

# CHECK YOURSELF

## *CHECK YOUR WATER USE*



WHAT'S YOUR  
20%?

### Partner with the Desert Water Agency to Conserve Water

When Governor Brown declared a drought emergency, he called on all Californians to cut back their water use by 20%. Desert Water Agency is taking the current drought very seriously and recently enacted water-saving programs and partnerships that encourage conservation. Look inside to find out more about these new efforts and ways that you can help save water during the drought.

YOUR PARTNER IN CONSERVING  
DESERT WATER



[www.dwa.org/conservation](http://www.dwa.org/conservation)



## Living with the Drought

As desert residents, everyone in the Coachella Valley understands the challenges of living in an arid climate, but the ongoing drought drastically amplifies those challenges. While the Coachella Valley will not run out of water any time soon, there is an unprecedented need to conserve. There is a very real possibility that this drought will not end in the near future and actions need to be taken to prepare for what could be a very long, dry road ahead.

## Our Most Precious Resource

About 95% of the clean, refreshing water the Desert Water Agency (DWA) supplies to Coachella Valley homes, businesses and more comes from the groundwater basin – or aquifer. The water in our aquifer is one of the area’s greatest treasures.



DWA, along with Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), has been tasked with guarding this precious resource. DWA and CVWD help to ensure the groundwater basin is carefully managed by importing water from the State Water Project (SWP), the system that provides water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains to 26 million people across California. However, there is not a direct connection from the SWP to the Coachella Valley, so DWA and CVWD exchange their SWP allotments for water supplies from the Colorado River. DWA and CVWD use the Colorado River water to replenish the aquifer. More than 3.1 million acre-feet (1 trillion gallons) of imported water have been used to replenish the groundwater basin.

DWA is committed to protecting the aquifer and continuing to provide a reliable supply of water to the families and communities that rely on it.

## Conservation is Crucial

It is no surprise that during these record-setting dry conditions excess water throughout the state is in short supply. In fact, the California Department of Water Resources announced that agencies that receive supplies from the SWP may not receive any of their allotted water supplies for 2014.

Without water from the SWP, DWA will not be able to use imported supplies to replenish the groundwater basin – making water conservation more important than ever.



**Find Everyday  
Ways to Save**



**CHECK YOURSELF**

**For more information on DWA’s water conservation programs and partnerships, plus even more water saving tips, please visit:**

## How You Can Conserve

DWA has a number of conservation programs available to customers. Find out more about these programs below, plus a number of easy steps that everyone can take to save water:



### SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLERS

Smart controllers save water used for landscaping by customizing water times for irrigation systems based on the climate, temperature and evapotranspiration rate. If you are a DWA customer, the Agency will install one at no cost to you.



### REPORT WATER WASTE APP

DWA's new mobile app allows customers to easily report water waste from their smart phones and includes conservation tips to help customers reduce their water use.



### TOILET REBATE PROGRAM

DWA's existing toilet rebate program helps customers replace old, water-wasting toilets with new, high-efficiency models. The Agency is revising the toilet rebate program to make it even easier for customers to take advantage of the rebates.



### WATER AUDITS

DWA offers large water users free comprehensive irrigation system water audits and provides a report and suggestions for conserving water. DWA recently launched an outreach program that will connect with these big users and encourage them to participate.



### EVERYDAY WAYS TO SAVE

When Governor Brown declared a drought emergency he called on all Californians to cut back their water use by 20%, here are a few easy ways to get there:

- ✓ Turn off the water when brushing your teeth.
- ✓ Fix leaky faucets and toilets.
- ✓ Wash full laundry loads.
- ✓ Reduce shower time by a few minutes.
- ✓ Use a broom to clean driveways and sidewalks.



## Partnering to Conserve

DWA has partnered with some of the region's hospitality industry water users to take steps that will result in big water savings. Some of these partnerships include:

### ✓ HOSPITALITY CONSERVATION PROGRAM

In order to help local hotels reduce their water use, DWA created room cards, door hangers and pillow cards that allow guests to voluntarily reuse towels and choose when to have their sheets changed.

### ✓ RESTAURANTS DOING THEIR PART

Many local restaurants will only be serving water upon request. DWA has provided tabletop displays that remind restaurant patrons that "Water is a precious resource - every drop counts."

### ✓ GOLF COURSES RECYCLE

All public golf courses that DWA serves have made the switch to recycled water. Using this water supply makes a big difference in lessening our region's demand on the aquifer.

## How HOAs Can Help



Homeowners Associations (HOA) are large water users, so DWA works with them to conserve. DWA offers a number of HOA specific resources and tools that make saving water easy:

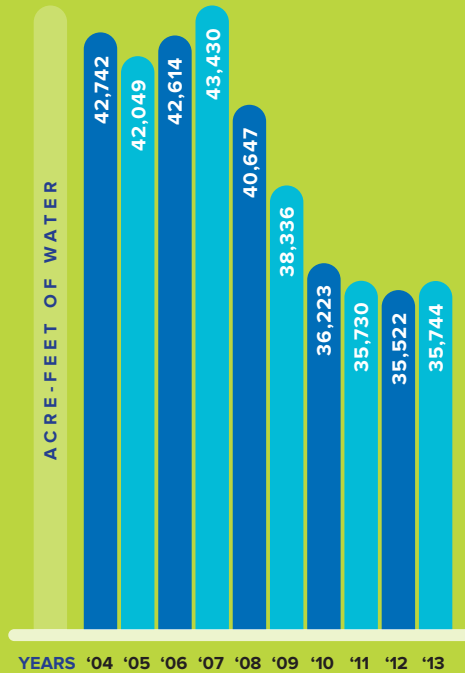
- Landscape water audits
- HOA smart controller installation
- HOA water-saving workshops - coming soon!

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# DWA'S COMMITMENT



## Annual Water Consumption



**DWA** was established to help ensure that the Coachella Valley will have a reliable water supply for generations to come and we take that job very seriously.

“Water is the single most valuable resource and protecting our groundwater is a big responsibility,” said DWA Board of Directors President Craig Ewing. “That is why we are committed to ensuring this water is not wasted and that our customers have the information and resources necessary to conserve.”

Through enacting numerous conservation programs – such as smart controller rebates, water use audits, toilet rebates and education programs – DWA has helped its customers reduce water use by 20% since 2007. The additional measures recently adopted by the Board will only expand DWA’s water saving ability.

“In addition to our existing efforts, the Desert Water Agency will continue to strengthen our partnerships in the community to develop more long-term conservation strategies. Together, we will ensure our community has a reliable water supply for decades into the future,” said Ewing.

Balancing the replenishment and withdrawal of our groundwater supplies along with furthering conservation efforts will ensure a sustainable water supply for the Coachella Valley.

If you're not a DWA customer, please visit [www.CVwatercounts.com](http://www.CVwatercounts.com)

WHAT'S YOUR  
20%?

Desert Water Agency is a public, non-profit agency and a State Water Contractor that serves a population of 60,000 full-time residents along with the region's abundance of visitors and seasonal residents in a 325-square-mile area, including parts of Cathedral City, outlying county areas, Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs. An elected five-member board sets policy and represents the ratepayers.

YOUR PARTNER IN CONSERVING  
**DESERT WATER**



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