



CVWD Water News

Published for Coachella Valley Water District domestic water customers

Fall 2025

CVWD's Stormwater Protection and Flood Control for the Rainy Season



The Coachella Valley receives less than three inches of rain annually. However, the surrounding mountains receive significantly more, which can cause unpredictable and destructive flash floods across the region.

To protect the area, CVWD manages an extensive stormwater system covering 381,479 acres. This includes maintaining key infrastructure such as 19 stormwater channels and the 50-mile Whitewater River/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel, which carries runoff throughout the valley from the Whitewater area north of Palm Springs to the Salton Sea.

The Whitewater River/Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel was built to handle a 100-year flood, capable of managing 39,000 cubic feet of water per second. That is the equivalent of having 39,000 beach balls rushing past a single point every second!

In addition to the channels, several dikes and levees have been built to collect floodwater rushing down from the neighboring mountains onto the valley floor. Most of these structures are located in the cove communities.

Altogether, the system covers 173 miles of regional stormwater channels that effectively direct floodwaters from local drainage, rain, and snowmelt from the adjacent mountains to help safeguard desert communities and property.

As more funding becomes available, CVWD will continue to build additional channels to further protect the valley from stormwater and flood damage.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Plans include the North Cathedral City and Thousand Palms Regional Stormwater Projects. The first phase of the Cathedral City project is expected to go out to bid for construction by the end of 2025, pending the relocation of utility lines. The Thousand Palms project remains in land acquisition and regulatory permitting stages. For more information, visit cvwd.org/stormwater.



Tips for Avoiding Holiday FOG

With festive days around the corner and delicious holiday meals and treats on the menu, it is important to keep **fats, oils, and grease (FOG)** out of household drains and pipes.

FOG can clog your drains, cause sewer backups, and damage your pipes – leading to costly repairs.

KEEP THIS IN MIND:

When FOG is poured straight off the stove, it is extremely hot, which is why it flows down so easily. As it cools off, it starts to solidify and can clog your pipes up in no time.

Once FOG gets into the community sewer system, they can form giant fatbergs that stick to the inside of sewer pipes. A fatberg is a congealed mass formed by the combination of non-biodegradable solid matter such as wet wipes, paper towels, and grease – as seen to the right.



Fatberg in a pipe.



Avoid this situation by practicing proper FOG disposal. Put FOGs like these in the trash, not down the drain:

- Bacon grease
- Pan drippings
- Butter
- Milk & cream
- Mayonnaise
- Cooking oil
- Gravy
- Salad dressing
- Peanut butter



TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR PIPES:

- Never put FOG down the sink drains.
- Before washing, use a paper napkin or paper towel to wipe FOG from dishes and dispose of it in the trash, not the garbage disposal.
- Pour cooled FOG into a container like an old food can or jar and put the container in the trash.
- Use sink strainers to catch food waste.

Doing this will help save your home's plumbing and the public sewer system from damage.

Water-Wise Tips for Outdoor Irrigation in the Fall

The fall season is here, bringing cooler temperatures, shorter days, and the opportunity to reduce outdoor water use in the region.

Reducing irrigation during fall is essential as some desert plants require little to no water during the season. Because of this, it is encouraged to shift from the increased water usage of summer to the significantly lower water needs of the autumn, which prevents overwatering and water waste.

Practicing smart irrigation in your yard also conserves water and can lower utility bills – a win for all!

WAYS TO CUT DOWN ON YOUR OUTDOOR WATER USE:

1. Avoid watering on windy days as this causes water loss due to evaporation and overspray.
2. Water in the early mornings or at night to further reduce evaporation and allow water to reach plant roots.
3. Install water-efficient nozzles or drip systems. These systems deliver water exactly where plants need it.
4. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways, sidewalks, or patios.
5. Find and fix leaks quickly by checking for broken sprinklers, cracked pipes, or misdirected sprays.
6. When there's measurable rain, turn your sprinkler system off and keep it off until the ground has dried.
7. Choose water-efficient or native plants for your yard. Desert-friendly plants can thrive with less water.
8. Explore CVWD rebates at cvwd.org/rebates to view all rebate program details, see eligibility requirements, and apply for programs.



To view CVWD's irrigation guide, visit cvwd.org/watering-guide.



Ways to be Water-Wise Indoors and Save

REDUCING YOUR WATER USE INDOORS IS EASY WITH THE FOLLOWING CONSERVATION TIPS:

- Shorten your shower by a few minutes or install a water-efficient shower head.
- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth and shaving.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and laundry.
- Check your faucets and toilets for leaks frequently.
- Thaw food in the fridge, rather than under running water.
- Replace appliances and fixtures with water-efficient models.



To learn more water-wise tips, visit cvwd.org/conservation.

CVWD Customer Assistance Program Helps Pay Water Bills

CVWD's customer assistance program offers eligible residential customers a \$150 credit on their water bill, available once in a 12-month period. Customers may reapply each year for assistance.

Residential customers who need help paying their water bill can apply through **Inland SoCal United Way** by visiting inlandsocaluw.org/help2others or by calling (909) 751-1180, ext. 1200 or by simply dialing 211. United Way screens eligible customers and provides them with assistance in paying a water bill.

Charitable donations are also accepted through United Way. Donations must be made directly to Inland SoCal United Way. All donations are tax-deductible.



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
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