	Acreage*	Yield in tons	Value per acre**	Total value
<b>Fruit</b>	<b>22,361</b>	<b>546,719</b>	<b>\$14,825</b>	<b>\$333,572,018</b>
Dates	7,964	19,114	\$5,040	\$40,138,560
Figs	177	1,487	\$8,400	\$1,486,800
Grapes - (table)	7,379	60,766	\$20,587	\$151,915,162
Grapefruit	511	7,167	\$8,291	\$4,236,829
Lemons & Limes	3,927	64,913	\$26,753	\$105,057,068
Mangos	117	954	\$15,485	\$1,811,745
Olives	86	765	\$13,331	\$1,146,474
Oranges & Tangerines	1,368	13,571	\$8,504	\$11,633,770
Peaches	16	79	\$14,400	\$230,400
Strawberries	147	3,263	\$42,550	\$6,254,850
Watermelon	669	374,640	\$14,440	\$9,660,360
<b>Vegetables</b>	<b>27,145</b>	<b>522,248</b>	<b>\$10,959</b>	<b>\$297,473,205</b>
Artichokes	850	6,833	\$10,862	\$9,233,091
Bok Choy	353	4,368	\$7,875	\$2,779,875
Broccoli	969	5,939	\$6,465	\$6,264,866
Cabbage	327	2,435	\$5,700	\$1,863,900
Carrots	4,777	162,418	\$5,950	\$28,423,150
Cauliflower	1,417	10,331	\$8,952	\$12,685,097
Celery	757	16,470	\$10,458	\$7,916,785
Eggplant	314	6,905	\$27,224	\$8,548,217
Green Beans	760	3,437	\$9,312	\$7,077,188
Kale	94	2,461	\$9,350	\$878,900
Herbs (basil & parsley)	353	988	\$4,000	\$1,412,000
Lettuce	3,217	44,531	\$9,674	\$31,121,033
Okra	643	2,668	\$4,150	\$2,668,450
Onions (dry)	251	7,097	\$11,876	\$2,980,751
Onions (green)	253	5,136	\$14,500	\$3,668,500
Oriental Vegetables	1,050	11,025	\$7,875	\$8,268,750
Peppers (bell)	5,288	110,255	\$23,727	\$125,469,962
Peppers (chili)	265	2,397	\$16,637	\$4,408,744
Potatoes	876	9,951	\$3,510	\$3,074,970
Radish	101	589	\$7,992	\$807,192
Spice	1,138	3,186	\$4,000	\$4,552,000
Spinach	504	6,925	\$13,786	\$6,948,043
Squash	150	60,000	\$4,200	\$630,000
Sugar Beets	235	10,251	\$1,991	\$467,842
Sweet Corn	1,883	19,277	\$6,120	\$11,523,489
Tomatoes	320	6,355	\$11,876	\$3,800,410
<b>Forage</b>	<b>2,773</b>	<b>9,554</b>	<b>\$883</b>	<b>\$2,448,640</b>
Alfalfa hay	874	6,992	\$2,080	\$1,817,920
Irrigated pasture <sup>(1)</sup>	1,472	-	\$150	\$220,800
Sudan grass	427	2,562	\$960	\$409,920
<b>Nursery</b>	<b>1,454</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$20,495</b>	<b>\$29,799,730</b>
<b>Duck Ponds</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>\$43</b>	<b>\$33,580</b>
<b>Fish Farms</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>865</b>	<b>\$28,383</b>	<b>4,683,253</b>
<b>Golf Courses</b>	<b>6,043</b>	<b>634,515</b>	<b>\$9,493</b>	<b>\$57,366,501</b>
<b>Polo Fields</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>49,665</b>	<b>\$9,493</b>	<b>\$4,490,213</b>
<b>Turf Grass</b>	<b>918</b>	<b>96,390</b>	<b>\$9,493</b>	<b>\$8,714,620</b>

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

\*Does not include planted and irrigated but non-bearing acreage.

\*\*Value per acre is for 2015. Values for 2016 were not available at the time of printing.

<sup>(1)</sup>Yield is in animal units per month (AUM).

# Domestic and sewer projects, chromium-6 work continues

In 2014, the state adopted a new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 parts per billion (ppb) for hexavalent chromium (chromium-6). This mineral occurs naturally in Coachella Valley groundwater due to the erosion of natural deposits and is found at levels above the new MCL. Senate Bill 385 allows public water systems to satisfy the regulation by developing compliance plans to meet the MCL no later than January 1, 2020.

However, on May 5, 2017, a judge ordered the state to establish a new MCL, taking into consideration the economic feasibility of compliance.

Tap water can still be used for drinking, cooking and all other needs while CVWD works to meet the existing MCL or a new MCL developed by the State in the future.

CVWD has launched a pilot study to test the feasibility and effectiveness of a newly identified alternative treatment process. Laboratory tests indicate that this process has the potential to be significantly more cost-effective with fewer impacts to the environment and community. A demonstration project is

planned for later this year near the Sky Valley/Indio Hills area, also known as ID-8, to test this process. If the process is successful, system-wide treatment could be installed in time to comply with the State's chromium-6 compliance deadline of January 1, 2020. More information is available at [www.cvwd.org/Cr6](http://www.cvwd.org/Cr6). Or, contact Michelle Malahoff at 760-398-2651 ext. 2237 or at CVWD, P.O. Box 1058, Coachella, CA, 92236.

CVWD also remains committed to domestic and sewer infrastructure work to ensure increased access to water services. Toward that goal, CVWD has collaborated with local stakeholders to form the new Disadvantaged Communities Infrastructure Task Force to secure access to safe, affordable drinking water, wastewater and flood control services in historically disadvantaged Coachella Valley regions.

The Task Force is comprised of representatives from local disadvantaged communities, government agencies and nonprofit organizations committed to working on both short-term and long-term solutions to ensure that all regional disadvantaged communities benefit.

CVWD is currently conducting research to confirm the best treatment for removing naturally occurring chromium-6 from groundwater.



## Infrastructure investment includes reservoir work

CVWD continues to develop and protect its domestic water storage capabilities.

Contracts have been awarded to rehabilitate three reservoirs based on age, corrosion and other conditions, to design the rehabilitation of two reservoirs and to design a new reservoir. All are or will be constructed of welded steel.

Two reservoirs west of Rancho Mirage City Hall and one in Salton City will receive new interior epoxy coatings and a final exterior urethane finish coating.

The Rancho Mirage reservoirs, built in 1975 and 1988, store a combined 6 million gallons of domestic water. Constructed in 1966, the Salton City reservoir provides 1 million gallons of domestic water storage.

Engineering plans are in development to rehabilitate two reservoirs in Palm Desert, built in 1974 and 1978 with a joint capacity of 4.9 million gallons. The design will include coating improvements and structural and safety equipment upgrades.

Design plans are progressing for a new 0.5 million gallon reservoir in Rancho Mirage. Once it's built, another reservoir dating from 1973 that has been identified as in need of immediate rehabilitation will be removed from service and later upgraded.

Total cost of these projects is \$2,490,000.





## New program helps those on limited budgets

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(Covering the reporting period January - December 2016)

Crop production on Coachella Valley land irrigated with Colorado River water

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**Total acreage irrigated (includes double cropping & irrigated but not harvested): 76,345**

**Average gross value per acre: \$10,691**

Crop	Acreage*	Yield in tons	Value per acre**	Total value
<b>Fruit</b>	<b>27,735</b>	<b>401,712</b>	<b>\$14,825</b>	<b>\$411,172,578</b>
Dates	7,964	19,114	\$5,040	\$40,138,560
Figs	177	1,487	\$8,400	\$1,486,800
Grapes - (table)	7,379	60,766	\$20,587	\$151,915,162
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<sup>(1)</sup>Yield is in animal units per month (AUM).

# Nonpotable water use helps maintain valley's water supply



Nonpotable water pipes are painted purple for easy identification.

## 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.



A total of **14.5** golf courses within CVWD boundaries use a nonpotable blend of recycled water and Colorado River water for irrigation.

CVWD recycles more than two billion gallons of wastewater each year, using an advanced multi-step process that filters out solids, organic materials, chemicals and germs. Two of the district's wastewater reclamation plants treat water that is clean enough for human contact (though not consumption), outdoor irrigation and 41 other uses approved by the State of California.

The Coachella Valley is home to more than 120 golf courses. Unfortunately, the amount of wastewater that is recycled can't meet the year-round irrigation needs of the courses.

To increase the available nonpotable water supply for golf courses in the mid-valley area and reduce their demand on the aquifer, CVWD in 2009 completed the Mid-Valley Pipeline Project to bring Colorado River water to the district's largest wastewater reclamation plant in Palm Desert to supplement the recycled water supply.

Recycled water is a safe alternative

when the guidelines are followed and it is used for its intended purpose. Recycled water must meet strict water quality standards outlined in Title 22, Chapter 3, Division 4 of the California Code of Regulations. In order to make sure that CVWD's reclamation plants are meeting Title 22 standards, recycled water samples are collected daily, monthly, quarterly and annually and analyzed.

In 2017, the district approved \$420,000 in rebates to golf courses to replace turf with desert-friendly, drought-tolerant landscaping. Over the last two years, CVWD awarded 18 rebates to 15 golf courses, resulting in removal of 129.5 acres of turf and a water savings of more than 800 acre feet per year — enough water to serve 1,000 homes.

Increasing the supply and use of recycled water is a key component of CVWD's long-range water management plans, and once more courses apply for the program, they will help with the district's effort to reduce groundwater overdraft.

An additional **35.5** golf courses within CVWD boundaries use all Colorado River water imported from the Coachella Canal or the Mid-Valley Pipeline.



An additional **42** golf courses in the Coachella Valley within CVWD's boundaries will be using a water source other than groundwater in the future.

**40,919.4** acre-feet of nonpotable water was used in 2016, an 8.5% increase over 2015, making a like amount of water available for drinking and other potable purposes.



**129.5** acres of turf was removed by golf courses over the last two years, a water savings of more than 800 acre-feet per year.

## 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.

# Emergency Preparedness & Drinking Water

## 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](http://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](http://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  
 Wastewater collection & treatment  
 Regional stormwater/flood protection  
 Recycled water distribution  
 Groundwater management  
 Promotion of water conservation  
 Irrigation water importation & distribution

## General information

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

**639,857** acres in CVWD's total service area.

## Domestic (drinking) water

### Service information

Population served	290,000
Active accounts*	107,861
Average daily demand	72.2 mgd
Total water delivered	80,835 af

### System information

Active wells	94
Total well capacity	234 mgd
Distribution reservoirs	61
Storage capacity	135 mg
Distribution piping system	1,993 miles



## Wastewater

### Service information

Population served	248,404
Active accounts	94,532
Average daily flow	16.3 mgd

### System information

Wastewater reclamation plants	5
Total daily plant capacity	33.1 mgd
Collection piping system	1,129 miles



## Groundwater Management

(In cooperation with Desert Water Agency)

Replenishment facilities	3
Replenishment from imported water	73,194 af
Imported supply since 1973	3,382,702 af

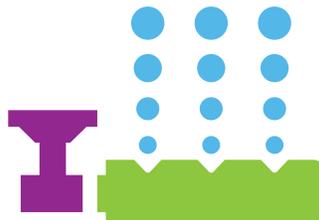
## Blended\*\* Recycled Water

### Service information

Active accounts	19
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### Wastewater System information

Wastewater reclamation plants producing recycled water	2
Total daily tertiary capacity	17.5 mgd
Distribution piping system	30 miles



## Canal water

### Service information

Irrigable acres for service	76,411
Active accounts	1,263
Total water delivered	342,507 af
Average daily demand	903 af
Maximum daily demand	1,461 af

### System information

Reservoirs	2
Storage capacity	1,301 af
Distribution system	434.5 miles
Pumping plants	16
Length of canal	123 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 2016 of \$59,461,468,556 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, 2016

\*The number of active service connections excluding fire service.

\*\*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

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

Presort Standard  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 104  
 Palm Desert, CA 92260



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

As conservation remains a way of life in California, 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/day, 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 min/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



Connect with us!  
[www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org)



Visit [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org) for more details.