



CVWD Water News

Published for Coachella Valley Water District domestic water customers

Winter 2026

REFLECTING ON 2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2025, the Coachella Valley Water District advanced key initiatives that strengthened water reliability, improved long-term sustainability, and supported the well-being of our communities.

\$39 MILLION WASTEWATER GRANT



CVWD secured a \$39 million federal grant to expand the Thermal Wastewater Treatment Plant, enabling a new blend of recycled and canal water for agricultural irrigation in the eastern valley. This project advances long-term Colorado River conservation and strengthens a sustainable, reliable water supply for our communities.

AVENUE 66 TRANSMISSION MAIN

CVWD celebrated the completion of the Avenue 66 Transmission Main and St. Anthony Mobile Home Park Consolidation Project, installing critical infrastructure to connect three mobile home parks to CVWD's domestic water system. The project enables up to 35 future connections, strengthens water reliability for Mecca, North Shore, and Bombay Beach, and is supported by over \$31 million in state and regional funding.



CERTIFIED PARTS PER TRILLION TESTING MACHINE



This year, CVWD certified a new Agilent 7850 ICP Mass Spectrometer, expanding our ability to test water quality with greater speed and accuracy. The instrument analyzes up to 180 samples in a single run and detects elements at parts-per-trillion levels, providing results for 30 elements in just minutes. Its high-temperature plasma improves sensitivity, accuracy and precision.

NONPOTABLE PIPELINE PROJECTS

Completed in December, 14,300 feet of offsite-pipeline was installed to provide approximately 2,500 acre-feet of irrigation water annually to Marriott Shadow Ridge and Emerald Desert RV Resort. This project will also serve future customers along Frank Sinatra Drive with approximately 5,500 acre-feet of nonpotable water, reducing groundwater use and strengthening long-term water reliability.



TELEMETRY UPGRADE



CVWD modernized water operations with telemetry and SCADA upgrades at 24 domestic sites, enabling faster, nearly real-time data from the field. Completed in-house, these upgrades boost efficiency, empower operators to quickly make decisions based on real-time data, and enhance service reliability – part of a plan to modernize over 265 sites by 2027.

For more information on District projects and updates, visit cvwd.org.

2026 Desert-Friendly Plant Calendars Available



CVWD's 2026 desert-friendly plant calendars are now available for customers upon request and at no charge, while supplies last.

This year's edition features colorful illustrations and graphics of desert-friendly perennials.

The calendar also highlights regional gardening information, including:

- ✓ Tips to save water and available CVWD rebates and incentives for residential, HOA, and commercial customers.
- ✓ Suggestions for creating a pollinator-friendly garden.
- ✓ Featured plant information, monthly gardening pointers, and an irrigation guide.

Request a calendar online at cvwd.org/publications to receive a calendar in the mail.

Customers can also pick up calendars at the District's Palm Desert or Coachella offices, as well as some local gardening stores including All Color Growers, Armstrong Growers, Bob Williams Nursery, Lotus Garden Center, and Moon Valley Nurseries.

CVWD to Launch SpryPoint Customer Billing this Fall

CVWD is investing in a new customer billing and information system by SpryPoint to expand and improve service.

The new system's advanced capabilities will enable real-time updates, faster service requests, and more intuitive self-service options, empowering customers to manage their accounts with greater ease and confidence.

More information will be sent to customers before the new system goes live in the fall of 2026. Stay tuned for updates!

SpryPoint

California Adopts a More Stringent Standard for Hexavalent Chromium, Increasing Water Costs Throughout the State

California is the first and only state in the nation to set a drinking water standard for naturally occurring hexavalent chromium. The adopted Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) is 10 parts per billion (*ppb). Notices containing state-required language were mailed to customers in November 2025 because some CVWD wells exceeded 10 ppb. In other states, the limit for total chromium is 100 ppb.

**10 ppb is about 10 drops in an Olympic-sized pool, which holds about 660,430 gallons.*

FAQs: HERE ARE SOME ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is it safe to drink my tap water? Your tap water is safe to drink and use. The tap water CVWD delivers to customers has always met all state and federal water quality standards.

What changed? The only change is that the state has implemented a more stringent regulation. Chromium exists naturally in groundwater across the United States. The state is regulating hexavalent chromium at stricter levels due to potential health impacts, not for any immediate health risks.

What is CVWD doing? In October 2025, CVWD submitted a Compliance Plan with a timeline to the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water, but the state has not yet approved the plan for implementation.

How much will it cost to meet the adopted regulation? Meeting the adopted standard will cost CVWD ratepayers more than \$350 million and significantly increase water rates. The state has not provided funding.

What makes this different from hexavalent chromium contamination made famous by Hollywood and court cases? Hexavalent chromium became a household name after industrial pollution contaminated the drinking water in Hinkley, California. In Hinkley, hexavalent chromium levels exceeded 1,000 parts per billion (ppb), compared with 22 ppb, the highest well with naturally occurring hexavalent chromium in CVWD's public water system.

How often does CVWD test tap water? CVWD routinely monitors our water system, collecting more than 17,000 water samples per year and testing for more than 100 constituents to ensure safe drinking water. CVWD is committed to continuing to provide safe and affordable drinking water to the communities we serve.

A California court struck down the same hexavalent chromium MCL in 2017. Could this happen again? Yes. The hexavalent chromium MCL is again being challenged in court. Along with many other California water providers, CVWD opposes this regulation, arguing that the State Water Resources Control Board failed to conduct the legally required public health, financial, environmental, and feasibility analysis and studies. This drinking water regulation affects 129 California water systems, which will have to spend billions of dollars on treatment, thereby undermining water affordability across California.

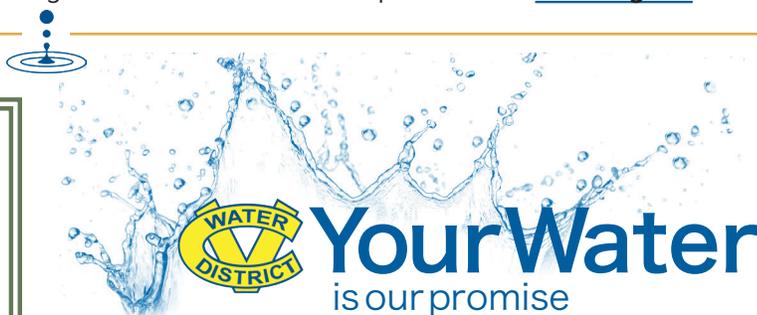
Learn more about hexavalent chromium and how CVWD is working to meet the state's new requirements at [cvwd.org/cr6](https://www.cvwd.org/cr6).

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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