



the PIPELINE

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Mission Statement

Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on great customer care; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water-use efficiency; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency.



Infrastructure Improvements

Have you noticed these signs while driving around Palmdale? PWD staff is expected to complete approximately 43 Capital Improvement Projects in 2020 worth up to \$6.08 million.



COMPLETE THE 2020 CENSUS

Be counted! Census results help determine how many billions of dollars of federal funds are given to states and communities.



RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Need assistance paying your PWD bill? The RAP will reduce monthly service fees by up to 50% for qualifying households. Funds are limited. Apply today! For more info, visit bit.ly/2QNwKMV.



REAL I.D.

To apply for a Real ID at the DMV, you must present TWO documents that have your California mailing address. Use a PWD water bill as one of your options to show residency.

New \$150 Rebate Available for Weather-based Irrigation Controllers, Other Rebates Increased

Palmdale Water District (PWD) customers wanting to install Weather-based Irrigation Controllers (WBICs) can now apply for a new rebate being offered to help residents use their water more efficiently when watering their landscape.

WBICs, also known as smart irrigation controllers, are weather-based controllers that automatically adjust irrigation based on the weather of the location, needs of the landscape and soil conditions. Once the controller is set for a default maximum watering time based on the hottest time of the year, it will reduce watering time by a percentage value when less water is needed.

PWD is offering rebates for a maximum of \$150 per customer for certified Water Sense labeled controllers. Qualifying models can be found at socialwatersmart.com. The rebate is available for single-family, multi-family and commercial customers.

"We hope our customers buy these great controllers and use it to make their water usage more efficient," said Resource and Analytics Supervisor Claudia Bolanos, who oversees the Water-Use Efficiency team. "If people have been overwatering, it will help them save money. The best part is you can program it and forget about it."

According to SoCal Water\$mart's website, WBICs can save up to 13,500 gallons of water a year from overwatering and ensure plant health. In addition to the rebate savings, customizing landscape watering schedules can save more than \$700 on water bills over the controller's lifetime.

These new controllers adjust for drought restrictions, do not need rain sensors and can be downloaded on a smart phone application, allowing owners to review watering schedules, fine tune cycles and check water usage from tablets, computers and phones. They are also compatible with smart home wi-fi devices.

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

SMART Water Expo at Home Show

Saturday, March 28 & Sunday, March 29
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
2551 W. Avenue H, Lancaster
Admission: FREE
Parking: \$7

PWD Closure

Memorial Day, Monday, May 25

Board Meetings

Mondays @ 6 p.m.
PWD Board Room
2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale
March 9 & 23
April 13 & 27
May 11 & 25*
June 8 & 22

*Meeting subject to change due to Memorial Day.

Atención: Esta publicación está disponible en español en nuestro sitio web en palmdalewater.org. Para obtener una copia impresa en español, visite nuestra oficina o llame al 661-441-5944.

Attention: This publication is available in Spanish on our website at palmdalewater.org. For a hard copy in Spanish, visit our office or call 661-441-5944.



INKWELL
Palmdale's Book & Art Festival

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www.CityofPalmdale.org

SATURDAY, MAY 2
10 AM-2 PM
LEGACY COMMONS
930 E. AVE. Q-9, PALMDALE

Books • Art
Music • Food
& more!

FREE ADMISSION

Employee Spotlight:

Peter Thompson II, Resource and Analytics Director



Working as a Palmdale Water District meter reader in 1998 was supposed to be temporary, as he had plans to become a high school history teacher. But soon after starting at PWD, Peter Thompson II accepted a promotion to Plant Operator at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant.

The short detour from college turned into more than 20 years of PWD service and working in positions as Treatment Plant Supervisor, Operations Manager and Deputy Water and Energy Resources Director. In his current role as Resource and Analytics Director, Peter splits his time between coordinating PWD's current water needs and planning for future water supply.

Much of his time is spent representing PWD in Sacramento where decisions on the State Water Project (SWP) are made. As a SWP contractor, PWD receives water from the north via the California Aqueduct. Currently, PWD's allocation from the state is 15%, or 3,195 acre-feet of water.

His responsibilities also include overseeing a staff of four who work on water and energy data analytics, and water-use efficiency programs, which are aimed at helping customers use water wisely.

"As we speak, we're in a drought year," he said. "But PWD has enough water for the year, so I don't expect any drastic water-use restrictions. However, we continue encouraging our customers to use water efficiently, to not waste."

Peter's Water-Use Efficiency team offers several programs that help ratepayers save water and save money. They offer various rebates, and they take the message of efficient usage of water to schools with the Water Awareness Program.

"Peter is a great asset to the District and our customers," said GM Dennis D. LaMoreaux. "His experience is an example of the wide variety of jobs available in a water career."

To satisfy his earlier passion, Peter teaches water treatment classes at Antelope Valley College. He has Water Treatment T5 and Water Distribution D5 certifications, the highest available.

A married father of four girls ages 13 to 20, Peter stays busy coaching junior high basketball at Bethel Christian School, his alma mater. He enjoys playing Dungeons and Dragons and peak bagging, an activity where climbers attempt to reach a collection of summits. He has bagged Mount Whitney and has Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania on his to-climb list.

Rebates (Continued from Page 1)



Those interested in the rebate should go to socalwatersmart.com to find the list of qualifying models. Within 90 days of purchasing the WBIC, go to PWD's website at palmdalewater.org for the proper rebate form and drop off or mail the receipt, rebate form and a copy of a PWD water bill. Once approved, PWD will credit the rebate to the customer's account within three to four weeks.

"It's very exciting to add this to our rebate offers," Bolanos said. "Our team is always looking for ways to help our customers."

PWD also offers rebates for high-efficiency (HE) clothes washers and toilets, and sprinkler rotator nozzles. In February, the Board of Directors approved increasing the toilet rebate from \$60 up to \$100 and washers went up from \$100 to a maximum of \$150. Rebates do not cover taxes or installation costs.

In 2019, 76 applications were received for toilet rebates, totaling \$4,560. There were 31 applications for washers, totaling \$3,100. All rebates are first-come, first-served for PWD customers.

EARTH DAY AT PWD April 22



Come celebrate Earth Day at PWD! Staff will help attendees assemble their own mini-bamboo blossom plants. The event will be from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. on April 22 at 2029 E. Avenue Q. FREE plants will be available while supplies last.

In honor of Earth Day, teachers in the PWD's service area are encouraged to enter the Annual Water Awareness Contest for K-8 students. Students are required to make a 10-15 inch globe out of Papier-Mâché that illustrates the equator, poles, countries and oceans. The winning class will win a \$250 gift card. Globe must be submitted by Thursday, April 23, 2020. For more information, contact Water-Use Efficiency Specialist Robert Rosati at 661-441-5943.

PROJECTS AT-A-GLANCE



LITTLEROCK DAM GRADE-CONTROL STRUCTURE

Contractors have finished building the grade-control structure at the Littlerock Dam. The next phase is to remove sediment from the reservoir to restore its water capacity. The structure, which will protect the federally endangered arroyo toad during sediment removal, is 400 feet wide and 240 feet long. It took almost 800 hours just to prep and place 12,000 cubic yards of roller-compacted concrete. The dam remains closed by order of the U.S. Forest Service. Discussions with federal officials to open the dam for recreation on several weekends this summer are continuing.



UPPER AMARGOSA CREEK RECHARGE

Palmdale Water District's supply of groundwater received a boost in December when the Upper Amargosa Creek Recharge Project was completed. The project diverts water from the California Aqueduct to recharge basins located near 25th Street West and Elizabeth Lake Road. The water percolates underground and becomes part of the District's existing wells. Partnering with PWD on the \$17 million project are the City of Palmdale, California Department of Water Resources, Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency and the Los Angeles County Waterworks Districts.

Let's Talk H2O! with PWD Emergency Preparedness



Raffle Winners

A group of community members interested in preparing for emergencies attended the first Let's Talk H2O! with PWD, which was presented by Assistant General Manager Adam Ly. Staff assisted attendees with starting their own emergency kits with items including waterproof matches, light sticks, whistles, emergency blankets, emergency drinking water pouches and tablets to disinfect water.

Join the interest list for future Let's Talk H2O! with PWD by going online at bit.ly/2Fx2j90.

