



WATER NEWS

The official newsletter of the West Basin Municipal Water District.

West Basin is a wholesale water agency serving 17 cities and nearly 1 million residents in coastal Los Angeles County. An innovative public agency, West Basin is a recognized leader in conservation and recycled water. Our mission is to provide a safe and reliable supply of high-quality water to the communities we serve.

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Message from the General Manager

Thank you for taking the time to read our quarterly newsletter. With so much going on with the drought, recent watering restrictions, a new strategic water plan from the Governor, and increasing calls to save water, I hope you find this issue to be a helpful, informative read.

First, let me start by saying what an honor it is to be the General Manager of West Basin. Four months into this role and I can tell you that the District has exciting events and programs in store. We are working hard to offer an array of water use efficiency resources and family-friendly events that will help our communities save water.

Last year, Governor Newsom urged all Californians to reduce water use by 15% from 2020 levels. The West Basin Board of Directors took this goal a step further by calling on its service area to achieve a 30% reduction target. For the last 12 months, West Basin's retail water suppliers have reported varying levels of savings which indicate that we still have work to do to achieve statewide and regional water conservation targets.

We know that our communities are making changes for the better, and that old water use habits can be hard to change, but we also have faith in our cities that together we can rise to the challenge for the well-being of our communities. We also recognize that conservation is one part of a bigger strategy to become more drought-resilient, and we look forward to sharing our progress on recycled water and other strategic activities in future issues.

On behalf of West Basin, I want to thank each of you for your efforts to conserve water to date. I hope this newsletter will inspire you to join us at an upcoming event and take action towards becoming increasingly water-efficient in your everyday life.

- Gregory Reed, General Manager

Board of Directors



Harold C. Williams
Division I



Gloria D. Gray
Division II



Desi Alvarez
Division III



Scott Houston
Division IV



Donald L. Dear
Division V

How Much Water Are We Saving?

Each month retail water suppliers in the West Basin service area report their water use numbers to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB), who then makes public the results.

According to recent data submitted to the SWRCB, the West Basin service area has achieved a cumulative 3% decrease in water use over the previous 12 months compared to 2020 water use levels.

Water Supplier	% Change July '21-May '22	% Change May	% Change April	% Change March	% Change February	% Change January
Cal Water Dominguez	-10.4%	-9.4%	-6.3%	-2.9%	-15.0%	-14.4%
Lomita	-5.2%	-4.8%	-	10.8%	-	-4.1%
Cal Am Water	-5.0%	-11.5%	16.2%	18.9%	-8.8%	-4.6%
Inglewood	-4.8%	-8.4%	1.1%	2.3%	-7.3%	-2.8%
Cal Water Palos Verdes	-4.2%	-11.6%	23.8%	38.7%	2.4%	-4.8%
Hawthorne	-3.5%	-0.9%	-0.8%	0.1%	-5.0%	-3.5%
Manhattan Beach	-2.2%	-3.0%	9.9%	9.6%	-5.7%	-1.6%
Golden State Water Southwest	-1.5%	-2.5%	9.1%	13.2%	-2.6%	-2.4%
Cal Water Hermosa/Redondo	-0.6%	-0.1%	5.2%	11.8%	-4.9%	1.5%
Golden State Water Culver City	0.5%	3.9%	22.0%	14.2%	-5.6%	-9.1%
LA County Waterworks District 29	2.3%	0.0%	16.7%	53.9%	6.5%	0.3%
El Segundo*	42.4%	41.9%	35.1%	31.2%	-4.9%	18.6%

*El Segundo was impacted by the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant incident in 2021. It was required to purchase additional potable water to blend with recycled water for delivery to local refineries. While its results are included here, it is important to note these circumstances if comparing with other suppliers.

For the last 12 months, West Basin's retail water suppliers have reported the above (pictured) water use statistics for their areas, pictured. It should be noted that the data shown is based on the state benchmark of water use in 2020.

Inspiring Landscapes, Great Incentives!

We understand grass replacement and the rebate process can be confusing. With so many options on plants, colors, groundcovers (and what is this about a stormwater capture element?), residents and businesses may have a lot of questions. Here are five tips to help you get started:

1. Check out this photo album of examples from West Basin residents who achieved lovely drought-tolerant gardens while taking advantage of our grass replacement rebate (starting at \$3 per square foot): westbasin.org/grass-replacement
2. Find inspiration from over 1,000 eligible plants in this plant database and begin planning a new beautiful water-wise garden.
3. Sign up for the next West Basin Chat: Talk with a staff water use efficiency professional who will walk you through the process and answer specific questions you might have. Register here: www.westbasin.org/chat
4. Check out the [Top 10 California Native Plants](#).
5. Download a free California Friendly® Garden Maintenance Guide from BeWaterWise: bit.ly/landscape-guidebook





Win a West Basin “Swag Bag” by Submitting Your Best Water Saving Photo or Video Tip

During the month of September, share a photo or video of your best water saving tip for a chance to win a West Basin Swag Bag and be featured in West Basin’s social media and newsletter.

1. Follow @WestBasin on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook
2. Post a video/photo on Twitter, Instagram or Facebook of you or a family member demonstrating a water saving action
3. Caption the photo, mention @WestBasin and hashtag #WestBasin

One winner will be selected by the Public Information & Education department and announced the first week of October.

\$685,000 in Grants Awarded to West Basin for its Grass Replacement Program

The West Basin Grass Replacement Program for residential and commercial properties across the service area received a funding boost totaling \$685,000 starting July 1, 2022. The United States Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) awarded West Basin a \$385,000 WaterSMART Grant, part of its water and energy efficiency grant funding program, noting that the District’s application was among those receiving the highest ratings. Additionally, West Basin was awarded \$300,000 from the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Urban and Multibenefit Drought Relief Grant Program Phase 3 Awards. West Basin’s Grass Replacement + program was included in a suite of projects awarded by DWR which will improve outdoor water savings by upgrading landscapes in priority census tract areas.

Through its grass removal programs, West Basin expects to convert approximately 250 sites to water efficient landscaping, equating to approximately 400,000 square feet of grass replacement. The expected result is an annual water savings of 54 acre-feet, or roughly 17.6 million gallons in a year.

Conserved water will reduce the need for imported water taken from the strained Colorado River, remain in storage reservoirs for longer periods of time and help mitigate

drought. Water conservation will also reduce the stress on the DWR State Water Project, which has seen its deliveries reduced to zero in some portions of Southern California.

West Basin is calling on its service area to reduce its water use by 30 percent, especially from outdoor water use which can account for 50% of total use. To participate in West Basin’s Grass Replacement program, which provide rebates starting at \$3 for every square foot of grass replaced with drought-tolerant landscaping, please visit:

westbasin.org/conservation



Lake Mead is the largest reservoir in the U.S. formed by the Hoover Dam on the Colorado River.

Popular West Basin Events Return In-Person this Fall

Save the dates! West Basin's free rain barrel distribution events begins in September and the Water Harvest festival returns in person in October.

Five Free Rain Barrel Distribution Events Start September 24

Our popular Rain Barrel Program will return on Saturday, September 24 for the first of five in-person distribution events throughout the service area. During the fall months of September – December 2022, the District will be hosting drive-up events for residents to claim up to two free rain barrels.

For more information visit: www.westbasin.org/rainbarrels

Water Harvest Festival is Back in Person on October 22

West Basin is excited to emerge from the pandemic and bring the community together in-person for the annual Water Harvest festival on Saturday, October 22, 2022 at the Edward C. Little Water Recycling Facility in El Segundo. Activities last from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, when families can celebrate West Basin's 75th birthday (formation as a District) with tours of the water recycling facility, engaging water education activities, kids costume contest, and more!

For event details visit: www.westbasin.org/waterharvest



Rain barrel distribution events are back: September - November 2022



Water Harvest Festival, El Segundo

WATER HARVEST 2022 AD