



CVWD Water News

Published for Coachella Valley Water District domestic water customers

Summer 2024

CVWD Celebrated \$100 million in Grants for Underserved Eastern Valley Communities

This past April, the Coachella Valley Water District recognized \$100 million in grant funding from county, state, and federal sources at a community celebration in Mecca.

The grants will bring clean, affordable water and reliable sewer services to underserved Eastern Coachella Valley communities.

The event marked nearly 10 years of efforts by CVWD's Disadvantaged Communities Infrastructure Task Force to secure funding for projects to consolidate and connect thousands of Eastern Coachella Valley residents to CVWD's domestic water and sewer systems.

Event speakers addressed the collaboration and progress made by local, state, and federal partners to ensure disadvantaged communities have access to safe drinking water and dependable sewer service.

Grant funding sources include:

- American Rescue Plan Act
- Congressionally Directed Spending through Community Project Funding Programs
- State Budget Appropriation
- State Water Resources Control Board
- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

CVWD has utilized a number of these funding partnerships to complete a series of projects in the Eastern Coachella Valley. Two projects connected just under 200 homes and Westside Elementary School in Thermal to CVWD's domestic water system. Another consolidated and connected unincorporated areas of Riverside County and improved reliability for 7,600 residents. Two other projects connected a housing area and two mobile home parks to CVWD's wastewater collection and treatment system.

Additional projects target other areas of the Eastern Coachella Valley. The Avenue 66 Transmission Main/St. Anthony Mobile Home Park Consolidation will construct the critical backbone infrastructure for three immediate consolidations and make possible 35 future mobile home park consolidations. The Valley View Domestic Water Mobile Home Park Consolidation will connect 13 mobile home parks.

To learn more about CVWD's current projects and the Disadvantaged Communities Infrastructure Task Force, visit www.cvwd.org.



Back row: Community member Malu Huerta, Water Division Director for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tomás Torres, Water and Environmental Program Director for the US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development Luis Andrade, CVWD Board President John Powell Jr., State Water Resources Control Board Chair E. Joaquín Esquivel

Front row: Community member Virgilio Galarza-Rodriguez, CVWD Board Vice President Cástulo Estrada, Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D., Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, and Chief of Staff for V. Manuel Perez, Riverside County Supervisor, 4th District, Steven Hernandez



Event overview of the Eastern Coachella Valley Community Celebration



Ceremonial pipe signed by attendees and speakers

District Expands Palm Desert Demonstration Garden

The expanded demonstration garden is now open for exploration, showcasing CVWD's commitment to sustainable gardening and environmental education. The updated area adds approximately 12,400 square feet to the original demonstration garden that is located in front of the Operations building, for an overall total of 24,773 square feet – just over half an acre – of garden space.

Managed by the Water Management department, the completed project was funded partly by a state grant of \$141,800. The department hopes that customers who visit the demonstration garden find inspiration for home projects. They also plan to host educational events for the community and students beginning in the fall. In addition, Water Management anticipates that visitors traveling on the proposed adjacent CV Link will stop by and enjoy the space.

The expanded demonstration garden features:

- Amphitheater seating with seven market umbrellas, providing 352 square feet of shade.
- Two Corten Steel rectangular planter boxes for vegetables and herbs.
- Two varieties of artificial turf demonstrating different price points.
- Water-efficient irrigation systems.
- A variety of ground covers and desert-friendly plants.
- A bench for relaxing under the future shade of two Mexican Ebony trees.

Original Palm Desert Demonstration Garden



Expanded Palm Desert Demonstration Garden

The garden is irrigated with recycled water and uses a solar-powered smart irrigation controller. This device provides proper irrigation hydro-zones based on plants' water needs. Upcoming plans include adding plant identification labels to provide information such as species, common name, and family name of each plant.

Designed by Albert A. Webb Associates of Riverside, the additional garden section took about 175 days to complete since construction began in November 2023 by Three Peaks Corp. of Calimesa. The cost of the project design and construction was \$365,301.97.

Climate-appropriate plants featured in the garden can be found in CVWD's landscape gardening guide, **Lush and Efficient: Desert-Friendly Landscaping in the Coachella Valley**, available online at cvwd.org/LushEfficient.

Available Now: 2023-24 Annual Review and Water Quality Report



CVWD's Annual Review and Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), is available online now or by mail, upon request.

The Water Quality Report outlines information about CVWD's safe and high-quality drinking water, demonstrating that it meets all current state and federal standards. Through our state-certified laboratory, over 17,000 water samples are collected and monitored

for testing each year by highly trained District employees who test for more than 100 regulated and unregulated substances.

Additional details on CVWD's water quality testing are also provided in the 2023-24 Water Quality Report, which can be viewed online in English at cvwd.org/CCR/2024 or in Spanish at cvwd.org/CCR/Spanish2024.

The Water Quality Report is a part of the District's Annual Review, which includes information on CVWD's seven areas of service, current capitol improvement projects, and District achievements. It is available to view online in English at cvwd.org/annualreview2024 or in Spanish at cvwd.org/informeannual2024.

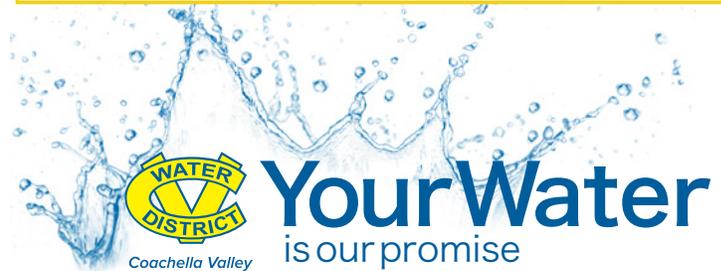
To request a paper copy of the 2023-24 Annual Review and Water Quality Report, call (760) 391-9600 or email CustomerService@cvwd.org.

2024-2025 Rate Increases

CVWD Board of Directors approved new rate increases for domestic water and sanitation service.

The 5% average rate increase for domestic water will add \$1.90 to the monthly bill of an average residential customer. The 8.5% sanitation service increase will add \$2.42 to the monthly bill of an average residential customer.

To learn more, visit cvwd.org/ratechanges.



Board Meetings

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

Meetings alternate between the Steve Robbins Administration Building in Palm Desert and the Coachella Office.

Visit our website to watch meetings online and to view the agenda.

Main Line: (760) 398-2651
Customer Service: (760) 391-9600
Website: www.cvwd.org

