



Annual Littlerock Dam Sediment Removal Project Starts after a Three-Decade Delay

About 50,000 cubic yards of dirt and debris have been removed from the Littlerock Reservoir as part of the Palmdale Water District's (PWD) Littlerock Sediment Removal Project, which kicked off this fall after it was postponed for nearly 30 years due to the discovery of a federally endangered arroyo toad in the vicinity.

For seven weeks starting in mid-September, a stream of dump trucks filled with roughly 10 cubic yards of sediment continuously rolled out of the reservoir toward two local gravel pits for unloading.

"This was momentous occasion for PWD," said General Manager Dennis D. LaMoreaux. "Since the early 1990s, we have been waiting to restore it to its capacity. We've hit hurdles that were beyond our control and spent millions to meet requirements. The District is very pleased to have started the project."



The project aims to remove sediment annually for 12 years so that the dam can be restored to its 1992 water storage capacity of 3,500 acre-feet. Decades of sediment buildup have reduced the current capacity to 2,800 acre-feet. Plans are for sediment removal to take place after Labor Day each year and completed before the spring or first significant rainfall, which would allow for recreation at the Littlerock Dam once it is open for such use by the U.S. Forest Service.

"Due to climate change, climatologists are predicting that there will be bigger storms over shorter periods of time," said PWD Engineering Manager Scott Rogers. "It is vital that we have the storage capabilities to capture, store and transfer water during these storms for surface water use, especially as drought becomes the norm and more local water supply storage is needed."

In the early 1990s, PWD was permitted to start removing sediment but was halted by the discovery of the arroyo toad, an endangered species. Finally, in 2020, the project was given the green light by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife after a \$14 million grade-control structure was built at Rocky Point. The structure prevents erosion and protects the toad's upstream habitat.

The Cost of this year's sediment removal is \$2.8 million, with \$1.1 million coming from grants. Although the multi-year project initially called for annual removal of 120,000 cubic yards to total 1.1 million cubic yards within 12 years, the total accumulation has now grown to 1.7 million cubic yards.

"After three decades of delay, it's nice to finally see this project move forward," Rogers said. "One of our Board's Strategic Plan goals is to increase local water storage capacity and that is exactly what we are doing with this project."

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CALENDAR

Board Meetings

Mondays @ 6 p.m.
Via Teleconference
Info available on Board
Agenda
Dec. 12
Jan. 9 & 23, 2023
Feb. 13 & 27, 2023

Event

Water-wise Workshop:
Landscape Conversion 101
Wednesday, March 22, 2023
@ 5 p.m.
PWD Board Room

PWD Closures

Dec. 26-29

Holiday Closure

Jan. 16, 2023
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb. 20, 2023
Presidents Day

Attention: This publication is available in Spanish on our web-site at www.palmdalewater.org.

Atencion: Esta publicacion esta disponible en espanol en nuestro sitio web en www.palmdalewater.org.

2022 Year End Wrap-up

As 2022 comes to a close, we are proud to share some of the many accomplishments for the year. Despite challenges brought by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, severe drought and supply chain issues, Palmdale Water District Board of Directors and 86 staff members worked diligently to ensure that our mission of providing clean, affordable water to 126,000 people in our community was never compromised. We are pleased to share some highlights:

New Water Well

In July, PWD celebrated the drilling of its first water well in 31 years. Located north of 15th Street East at Rancho Vista Boulevard, Well 36 is scheduled to be in operation by early 2023. It will produce enough water annually for about 2,000 Palmdale families. Groundwater has become more critical during the drought due to reduced water supply from the State Water Project.



Pure Water AV

Plans are approved for Pure Water AV, a water augmentation program that will allow PWD to be more drought-proof, have local control of water and improve the groundwater quality and quantity. A demonstration facility showing the process of running recycled water through a four-step filtration system will be completed in 2024 and open to the community.

Water Ambassadors

The District hosted two classes of its Water Ambassadors Academy targeting adult community members and local high school students. The adult class gave attendees an in-depth view of PWD's history and the various departments. The junior version for high schoolers highlighted the available careers in water. Both classes were treated to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant.



Customer Care Stats

- Assisted 38,404 individuals by phone
- Helped 6,500 customers in the lobby
- Welcomed 1,150 new customers
- Logged 30,305 meter reads

#BestCrewEver

In addition to the construction crew's regular tasks of maintaining fire hydrants, exercising valves and clearing Palmdale Ditch, they stayed busy with several major emergencies. They worked overnight to fix water main breaks at locations including 12th Street East and Palmdale Boulevard, Avenue S-8 and 40th Street East, and Avenue S and 35th Street East.

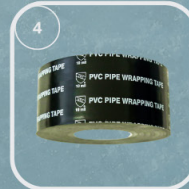


Community Outreach

Let's Talk H2O! and Water-Wise Workshop events were offered throughout the year to inform and educate the community about various topics, including the drought, water supply and gardening tips. Also, local students participated in PWD poster and essay contests for Earth Day and Imagine a Day Without Water.

Winterize Your Pipes

Follow this step-by-step tutorial to avoid frozen pipes when the temperature drops below 32 degrees.



1. Find your standard irrigation valve, normally located near the hose bib in front of your home.
2. Measure the insulation (buoyant foam) to the length of the PVC pipe. An arrow on the back side of the valve indicates the direction that the water flows.
3. Vertically cut your insulation from the top to bottom then make a horizontal cut to match the length of the PVC pipe.
4. Use 10mm PVC tape to wrap the insulation.
5. Wrap tape around the entire area that is insulated with the foam.
6. All done! Your pipes are ready for winter.

*All items can be purchased at local hardware stores.

REBATE PROGRAMS



High Efficiency (HE) toilets and dual flush toilets save up to 15 gallons of water each day. Receive up to a \$100 credit rebate for each toilet.

Buy a HE clothes washer. It uses less water and reduces energy costs by 50%. \$150 in rebates available.



Conserve water by turning your lawns into drought-friendly landscapes. Customers can receive cash rebates of up to \$3,000 to help with costs.

FOR DETAILS ABOUT REBATES,
VISIT WWW.PALMDALEWATER.ORG
OR CALL 661-947-4111 EXT. 5002.

Conservation Percentages Rise in 2022

In 2022, PWD encouraged customers to save 20% of water use compared to 2020 due to the severe drought. Most residents did their part to conserve water and so did many of PWD's largest accounts.

Major water-saving participants included the city of Palmdale, Lockheed Martin, the Palmdale School District, and the Antelope Valley Union High School District.

From May to October of 2022, in comparison to 2020, Lockheed Martin conserved a total of 43%. The city of Palmdale saved 31% while Antelope Valley Union High School District and the Palmdale School District combined used 31% less than two years ago.

Thank you to everyone who responded to the urgent need for water conservation during our third year of dry weather. Let's continue working together to save water today for our tomorrow!



RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OPEN NOW

The Rate Assistance Program offers financial help to qualifying senior citizens, veterans and low-income households by reducing the monthly service charge. Funds are limited. For more information, call Customer Care at 661-947-4111.



Variance Application

VARIANCE APPLICATION

If you have more than four people living in your household for the year, you may apply for a variance to increase your household's water allocation. To apply, call Customer Care at 661-947-4111.



BECOME A PWD WATER AMBASSADOR!

The Water Ambassadors Academy gives interested community members the opportunity to learn about PWD's history, infrastructure, facilities, water sources, and future projects.

Sign up for the 2023 Water Ambassadors Academy!

Sessions 1-3, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, April 5, 12 & 19
Session 4, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m., Saturday, April 22

The goal of this program is to engage and educate a diverse network of individuals in the PWD service area and surrounding communities so that more people will become familiar with PWD. The three-week program is free, but registration is required.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Public Affairs Specialist Michelle Trejo at mtrejo@palmdalewater.org or 661-441-5944.

*Ad provided by the city of Palmdale.

Can't get enough summer fun?
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SEASON PASS SALE STARTS NOV. 25

www.DryTownWaterPark.com

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EMERGENCY LINE: 661-947-4114
FAX: 661-947-8604
WATER-USE EFFICIENCY: 661-947-4111 ext. 5002

PAY YOUR BILL BY PHONE 24/7: 855-498-9969
PAY ONLINE:
PALMDALEWATER.ORG

PAY NEAR ME: PAY WITH CASH AT ANY 7-ELEVEN OR FAMILY DOLLAR LOCATION WITH YOUR PWD STATEMENT.

2029 E. AVENUE Q
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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.