



## Recycled Water Used for Construction of New Palmdale Housing Development

A developer preparing to build hundreds of homes in east Palmdale is using recycled water for earthwork, dust control and compaction, saving millions of gallons of potable water.

Since December, contractors for Newport Beach-based Pacific Communities Builder have had a constant flow of water trucks hauling recycled water to assist with prepping 26-acres of land at the northeast corner of 35th Street East and Avenue R. The water trucks fill up with 2,000 gallons each time they pull water from two stations provided by the Palmdale Recycled Water Authority (PRWA).

"This is responsible use of recycled water," said Palmdale Water District (PWD) Construction Inspector Loel Haviland. "Instead of letting the water evaporate in the ponds in the desert, we can utilize it and benefit from it."

It is estimated that about 6.2 million gallons of recycled water will be used for the nearly 300-home project named Pacific Wildflower, which neighbors Wildflower Elementary School. Saving that amount of potable water could supply about 32 families with enough water for one year. A family of four uses an average of 190,000 gallons annually.

The recycled water is from the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County Nos. 14 and 20 in Lancaster and Palmdale. The reclamation plants, which are not connected, treat the water to tertiary levels so that it can be reused, recycled or discharged back into the aquifer. Most of PRWA's water is supplied by the Palmdale site.

Since 2012, recycled water has been sold by PRWA, which was jointly created by PWD and the city of Palmdale to manage and find ways to use the recycled resources from the reclamation plants.

"Especially in a year when we are experiencing a dry winter, saving any amount of potable water is critical," said PWD GM and PRWA Executive Director Dennis D. LaMoreaux. "We are working to make sure more recycled water is used in our community."

Haviland said 30-50 applications are received each year for PRWA water that is available at four filling sites — Avenue R and 30th Street East, Avenue Q and 30th Street East, Avenue P-8 and 30th Street East, and Avenue M and Sierra Highway. They include using the water for washing solar panels, cooling railroad ties during welding and grinding, and irrigation. All applications must also be approved by the Sanitation Districts.

Currently, most of PRWA's recycled water is used for irrigating McAdam Park in Palmdale. Future plans call for recycled water to be used for recharge projects and to irrigate more city parks, other landscaped areas, and schools.

Aside from keeping McAdam Park green, PRWA's water is often used for construction since PWD does not sell potable water for rough grading for construction projects with more than one parcel of land. For contractors, there is a 25% savings when using recycled water.

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### CALENDAR

#### PWD Lobby Closed

For updates, check PWD website at [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org).

#### Board Meetings

Mondays @ 6 p.m.  
Via Teleconference Until Further Notice  
Info available on Board Agenda  
March 8 & 22  
April 12 & 26  
May 10 & 24  
June 14 & 28

#### PWD Closure

Memorial Day, Monday, May 31

#### Virtual Let's Talk H2O! Hazard Mitigation Plan

Wednesday, May 19, @ 3-3:30 p.m.  
Sign up at [bit.ly/2NTW4UH](http://bit.ly/2NTW4UH)

**SCAM ALERT: PWD will never call customers to collect payments. If you have questions about your bill, call our Customer Care Reps at 661-947-4111.**

**Atención: Esta publicación está disponible en español en nuestro sitio web en [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org). Para obtener una copia impresa en español, llame al 661-947-4111.**



# The State of Our Water Supply

Four hundred miles away from Palmdale, the Sierra Nevada mountains in northern California are experiencing their second year of below average snow accumulation. On March 2, the California Department of Water Resources measured snow depth and water content at the mountains. Results show the water content of the overall snowpack was 61% of the average for early March.

This is important to PWD customers because nearly 50% of PWD's annual water supply originates from there and is delivered to Lake Palmdale by the State Water Project via the California Aqueduct. While an atmospheric river could still occur and bring some much-needed rain and snow to the Sierra Nevada, the forecasts for March and April are not encouraging.

If the year continues to be dry, PWD will be reaching out to its customers to help conserve this precious resource. Stay tuned and be sure to check out available Water-Use Efficiency Rebate programs.

## Non-Potable Bulk Water Now Available at PWD Self-Serve

PWD is now offering a self-serve bulk water fill station for contractors and others needing small amounts of non-potable water.

p.m. Monday through Thursday, excluding holidays.

The station has output sizes of ¾ inch and 2½ inches for pump attachments. It allows water purchasers to quickly fill up water trucks or tanks and pay with a credit card. There is a minimum purchase of 50 gallons at a cost of 10 cents per gallon.

Bulk water is often used for water truck services, filling pools, stand-by fire protection, concrete cleaning, dust control and watering large landscapes. Using the station eliminates the need for applications and costly deposits for accessing bulk water from fire hydrants.

The station is located along the fence just east of PWD's main office at 2029 East Avenue Q in Palmdale. It is open from 6 a.m. to 5:30

For more information, call the Engineering Department at 661-947-4111 ext. 5099.



## BACKFLOW DEVICE OWNERS URGED TO USE NEW ONLINE SERVICE

Palmdale Water District is asking backflow device owners and testers to register and submit results online as it moves to a paperless Cross-Connection Program.

Once customers are registered online, all notices will be sent to them by email. After July 1, 2021, there will be a \$35 paper processing fee for those not using the online service.

The program is using Syncta, a division of Watts Regulators Inc., which enables PWD to electronically notify customers about the annual tests that require them to make sure devices are preventing water from flowing back into the potable water system. Backflow devices are most common in commercial settings.

Although Syncta charges \$4.95 for each submission, PWD will cover that fee for its customers. For the past few months, information about the new online program has been included in all notices sent to customers about their backflow testing deadlines.

"This new system is efficient and will save time," said Assistant GM Adam Ly. "The District hopes everyone will migrate to it."

Cross-connection testers can enter test data using the phone app. The program also allows PWD to validate results and track progress.

To register for the online program, go to [bit.ly/3rh3JLa](https://bit.ly/3rh3JLa).



Assistant Engineer Jaron Hollida (left) and Engineering Tech Daniel Maldonado (right) checking the Bulk Water Fill Station.

# Emergency Sediment Removal Completed at Littlerock Reservoir Following Bobcat Fire

Contractors have removed about 19,000 cubic yards of sediment from Littlerock Reservoir in preparation for potential heavy debris flow from last year's Bobcat fire in the Angeles National Forest.

The fire burned about 60% of Palmdale Water District's 41,088-acre watershed. After reviewing the area, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) predicted that the fire, which burned for more than one month last September, will negatively affect the reservoir for a minimum of three years.

"This is the most damage the Little Rock Creek watershed has suffered since the Littlerock Dam was built nearly 100 years ago," said GM Dennis D. LaMoreaux.

Costa Mesa-based Innovative Construction Solutions spent the past month excavating, hauling and disposing sediment that included dirt, sand, and rocks from the San Gabriel Mountains. Later this year, more sediment will be removed as part of Phase 2 of the Littlerock Sediment Removal Project, which calls for removing 1.2 million cubic yards of sediment in the next seven to 12 years to restore the 1992 capacity of the reservoir.

Looking to USGS for assistance in studying the impact of the Bobcat fire, PWD signed a four-year contract with the federal agency calling for it to survey the reservoir in the spring and fall. A time-lapse camera, operated by the USGS Water Sciences Center in Sacramento, will be installed and focused on Little Rock Creek.

USGS also warned about fire debris affecting water quality, but LaMoreaux assures customers that PWD laboratory

analysts are constantly testing water quality at the dam, which provides about 10% of the District's annual water supply. Any quality problems will be treated at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant before the water is served to customers.

Citing the severity of the damage to the forest, the U.S. Forest Service has closed this part of the Angeles National Forest to the public through April 1, 2022. The closure map can be found at [bit.ly/3bh62p](https://bit.ly/3bh62p).



Contractors removing sediment at Littlerock Reservoir.

## HOW TO SAVE WATER THIS SPRING

- **Update your irrigation system with a smart controller.** A weather-based irrigation controller can improve your watering efficiency by up to **40%**.
- **Upgrade to water-efficient sprinklers.**
- **Eliminate leaks.** According to the EPA, a small leak on a hose, sprinkler or outdoor faucet can waste more than 6,000 gallons of water per year.
- **Choose drought-tolerant plants.** Careful plant selections can make a difference in water consumption.
- **Use mulch.** A thick layer of mulch helps keep the root zone cool and retains moisture in the soil.
- **Water the soil.** Carefully water at the root zone to keep evaporation to a minimum.
- **Mow high.** Keeping your grass at the upper recommended limit helps reduce evaporation.
- **Don't overwater.** Water is usually wasted through overwatering.





**VIRTUAL LANDSCAPE CONVERSION WORKSHOP COMING SOON!**

PWD Water-Use Efficiency Specialists will explain the process and give advice on the best native plants to use in your xeriscape garden. To register, visit [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org).



**RATE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Need assistance paying your PWD bill? The RAP will reduce monthly service fees by up to **50%** for qualifying households. Funds are limited. Apply today! For more info, visit [bit.ly/2QNwKMV](http://bit.ly/2QNwKMV).



**CONTACT US!**

**CUSTOMER CARE:** 661-947-4111  
**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](http://PALMDALEWATER.ORG)

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

**2029 E. AVENUE Q  
PALMDALE, CA 93550**



# WANTED:

## Water Super Heroes for 2021 Earth Day Poster Contest

**PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT IS HOSTING A "BE A WATER HERO" POSTER CONTEST FOR GRADES K-8!**

**In celebration of Earth Day, we want young water super heroes to submit posters that show how they are water heroes by conserving water for the future. The poster must be at least 8½ x 11 inches in size and include the artist's name, grade, teacher and school. The artwork also should include a creative title, ways you conserve water, how you are a water hero, and a brief message about the importance of Earth Day. Be creative!**

**One entry per student is allowed. All entries are due at the Palmdale Water District no later than 4 p.m. on April 19, 2021. Only schools within PWD's service boundaries are eligible to participate.**

**For more information, contact Water-Use Efficiency Specialist Robert Rosati at 661-441-5943.**

## Follow Palmdale News & Events






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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.*