



the PIPELINE

Volume 4 Issue 2

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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 service; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water conservation; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency.

2018 Water-Wise Landscape Conversion Program

PWD is offering property owners cash rebates to remove any grass and/or convert their front yards to a water-wise, drought friendly, xeriscape landscape.

Funding is limited, and applications will be processed in the order they are received. For more information, please call 661-456-1001.

100th Anniversary Student Contests



Congratulations to all the winners and participants of our 100th Anniversary Coloring, Essay and Public Service Announcement contests! The PWD Board of Directors awarded certificates to the students from Palmdale School District and Highland and Knight high schools for their participation. Above are a few winning entries from the coloring contest, which had 200 participants.

NEW Water Ambassadors Academy

Now Accepting Applications for Fall 2018!

Palmdale Water District is launching a Water Ambassadors Academy to give interested community members the opportunity to learn in-depth about PWD's history, infrastructure, facilities, water sources, and future projects.

The goal of this new program is to engage and educate a diverse network of individuals in the PWD service area, who will become water ambassadors in their communities so that more people become familiar with PWD.

The four-session academy is scheduled for 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesdays, Sept. 19, Sept. 26 and Oct. 3; and at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 6.

Applicants selected for the program must commit to all four scheduled sessions. There are no fees. Space is limited.

If you would like more information, please contact Public Affairs Director Judy Shay at js Shay@palmdalewater.org or 661-456-1041.

To submit your application, please go online to palmdalewater.org/waterambassadors. The deadline is August 31.

*Dinner will be provided before each evening session begins.



PWD Collects Water from Palmdale Public Schools for Lead Testing

Drinking water samples from nearly 30 Palmdale public schools collected by Palmdale Water District (PWD) are being tested for traces of lead, and results are expected in a few months.

The statewide lead testing in water, mandated by California Assembly Bill 746 (AB 746), requires community water systems, such as PWD, to test the lead levels of drinking water at all public school properties that were built before January 2010. Lead levels at 15 parts per billion (ppb) or above will need immediate attention. If a high level is detected, the drinking water source and those like it must be disconnected indefinitely or replaced.

As required by the state, PWD worked with Palmdale School District (PSD), Antelope Valley Union High School District (AVUHSD), and other education organizations to coordinate the testing that occurred recently.

"The Palmdale School District is pleased to work in collaboration with the Palmdale Water District as we test the water at our school sites for any evidence of lead in the drinking water," said PSD Superintendent Raul Maldonado. "Our interest is always to keep our students safe from any unsafe drinking water. We are confident that the quality of water provided by Palmdale Water District is very safe to drink."

Water samples were collected from 29 sites, including K-12, preschools and child care facilities, located on public school properties that are within PWD's service area. They include 15 elementary schools, five intermediate schools, one dual immersion school, three high schools and five child care facilities.

(Continued on page 2)

100th ANNIVERSARY EVENT: Grand Celebration

Sunday, July 22, 2018
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
PWD
2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale
Join us for free tacos, ice cream (while supplies last) and activities for the family. Spread the word! Invite your friends and family.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Landscape Workshops:

Summer Plants & Their Care
Saturday, July 21
9-11am @ Antelope Valley College

Design Now, Plant This Fall
Saturday, August 18
9-11am @ Antelope Valley College

Native Plants
Saturday, Sept. 15
9-11am @ Antelope Valley College

Board Meetings

Mondays @ 6 p.m.
PWD Board Room
2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale
July 9 & 23
August 13 & 27
September 10 & 24

2017 Annual PWD Consumer Confidence Report Now Available Online

Each year, Palmdale Water District provides the Consumer Confidence Report online to inform our customers about the quality of our water. If you wish to have a paper copy of the Report mailed to you, call PWD at 661-947-4111 ext. 1001.

Attention: This publication is available in Spanish on our website at palmdalewater.org.
Atención: Esta publicación está disponible en español en nuestro sitio web en palmdalewater.org.

MAJOR CONCERT ANNOUNCEMENT COMING IN JUNE!
FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK FOR UPDATES

FREEDOM CELEBRATION & Fireworks
FEATURING THE ALLEY CATS SOUL CITY BAND
SATURDAY, JUNE 30

THE LAO TIZER BAND
FEATURING ERIC MARIENTHAL, CHIELI MINUCCI & KAREN BRIGGS
PLUS INCENDIO
SATURDAY, JULY 14

BRET MICHAELS
SATURDAY, JULY 21

THE METAL ARCHERS
SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

TICKETS: WWW.PALMDALEAMPITHEATER.COM

Employee Spotlight:

Amanda Thompson, Water Quality/Regulatory Affairs Supervisor



Amanda Thompson

Before any water is distributed to Palmdale Water District customers at their homes and businesses, it undergoes intensive testing at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant's laboratory. That lab is where Water Quality/Regulatory Affairs Supervisor Amanda Thompson ensures that PWD's water meets all state and federal guidelines for safe drinking water.

Amanda and her two lab analysts, Audel Narez and Clement Do, are responsible for more than 20,000 water tests per year at 70 locations within PWD's service boundaries. Their tasks include testing all the water that feeds into the water treatment plant; water pumped from wells; and water that is to be distributed after undergoing treatment at the state-of-the-art plant. Their tests include ruling out harmful bacteria, maintaining chlorine levels, and monitoring pH and total organic carbon (TOC) numbers.

This year, Amanda had the added responsibility of overseeing the testing of water for lead at all public schools within PWD's boundaries as required by the state.

Aside from water testing, the lab supervisor's job also entails generating reports for the public, such as the state mandated annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) and the Sanitary Survey, which is published every five years. The CCR details PWD's water quality while the Sanitary Survey delves into how PWD's water sources are being protected from contaminants.

Amanda, who has been the lab supervisor for five years, also answers customer concerns about water quality issues.

"I love that my job has purpose," she said. "What I do matters to our community. I like it that I help protect public health."

Although water being moved through the distribution system is only required to be tested every four hours, the lab and treatment plant operators promptly test the water every two hours. The lab works closely with the operators, who are responsible for making the adjustments if lab tests indicate imbalances in the water system.

"Amanda does a great job of making sure that the quality of water we are providing to our customers is at its best and is safe," said PWD Operations Manager Mynor Masaya, who manages the treatment plant and is Amanda's supervisor. "She stays on top of all the regulations and is very responsive to people who are truly concerned about their water quality."

A graduate of the University of California, Santa Barbara, Amanda joined PWD as a lab analyst in 2005 shortly after receiving her Bachelor of Science in Aquatic Biology. She served as an interim lab supervisor twice before accepting the permanent position in 2013.

When she is not wearing her white lab coat and peering into a microscope, the Simi Valley native likes to hike, crochet, knit and spend time with her husband and four stepdaughters.



Lead Testing

(Continued from page 1)

"We support testing our water supply to assure our community that we are providing fresh and clean water for our students and staff," said Dr. David J. Vierra, AVUHSD Superintendent.



Field Customer Care Rep Barry Fear tests water at Knight High School.

PWD staff gathered water from outside of the schools at the main lines and from water sources inside of the campuses. All samples were collected about 6 a.m. Tuesday through Friday to comply with the mandatory stagnant period. The state mandate requires that samples be taken from inside the campus where water has been stagnant for at least six hours so any traces of lead inside the distribution system can be detected.

"It is our responsibility to ensure that the drinking water provided by Palmdale Water District meets all state and federal drinking water standards," said PWD Water Quality/Regulatory Affairs Supervisor Amanda Thompson. "It is also our responsibility to determine if lead is present in the drinking water at our public schools."

All water samples were sent to Eurofins Eaton Analytical, a laboratory certified by the California Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP), for analysis. Results are not expected for several months. PWD will provide the results to school representatives and meet with designated school staff to assist with the interpretation of the sample results.

It is the responsibility of the schools to notify parents and guardians of the findings, and to fix or remove troublesome sources at the school sites. PWD will assist with sharing the results and will also be reporting the findings in its 2018 annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), which will be free and available online in 2019.

PWD's 2017 CCR is now available online at palmdalewater.org. To request a hard copy of the Report, please call PWD at 661-947-4111 ext. 1001.

Come Celebrate Our 100 Years with Us on July 22!

Mark your calendars! You won't want to miss Palmdale Water District's 100th Anniversary Grand Celebration where there will be something for everyone – free food (while supplies last), music, backhoe rodeo, petting zoo and vehicles from each decade dating back to the 1920s.

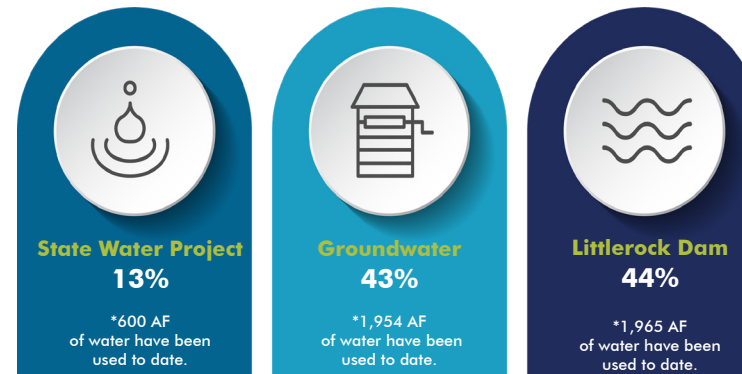
The event, free to the community, will be held on Sunday, July 22, from 1-4 p.m. at PWD, 2029 East Avenue Q in Palmdale. The celebration will feature fun activities for children, including face painting, temporary tattoos and photos with farm animals. On display will be antique cars and emergency vehicles, including two from Air Force Plant 42's Fire Department. There also will be booths offering information about PWD's services and projects and the City of Palmdale. Attendees will receive a limited number of tacos, ice cream and giveaways.

U.S. Congressman Steve Knight, State Assemblyman Tom Lackey and State Senator Scott Wilk are scheduled to join the PWD Board of Directors and staff to officially kick off the celebration. One of the highlights will be the "locking" of a time capsule, which will contain memorabilia from PWD's first 100 years.

For more information about our Grand Celebration, please go to PWD's website at palmdalewater.org or call 661-947-4111.

Water Supply At-A-Glance: Jan.-April 2018

PWD obtains its water from one of three sources or a combination of the sources: State Water Project (SWP/CA Aqueduct), Littlerock Dam and groundwater wells.



*1 Acre Foot (AF) = 325,851 Gallons (Numbers reflect water production from January - April 2018)

Note: In order to accommodate construction of the Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project, operators have strategically drawn more water from Littlerock Dam in comparison to other years.

PWD Water and Energy Resources Director Jon Pernula states that the water supply for 2018 looks promising. PWD recently received an increase in its water allocation, allowing it to draw up to 35% from SWP. The North Sierra precipitation index, which includes snowpack in the Feather River basin, shows a rainfall record of 39.7 inches, or 81%, of an average year, which will help enhance water supply yields to SWP contractors.

PWD Awarded with District of Distinction Honor

We are proud to announce that PWD has received the highest honor, District of Distinction's Platinum Level, from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF)! It is awarded to districts whose board members and general managers have completed all SDLF programs, demonstrating a comprehensive approach to excellence in district administration and governance. As of today, PWD is only one of six special districts in California to receive this honor. There are about 2,000 special districts in the state.



LITTLEROCK DAM TO OPEN ON TWO WEEKENDS IN JUNE

Three years after it was closed, the Littlerock Dam and Reservoir will open temporarily for recreational use on the weekends of June 9-10 & 16-17 from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The community is invited to enjoy the areas around the reservoir. There will be no fees charged.

The U.S. Forest Service agreed to the public openings after Friends of the Littlerock Dam (FOLD) urged the federal agency and Palmdale Water District to allow Antelope Valley residents some access to the site, which served as a recreational facility for decades.

These opening weekends are taking place before the start of PWD's construction next month on a grade-control structure to protect the endangered arroyo toads. Building the structure marks the beginning of PWD's Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project, a plan to remove about 1.1 million cubic yards of accumulated sediment from the reservoir to increase capacity at the nearly century-old dam.

During the two weekends, PWD staff will be available to answer questions about the sediment project. Representatives from Aspen Environmental also will be on hand to offer information about wildlife in the area.

Littlerock Reservoir Sediment Removal Project Timeline

