

# Water Wise



Published for large landscape and irrigation customers of the Coachella Valley

Winter 2011

## Coachella Valley Water Management plan updated

In December, the Coachella Valley Water District released a draft version of the *Coachella Valley Water Management Plan 2010 Update*. This long-term planning document identifies a range of actions needed to eliminate overdraft of the Coachella Valley's aquifer while maintaining the quality of life in the valley and avoiding adverse impacts to the environment.

The original *Coachella Valley Water Management Plan* was released in 2002 and included actions in four major areas for ensuring a long-term water supply. CVWD has made significant progress in all four areas thanks to new programs and cooperation of water users. The 2010 Update identifies the accomplishments listed below, since the 2002 plan.

### Target: Increase water conservation

- ✓ Residential customers met goal of reducing water use by 10%
- ✓ Golf courses met goal of reducing water use by 5%
- ✓ Agriculture met goal of reducing water use by 7%
- ✓ Tiered rates encouraging urban water use efficiency
- ✓ Landscape Ordinance requires smart controllers in new homes and limits grass for new developments and golf courses
- ✓ Water Management seminars for landscape professionals

### Target: Expand groundwater replenishment efforts

- ✓ Thomas E. Levy Groundwater Replenishment Facility went into full-scale operation in 2009

### Target: Import more water to the valley to supplement the existing supply

- ✓ Agreements completed to receive 459,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water.
- ✓ Agreements completed to increase State Water Project Table A amount to 194,100 acre-feet annually

### Target: Use more recycled and imported Colorado River water for irrigation purposes

- ✓ Phase I of the Mid-Valley Pipeline was completed, blending Colorado River water and recycled water to ensure year-round supply for golf course irrigation in lieu of groundwater.

The 2010 Update also identifies future challenges based on updated population estimates and possible new actions.



Expansion of the Thomas E. Levy Groundwater Replenishment Facility in 2009 vastly increased groundwater replenishment in 2010, contributing to record breaking levels of 298,814 acre-feet.

A major goal in the updated plan calls for conservation efforts to meet a State of California mandate to reduce urban water use by 20 percent by 2020. Golf course conservation is to reduce water use by 10 percent by 2045 and agricultural water use is expected to be reduced by 14 percent by 2020.

Other objectives in the plan include: expanding groundwater replenishment efforts; increasing the use of recycled water; increasing the amount of imported water to supplement existing supply; and maintaining high quality drinking water.

While the goals of the *Coachella Valley Water Management Plan* remain the same, the 2010 Update identifies ways and means of meeting changing demands and external factors. Since 2002, projected population and future water demands have changed significantly. The 2010 Update considered factors such as rapid population growth, development on tribal lands, changes in land use from agricultural to urban and corresponding changes in water demand.

External factors considered in the plan include the uncertainty of State Water Project allocations and climate changes that could further affect the long-term reliability of State Water Project and Colorado River water supplies.

In developing the *Coachella Valley Water Management Plan 2010 Update*, the water district sought input from various stakeholders across the entire valley, including civic and community planners, the golf and agricultural industries, Indian tribes and other water agencies. For more information about the 2010 Update visit [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org).



## A column to answer your landscaping and water conservation questions

Dave Koller is the conservation coordinator for the Coachella Valley Water District. He has a master's degree in horticulture, is a certified arborist and landscape irrigation auditor.

**Q. What types of programs and services does CVWD offer to HOAs and large commercial properties?**

**A.** The Coachella Valley Water District helps HOAs find ways to update classic desert oasis aesthetics with 21st century desert savvy landscaping. CVWD water management specialists can guide your association or business in updating landscaping and irrigation systems. The district works closely with landscape managers and contractors to evaluate existing irrigation systems and make water-efficient changes that do not compromise aesthetics or recreational uses. These evaluations are free of charge.

During an irrigation evaluation, a CVWD water management specialist visits your site and meets with the landscape manager and landscape committee to evaluate the existing irrigation system. The specialist examines lot size, landscaping material, evapotranspiration data, billing history, meter size, water pressure, irrigation controllers and drip/sprinkler systems.

After the initial consultation, your HOA will be presented with a full report highlighting maintenance issues and conservation opportunities. Suggestions to reduce water usage may include taking small steps such as adjusting water pressure or changing watering times. The specialist can determine if your association is eligible for CVWD's smart controller discount program that can reduce water use by up to 30 percent.

Coachella Valley Water District provides a rebate to large landscape customers for purchasing and installing smart

irrigation controllers. Large landscape customers may be eligible for rebates of up to \$750 per irrigated acre or half the cost of the controller, whichever is less.

To be eligible for the smart controller rebate program, large landscape customers must own the property where the controller is to be installed, have an account in good standing with the district, have one year of water use history and have an existing fully-functioning irrigation controller (not a smart controller).

A program for residential customers is also available. Under the residential program, CVWD customers may be eligible to purchase a smart irrigation controller for a discounted rate of \$50 for an indoor system or \$100 for an outdoor system. See application for details.

To date, CVWD has installed more than 1,200 residential smart controllers and more than 300 large landscape customers have participated in the discount program.

Applications for the smart controller discount program are available at [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org) or at CVWD offices located at 85995 Avenue 52 in Coachella, or 75525 Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert. Applications must be submitted in person at either office or mailed to the district's mailing address at P.O. Box 1058, Coachella, CA 92236.

Our water management specialists are also available to speak to groups of residents about conservation and water management. To schedule a presentation or an irrigation evaluation call the district at (760) 398-2651.



## Home Makeover in the Desert

**A television program featuring Dave Koller, CVWD Water Conservation Coordinator**

Don't miss this month's new episode! Watch Dave as he discusses converting from turf to desert-friendly landscaping.

Hosted by Charissa Farley

Watch this show on Time Warner Channels 4 and 27  
Daily at 1 p.m. and Thursdays at 10:30 p.m.

To watch past shows visit [www.kajonmedia.com](http://www.kajonmedia.com)

## CVWD offers workshop for home gardeners

What suits a desert home better than a water-efficient, desert-friendly landscape?

Home gardeners who want to learn how to create their own lush and efficient home landscapes are invited to attend Coachella Valley Water District's Water Wise Landscape Workshop for Home Gardeners on Wednesday, March 30, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at UC Riverside's Palm Desert Graduate Center (75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert).

The two-hour workshop will feature presentations by experts in desert landscape design, caring for desert trees and efficient irrigation techniques.

Teaching and promoting desert landscaping is essential to CVWD's conservation efforts. Outdoor water use can account for as much as 80 percent of a home's water consumption. This workshop is designed for home gardeners who want to learn more about desert landscaping, water-efficient irrigation and how to better manage their water use. Workshops for home gardeners and landscape professionals are one of several CVWD water conservation programs that help customers meet their water budgets and reduce their outdoor water use.

Workshop attendees will receive a copy of the district's popular landscaping guide, Lush & Efficient Landscape Gardening in the Coachella Valley along with a CD-ROM and refreshments.

To register online with a credit card, visit [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org). Or, pay with cash, check or credit card at either of CVWD's offices: 85-995 Avenue 52 in Coachella; or 75-525 Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert. Cost is \$10 per person.



# Water Wise

## Landscape Workshop for Home Gardeners

**March 30, 2011**

**6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

UCR Palm Desert Graduate Center  
75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert

**Topics include smart irrigation, desert trees and landscape design**

**Registration cost is \$10 per person**


For more information or to register  
visit [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org)



Presented by Coachella Valley Water District  
Contact CVWD at (760) 398-2651

### Irrigation Guide

This table shows the approximate amount of water different landscaping typically needs. Individual watering times vary based on sprinkler efficiency, soil and weather conditions. Gradually reduce the amount of water to find an adequate amount for your landscaping without being wasteful.

	Water-efficient shrubs	Water-efficient trees	Non-desert trees	Turf grass
<b>February</b>	.9 gal./day 3 days/week	21 gal./day 3 days/week	56 gal./day 3 days/week	Spray system: 6 min./day; 7 days/week Rotor system: 15 min./day; 7 days/week
<b>March</b>	.9 gal./day 4 days/week	16 gal./day 4 days/week	53 gal./day 4 days/week	Spray system: 9 min./day; 7 days/week Rotor system: 21 min./day; 7 days/week
<b>April</b>	1 gal./day 5 days/week	17 gal./day 5 days/week	59 gal./day 5 days/week	Spray system: 12 min./day; 7 days/week Rotor system: 27 min./day; 7 days/week



Coachella Valley Water District  
 P.O. Box 1058  
 Coachella, CA 92236

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**Contact Information**

Phone: (760) 398-2651  
 Fax: (760) 391-9634  
 www.cvwd.org  
 cvwdmail@cvwd.org



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## News droplet

# Landscape professionals attend water management seminars

In January, Coachella Valley Water District hosted two Water Management for Landscape Professionals seminars. These seminars were held at the University of California Riverside's Palm Desert Graduate Center. One seminar was taught in English and the other was taught entirely in Spanish.

Certified water conservation managers and turf and irrigation experts gave presentations to more than 60 landscape

professionals on subjects including Coachella Valley soils, drip irrigation, smart controllers, water pressure regulation and irrigation scheduling.

Class participants included industry business owners, landscape managers, landscapers from cities and country clubs and HOA landscape committee members. All participants received a certificate of completion. Participants with professional landscape companies are now listed on CVWD's website.

This six-hour water management seminar is designed to help local landscape professionals learn to more efficiently irrigate their clients' lawns and gardens in this arid, hot climate. This seminar provides technical information to help landscape professionals achieve those goals without wasting water.

About 70 to 80 percent of all domestic water in the Coachella Valley is used outdoors. For this reason, CVWD's conservation programs focus on reducing outdoor water use. Current conservation programs include residential and large landscape smart controllers at a reduced rate and residential landscape workshops.

For more information about future workshops and other CVWD events, visit [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org).

