Agricultural Irrigation & Drainage

AGRICULTURAL IRRIGATION
The Coachella Valley’s farmland is one of the largest contributors to the local economy, known for its dates, citrus, grapes, and bell peppers.
More than two-thirds (62,648 acres) of local farmland is irrigated in part with Colorado River water delivered via the Coachella Canal, a branch of the All-American Canal. Thanks to the Coachella Canal, Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) delivers about 260,000 acre-feet annually of imported water to some of the most productive farms in the world.

AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY
- Second largest contributor to the local economy.
- Contributes nearly one billion dollars annually to the local economy.
- Creates roughly 12,000 jobs.

TOP PRODUCING CROPS
- Dates
- Bell peppers
- Lettuce
- Grapes
- Artichokes
- Sweet corn
- Broccoli
- Watermelon
- Citrus
- Carrots
- Cauliflower
- Turfgrass

AGRICULTURAL SIZE
- 137,416 acres in CVWD’s service area
- 62,648 acres irrigated including double cropping
- 53,637 acres commercially farmed
- 8,500 acres multicropped

COACHELLA CANAL
- Delivers water to more than 1,200 irrigation customers.
- Branch of the All-American Canal.
- Water is diverted at the Imperial Dam (north of Yuma) to the Coachella Canal.
- 123.5 miles long.
- Construction began in the 1930’s and was interrupted by WWII. Work resumed in 1948 and was completed in 1949.
- Concrete lined to prevent water loss from seepage.
- Total federal contract supply is 453,000 acre-feet per year.
- Colorado River water via the canal is used for the following:
  - Agriculture Irrigation
  - Golf Course and Landscape Irrigation
  - Groundwater Replenishment
  - Other non-potable uses

AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM
- CVWD’s underground tile drainage system is designed to carry naturally saline groundwater and percolated agricultural irrigation water from farmland to the Salton Sea. This system has nearly 2,500 miles of on-farm and district-maintained drains.
- Effective drainage disperses harmful salts that accumulate in soils over time and manages groundwater levels.
- Serves more than 37,000 acres of farmland.

Main line: 760.398.2651
Customer Service: 760.391.9600
Website: cvwd.org/ourpromise

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