

## TIER DROP NEWSLETTER



### MAY 2023

**February 2023 Residential Gallons Per Capita  
Water Use: 54.91 Gallons**

*Note: Water savings data reflects water use three months in the past. Also, "gallons per capita" is the standard of "measure" for tracking water conservation efforts. **The State has determined our water use per person per day is 47 gallons by 2025, and 42 gallons by 2030. Keep saving, Joshua Tree!***



**OUR MISSION STATEMENT:**  
To provide, protect, and maintain  
Joshua Tree's water - our vital  
community resource.

*Conserve water like a tortoise~  
not a hare...*

**And stay hydrated and carry water with you—everywhere.**

**Remember: WATER IS LIFE!**



Brought to you by your water providers: Joshua Basin Water District, Hi-Desert Water District, Bighorn Desert-View Water Agency, 29 Palms Water District, and the Mojave Water Agency.

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### MAY WATER SAVING TIP

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## Upcoming Events and Meetings:

### Board of Directors meetings:

- Regular Meeting - Wednesday, May 3 at 5:30 PM
- Regular Meeting - Wednesday, May 17 at 5:30 PM
- Special Meeting - Tuesday, May 23 at 11:00 AM

### Citizens Advisory Council

- Tuesday, May 9 at 5:00PM

### Wildcrafting Course

- Every Friday morning in May (see enclosed flyer)

### Help Yourself/Help Your Neighbor Public Event

- Saturday, May 20

Visit [www.jbwd.com](http://www.jbwd.com) for agendas, Zoom links, and other info.



## Liquid Soap vs. Bar Soap: You Decide...

When it comes to cleaning up--we certainly all have our preferences. But did you know that using liquid soap can actually help save water?

Here's how: most bar soaps leave a "scum" or residue when they encounter water with healthy minerals in it (like our water). However, liquid soap actually behaves differently in most cases, offering a clean rinsing effect which minimizes the additional use of water (and often cleaning agents) to scour tubs and shower stalls clean.

So, if you don't have a preference one way or the other, consider liquid soap and remember: every drop counts!



## DISTRICT HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The District Office will be closed for in-person and phone/email customer service on **Monday, May 29, in observance of Memorial Day.**

In the event of a water main or water service line emergency, or if you see water where water should not be (roadways, etc.), call the District Office at 760.366.8438. Our crews are on standby 24/7!



## MAY IS WATER AWARENESS MONTH!

As we head into the dry summer months in California, the month of May is a time to show our appreciation for the water that fuels our economy and sustains our ecosystems.

Rain or shine, Californians always need to use their water wisely. **Conservation** is a way of life.

Learn about what you can do to **conserve water** inside and outside of your home.

### May 2023 is also:

- Drinking Water Week (May 7-13)
- National Water Safety Month
- International Water Safety Day (May 15)



## CLASS IS IN SESSION: JBWD's Outdoor Classroom

Ms. Campbell's Palm Vista Elementary School's 5th graders came to learn about desert gardening involving water conservation in late April.

46 Students met tortoise hatchlings while learning about native wildlife needs and their adaptations to an arid environment, how to start seedlings using scant amounts of water, how nature moves different seed types across the desert, soil variations, beneficial bugs, natural plant defense mechanisms--and much more.

Students rotated in groups amongst the five themed gardens on a perfect spring day! Our heartfelt thanks to our energetic, dedicated, and awesome volunteer instructors!

## IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

**The new water rates** went into effect March 1, 2023, and will be reflected in your May billing statement. The new rate increase voted on is currently set at 9%.

**Also, as of May 1st, JBWD will no longer absorb the convenience fee for credit card payments.** The cost to our Community Owned Water District has now exceeded over \$40,000 per year for this convenience that not everyone uses.

To pay without fees, consider cash (in person), a check (mail or use our drop box out front in the District parking lot) or your bank's auto-pay as viable options.



## CURIOUS MINDS WANT TO KNOW:

**Often, at our Farmers' Market booth or on social media, we get good questions that others may be asking. Here's more of a sample:**

***Q: This question has resurfaced several times since the recent rate increase and bares sharing again: "Do District employees, Board Members or Consultants receive a water discount?"***



**A:** NO. The only discounts any of the above could possibly qualify for are the same ones afforded to our entire customer base. Specifically, the United Way of the Desert's Low Income Assistance Program, which has been increased to \$100 per qualifying person per year, is the only discount that we are legally able to offer at this time.

**If you have any billing concerns, please contact JBWD's Customer Service Department to work out alternate payment solutions,**

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**Mark you calendars! Joshua Basin Water District will be there!**

# HELP YOURSELF HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

**COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS EVENT:** LEARN PRACTICAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TIPS AND SELF-RELIANCE PRACTICES FROM A VARIETY OF DEMONSTRATIONS, CLASSES & PRESENTATIONS, HANDS-ON TRAINING, AND MORE. MEET FIRST RESPONDERS!



**MAY 20TH  
9AM-1PM**  
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**WALMART  
PARKING LOT IN  
YUCCA VALLEY**

**58501 29 PALMS HWY**



## **BOOTHS & ONGOING DEMONSTRATIONS:**

BASIC FIRST AID + HANDS ONLY CPR + HAM RADIO + SHELTERING + 72 HOUR KITS + PET/ANIMAL PLANS + SB COUNTY FIRE DEPT + CHP + JT NATIONAL PARK RANGERS + SEARCH & RESCUE + PERSONAL/FAMILY EMERGENCY PLANS + FOOD STORAGE + HOPE THERAPY DOGS + USMC CANINE TEAM + CERT DEMONSTRATIONS + STOP THE BLEED + MORE



SUPPORTED BY: AMERICAN RED CROSS • CERT • TOWN OF YUCCA VALLEY • CITY OF TWENTYNINE PALMS • MORONGO BASIN COAD • SBC FIRE DEPARTMENT • WALMART • USMC • SCE • HOPE • SB COUNTY DESERT REGION FIRE SAFE COUNCIL • HIGH DESERT EMERGENCY ACTION ALLIANCE

## **YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION**

### ***Recent Board Action Items of Note:***

In accordance with government law, the JBWD Board of Directors opted to use the appointment process to fill the Division 2 Board Vacancy created by the passing of Director Barbara Delph. The Board voted 3-1 in favor of candidate David Fick at the last Board meeting.



### **Background:**

*The District had three options for replacing a vacant Board seat:*

- 1) They could wait for an election if it was within the stipulated time frame for a major election (which it was not) or pay as much as \$100,000 to hold a separate election;*
- 2) They could use the appointment process, which must be achieved within 60 days of the date of the Board seat vacancy; or*
- 3) Do nothing and allow San Bernardino County to appoint a new Director to the Board.*

*Two highly qualified candidates from Division 2 applied to represent Joshua Tree residents and were interviewed in a public forum at the April 19th regular Board meeting. Joshua Basin Water District thanks everyone who participated in this difficult but*

*important process.*

### **Photo Caption:**

*David Fick was issued the "Oath of Office" by JBWD's Board President, Tom Floen at a Special Board Meeting held on April 26, 2023. After Fick was installed, he joined the current Board of Directors for a special training on Emergency Management responsibilities of Board Members during a community disaster.*



## **MAY FARMERS' MARKET BOOTH: Come meet our baby tortoises!**

Every Saturday this May our JBWD Farmers' Market Booth will have on display two adorable desert tortoise hatchlings. These amazing creatures are the consummate water savers--and we can all take a lesson from them! While nearly impossible to see in the wild, you'll get an "up close and personal view" --so don't miss out! Our booth is located on the West end of the Market and we'll be there from 8AM-1PM to answer all your water questions!



## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND REPLACEMENT PROGRAM (C.I.R.P.)



**Photo Caption:**

*Our winter/spring storms played havoc with some of our infrastructure: above you see the finished efforts of grading that was needed for the C2B Tank due to flooding. Crews had to cut and then create a slope and remove 150 cubic yards\* of dirt. (\*Note: One cubic yard is equal to 27 cubic feet).*



**Photo Caption:**

*Elsewhere, crews completed the compaction stage and underground preparation for the D1-1 project.*

*This is part of our infrastructure improvement program.*



**Photo Caption:**

*Above is the ongoing progress with the D1-1 project: the forms are setup for the concrete, and most of the rebar is installed and holding for the electrical installations. Tie-in/ or hot tapping the 12" main will immediately follow--providing supply to the new booster building.*

**LAST CALL TO ATTEND OUR 2023 WILDCRAFTING COURSE:**

Late registrations will be considered after the April 30 deadline on available vacancies only as class size is extremely limited to a small group. See more below.

## Spring 2023 Desert Wildcrafting

*Join us and learn along the way!*

A four-part training seminar helping you to grow native plants—FREE!

### PART ONE:

**\*Wildcrafting Overview: A Comprehensive class on seed types, seed harvesting, and seed cleaning : Friday May 5, 2023, 9:00AM to 11:30AM at the Joshua Basin Water District**

*Learn to identify "viable" seeds to be harvested, wild crafting harvesting tips, storing of seeds, seasons to collect various seeds in the Morongo Basin, and more!*

**\*This first class is a pre requisite for Part Two.**

### PART TWO:

**\*Seed Harvesting Class Field Excursion: Friday, May 12, 2023, 7AM-9:30AM** \*Participants are to first meet at the Joshua Basin Water District and will thereafter caravan to a local undeveloped area to identify and harvest local native plant seeds . Seeds collected in this exercise are used for the JBWD/JTNP Native Plant Sale program. Follow the tips below:



### PART THREE:

**\*Invasive Plant Module + Seed Propagation: May 19, 2023, 9 AM to 11:30AM, at the Joshua Basin Water District**

*Are invasive plants just weeds? This module helps clarify what is an invasive plant to our area; why it is detrimental to the health of your native plant garden, as well as, the entire desert ecosystem; and how to mitigate the spread of invasive seeds and plants within your landscape.*

### PART FOUR:

*\*(NOTE: Participants must have attended at least one of the sessions above to participate in this tour)*

**JTNP Private Nursery Tour: Friday, May 26, 2023, 9AM-11:30AM JTNP Nursery (at their Visitor Center), 29 Palms, CA. See techniques that are being used by the pros!**

**Class size is limited. For more information or to RSVP your participation, contact Kathleen Radnich at [kjradnich@gmail.com](mailto:kjradnich@gmail.com):  
Registration is required on or before April 30, 2023**

**DESERT-SMART  
GARDENING TIPS FOR  
MAY**

*May Watering Schedule: Before 9:00 AM and*

**HISTORIC USES OF:  
Smokey Coast  
Rosemary**

*Westringia fruticosa*



after 6:00 PM

Due to warmer weather, it is best to water during the early morning and late evening hours to reduce evaporation.

### THIS MONTH IN YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

Rising temperatures causes changes in plants.

- As weather heats up, change watering schedule from mid-day to early morning or evening to minimize loss through evaporation
- Maintain a good mulch of organic matter covering garden soil throughout the summer to hold moisture
- Remove ("deadhead") spent flowers unless you want to collect seeds (to simulate repeat blooming)

## 'Smokey'

### Smokey Coast Rosemary History

Also referred to as "Coast Rosemary, Coastal Rosemary, or Native Rosemary", this particular evergreen shrub is a type of mint native to Australia. It however does not share similar aromas to that of rosemary or mint plants.

No apparent historic use has been noted for this plant, and it is notable to not confuse it with the health and edible properties standard to mint or rosemary plants.

**May 2023**  
**Plant of the Month**

**Smokey Coast Rosemary**  
*Westringia fruticosa* 'Smokey'

Plant Form: Evergreen shrub  
Water Use: Low  
Mature Size: 3-6 ft. tall x 5-5 ft. wide  
Exposure: Full sun, part shade  
Bloom Time: Spring (Mar – May), Summer (June – Aug)  
Native to: Australia  
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 20°F

Smokey Coast Rosemary is a rugged Australian native with dainty evergreen leaves covered in soft white hair that makes the whole plant appear "smokey". Its dark green leaves are edged in creamy white margins, creating attractive foliage year-round. Small, two-lipped white flowers tinged in purple can appear almost any time of year, but are most prolific in spring. Landscape professionals commonly use this outstanding plant because it is fast-growing, versatile, strong, drought-tolerant, and resilient. This compact shrub retains a neat, globe shape without pruning, and lends itself to low borders or hedges, as well as mass plantings, accents among green-leaved companions, and for erosion control. Beautiful in butterfly and Mediterranean gardens.

**awac**  
Water-Conserves Today for Tomorrow  
Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation  
For more information on low-water-use gardening, contact your local water provider or go to [www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/](http://www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/)

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