

WATER NEWS

The official newsletter of the West Basin Municipal Water District.

West Basin is a wholesale water agency serving 17 cities and nearly one million residents in coastal Los Angeles County. An innovative public agency, West Basin is a leader in conservation, water recycling and regional reliability. 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. I hope you find this newsletter to be helpful and informative in its coverage of the drought and water conservation efforts.

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 for you. We are working towards hosting family-friendly events that our communities will enjoy and help us celebrate 75 years of water supply reliability for the service area.

I know the drought is an important topic that is on everyone's mind, including our West Basin Board of Directors and community leaders. Governor Newsom urged all Californians reduce water use and escalate their drought response. 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 you for your interest in our immediate supply concerns, and for doing your part to embrace water efficiency as a California way of life. I hope this newsletter inspires you to join us at an upcoming event. Together, let's be Super-Cali-Frugalistic!

- 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

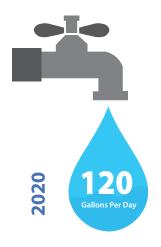
How Much Water Are We Saving?

According to the State Water Resources Control Board, the West Basin service area has reduced water use by 4.9% over the previous 12 months compared to 2020 water use levels. Pictured here a a few highlights from the reports.

Supplier	Percent Change (cumulative)
Cal Water Dominguez	- 10.7%
Cal Am Water	-5.9%
Inglewood	-5.6%
Cal Water Palos Verdes	-4.9%
Lomita	-4.0%
Hawthorne	-3.9%
Manhattan Beach	- 2.9%
GSWC Southwest	-1.8%
Cal Water Hermosa Redondo	-1.3%
LACWWD 29	- 0.9%
GSWC Culver City	-0.1%
Total*	-4.9%

^{*}Total excludes El Segundo, which was impacted by the Hyperion Water Reclamation Plant event in 2021. Additional potable water was required to meet recycled water needs for industrial use.

Average Number of Gallons Used per Person per Day in West Basin





Inspiring Landscapes, Great Incentives!

We speak with many residents who say, wow! my neighbor's California friendly landscape looks great; how can I get started? With so many options for plants, colors, groundcovers (and what is this about a stormwater capture element?), it's easy to be overwhelmed by the notion of removing grass and other water-thirsty landscape elements.

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: Our water use efficiency professionals will walk you... and answer as many questions as you may 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.
- 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.

Winners will be announced the first week of October.

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

West Basin's Grass Replacement Program 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. West Basin also received \$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 neighborhoods in the service area.

Through West Basin's grass removal programs, the goal is to convert approximately 250 sites to water efficient landscaping, equating to approximately nine acres of grass replacement. This goal would result in a water savings of 54 acre-feet, or roughly 17.6 million gallons per year.

Doing so will help reduce the stress on the Colorado River and State Water Project supplies, allowing water to remain in reservoirs for longer periods of time, and help mitigate drought impacts. West Basin is calling on its service area to reduce its water use by 30%, especially from outdoor water use which can account for 50% of total use.

You can do your part to help lower water use in our region by participating in our grass replacement program, with 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 begin 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 – November 2022, the District will host 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.

