

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **CONTACT:**

**Claudette Roberts, Water Conservation Manager – 661-947-4111 x120**

### **PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT NOW OFFERS ONLINE RESIDENTIAL WATER USE CALCULATOR**

**Palmdale, CA, April 16, 2009** – The Palmdale Water District ([www.palmdalewater.org](http://www.palmdalewater.org)) announced today that it's residential and irrigation customers now have access to an online water budget calculator. The PWD has implemented this service in an effort to help its customers understand how the proposed water rate would affect them. The Palmdale Water District understands the critical need to conserve our dwindling water supply and believes that this new online service will help customers understand the financial impacts of the new rates, based on their past use of water.

“We are very pleased to offer this service to our customer base,” PWD General Manager Randy Hill stated. “Nobody likes a rate increase, but you have to respect the Board of Directors that will show customers exactly how the rate affects them. I don't know of another utility company that has done that. The reality of our situation is that an increase is necessary to develop new reliable water supplies, pay for water quality, and address financial shortfalls. We need our community to understand the various ways in which each of us can significantly reduce our water usage. Water is our most valuable resource and we have to treat it that way. This water calculator will not only help to communicate that message but will also be a tool for our customers to identify higher future water bills and take actions to avoid them now and for the years to come.

“The District is developing a multitude of rebate programs to assist customers with water conservation.” notes Water Conservation Manager Claudette Roberts. “Programs developed and underway include the “Cash for Grass” turf replacement program, and rebates for toilet change outs, smart irrigation controllers, and high efficiency clothes washing machines. Anyone that goes onto our website can quickly begin to understand how they can make even slight changes to their current water use practices and see significant reduction in their monthly water bill. It's a fun way to save

money and it becomes clear that the more recommended changes one makes, the more money can be saved.”

Individual water budgets for the Palmdale Water District are determined by the number of people in a residence, as well as the water required for irrigation landscaping up to 45% of any parcel’s total area. Irrigation accounts receive credit for 100% of their area. The online water calculator is easy to use by entering your account number and number of people residing in the home. It will display the cost paid for water service in 2008 and the amount that would be paid in 2009 and 2010 under the proposed rates. A rate hearing is scheduled at the District offices for May 13, at 7 p.m.

The District will also be developing a commercial account calculator that should be available in early May.

### **About Palmdale Water District**

The Palmdale Water district has been serving the community since 1918 and has grown from an agency providing irrigation water for 60 customers, to an agency providing domestic water to the thriving community we know today. Founded as Irrigation District supplying water mainly to farms for agricultural use, the district’s boundaries have expanded with Palmdale’s rapid population growth and the District has shifted to providing predominantly municipal and industrial water. The Palmdale Water District is currently divided into five divisions covering areas in East and West Palmdale. The Palmdale Water District remains dedicated to providing clean, pure water; state of the art facilities to meet current and future needs; attentive staff committed to customer satisfaction; treatment and testing to ensure high quality water; education on water conservation and safety; and reliable supply and resourceful planning insuring customer satisfaction and continued reasonable rates. The Palmdale Water District can be reached by calling (661) 947-4111. The Palmdale Water District is located at 2020 East Avenue Q in Palmdale California

#### **Palmdale Water District Board Members:**

Division 1      Jeff Storm - President

Division 2      Dick Wells - Treasurer

Division 3 Linda Godin - Secretary  
Division 4 Raul Figueroa - Director  
Division 5 David Gomez - Vice President

**“Use Water Wisely. It’s a Way of Life”**