



## USGS report shows increase in valley groundwater levels

A new report by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) shows that efforts by CVWD to replenish local aquifers in the Coachella Valley have been effective, leading to stable land surface elevations in most of the Coachella Valley. Areas with land subsidence identified in prior studies are now stable, uplifting, or experiencing substantial slowing of subsidence. CVWD partners with Coachella Water Authority, Desert Water Agency, Indio Water Authority, and Mission Springs Water District to manage groundwater in the Coachella Valley.

“The study shows that CVWD’s commitment to these partnerships and the sustainability of the aquifer that supplies most of our drinking water is a success story,” said Jim Barrett, General Manager of CVWD. “The results clearly demonstrate a reversal in trends of

groundwater-level declines during previous decades. This is good news for the long-term health of the aquifers.” The USGS report identified three initiatives by CVWD that have been most effective in improving groundwater conditions in some of the historically most overdrafted areas of the valley. The initiatives are providing Colorado River water through the Mid-Valley Pipeline project since 2006 to reduce groundwater pumping; budget-based, tiered water rates in place since 2009 that have contributed to conservation; and aquifer replenishment at the Thomas E. Levy Groundwater Replenishment Facility since 2009. CVWD began importing water to the Coachella Valley in 1949 to help reduce groundwater pumping.

To collect data for the study, Global Positioning System (GPS) surveying and

interferometric synthetic aperture radar (InSAR) methods were used to analyze the vertical land-surface changes in the Coachella Valley. The study found that water levels in wells throughout the valley showed longer-term stability or rising groundwater levels since about 2010. These results mark a reversal in trends of groundwater-level declines during the preceding decades.

CVWD and the USGS have been investigating subsidence since 1996 in response to concerns that pumping of groundwater was leading to groundwater-level declines that also could trigger land subsidence. In addition to supplying drinking water, groundwater has been a major source of water for agricultural, recreational and municipal use in the Coachella Valley since the early 1920s.

The full report, Detection and Measurement of Land Subsidence and Uplift Using Global Positioning System Surveys and Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar, Coachella Valley, California, 2010–17, can be viewed at [pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20205093](https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20205093).



### COVID-19 Updates

CVWD offices remain closed to the public until further notice but most business can be done over the phone or online at [cvwd.org](http://cvwd.org).

**Your tap water is safe to drink and is not affected by coronavirus (COVID-19).** Visit [cvwd.org/COVID19](http://cvwd.org/COVID19) for updates or for information in Spanish. Or give us a call at (760) 398-2651.



## Keep FOG out of drains

Wondering what a FOGs are? They are sticky fats, oils and grease that are used to cook with. They stick to each other and clog pipes if they go down the drain.

Once FOGs get into the sewer, they can form giant fatbergs that clog pipes and damage pumps. A fatberg is a congealed mass formed by the combination of non-biodegradable solid matter such as wet wipes, paper towels and grease.

**Please put FOGs like these in the trash, not down the drain.**

- ✓ Bacon grease or pan drippings
- ✓ Butter, milk & cream
- ✓ Mayonnaise
- ✓ Cooking oil
- ✓ Gravy
- ✓ Salad dressing
- ✓ Peanut butter

**HELPFUL TIPS**

- Cool used frying oil and grease in a container – then toss it in the trash. (Use an old food can or jar).
- Scrape left over food, cream or sauces into the trash before rinsing it off.

## Customer assistance program helps pay water bills

CVWD's customer assistance program offers eligible residential customers a \$100 credit on their water bill once in a 12-month period. Customers must reapply each year.

Customers who need help paying their water bill can apply with United Way of the Desert by calling (760) 323-2731. United Way screens eligible customers and provides assistance in paying a past due water bill.

For more information, call CVWD Customer Service at (760) 391-9600 or visit [cvwd.org/H2OHelp](http://cvwd.org/H2OHelp).

Charitable donations are also accepted through United Way. Donations must be made directly to United Way of the Desert. All donations are tax-deductible.



## THINK BEFORE YOU Flush

	<b>TOILET PAPER</b>	<b>HUMAN WASTE</b>
	<b>CLEANING WIPES</b>	<b>"FLUSHABLE" WIPES OR BABY WIPES</b>
<b>NAPKINS OR TISSUE PAPER</b>	<b>PAPER TOWELS</b>	<b>OTHER TRASH</b>



### Board Meetings

Board meetings are generally held the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 8 a.m.

In an effort to protect public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), and in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order N-29-20, there will be no public location to attend these meetings in person.

Visit our website for information on how to participate in board meetings from home.

Main line: (760) 398-2651

Customer Service: (760) 391-9600

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

