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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.



**New Water-use Efficiency Programs**

PWD has three new programs to help customers cut back on the amount of water they are using outdoors. They are:

- **Micro-irrigation Conversion Rebate** – It offers qualifying applicants a rebate of 25 cents per linear foot of micro-irrigation system installed up to \$15,000 maximum. This program targets commercial customers, multi-family residences and HOAs with larger scale conversions that want to switch from traditional sprinklers to highly efficient micro-irrigation. (New construction does not qualify for this rebate.)
- **Residential Water Survey** – This free program is available to PWD property owners and tenants who want help identifying leaks and irrigation issues at their residences. A Field Customer Care Rep will visit the home to review options for reducing water use and to check for possible issues with faucets, showers, toilets and water heaters.
- **Water-wise Sprinkler Upgrade Rebate Program** – Customers may receive a \$4 account credit for every sprinkler retrofitted with an HE/MP Rotator nozzle.

For more information on each program, please call Water Conservation Aide Linda Trevino at 661-456-1001.

**PWD SUPPORTS PROP 3 on November Ballot**

The Palmdale Water District Board of Directors unanimously voted to support Proposition 3, also known as the Water Supply and Water Quality Act of 2018, which will appear on the Nov. 6 ballot.

If approved by voters, Prop 3 would make available \$8.9 billion to fund projects for water supply and quality, watershed restoration, fish and wildlife protection, sustainable groundwater management, infrastructure repair, and the repair of current dams and canals. In addition, \$500 million will go to assist disadvantaged communities with safe drinking water while \$640 million will be allocated to sustainable groundwater management.

Prop 3 proponents state that the bond will benefit all water users, the environment and agriculture. It will improve water supplies for the entire state and provide much needed investment in the state's sustainable water future.

**"Our First 100 Years" Book**

Get your PWD history book today! To commemorate our centennial, we published "Our First 100 Years" to document our vast and impressive history in the Antelope Valley. The book covers the period from the late 1800s to present. Cost is \$18, tax & shipping included. To buy the book, please contact PWD Executive Assistant Dawn Deans at 661-456-1003 or at [ddeans@palmdalewater.org](mailto:ddeans@palmdalewater.org).





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**Sanitary Survey Shows PWD's Compliance**

Palmdale Water District (PWD) has met the state requirement known as the Sanitary Survey that mandates water districts monitor their surface water sources to ensure any potential contamination is known and measures are in place to protect the water quality.

The surveys, required every five years for Community Water Systems, look at the environment's surrounding lakes, aqueducts, dams, reservoirs and other surface water-related infrastructure to see what negative impacts have occurred and how they may have affected the water quality. For PWD, the 2017 survey centered around the California Aqueduct, Lake Palmdale and the Littlerock Dam. Also concerning was the eight-mile Palmdale Ditch that runs from the dam to Lake Palmdale.

"We have to be very diligent and safeguard our surface water sources," said PWD General Manager Dennis D. LaMoreaux. "It's important for everyone to understand that any contaminants that go into these sources can affect the water that we produce. We need to keep our dam, lake and aqueduct clean."

At Lake Palmdale, PWD works with the Palmdale Fin and Feather Club to ensure that it is protected from invasive species and only thoroughly inspected boats are used for recreation. The Fin and Feather, which leases the lake from PWD, patrols the area at night. State regulations prohibit body contact, or swimming, in the lake.

"The most common concerns are microbiological contaminants related to human activity," said PWD Operations Manager Mynor Masaya, who oversees the treatment plant.

Harder to patrol than Lake Palmdale are the aqueduct, dam and ditch. Palmdale Ditch, which transports water from Littlerock Dam via gravity to Lake Palmdale, is primarily open and exposed to elements. PWD crews monitor the ditch daily to check for trash when it's in use. They also inspect fences, gates and other security measures.

*"It's important for everyone to understand that any contaminants that go into these sources can affect the water that we produce. We need to keep our dam, lake and aqueduct clean."*  
 - GM Dennis D. LaMoreaux

(Continued on page 2)

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**FREE Landscape Workshops:**

**Native Plants**  
 Saturday, September 15  
 9-11 a.m. at Antelope Valley College  
 3041 West Avenue K, Lancaster (Room TE3)

**Preparing for Winter; Don't Forget the Veggies**  
 Saturday, October 20  
 9-11 a.m. at Antelope Valley College  
 3041 West Avenue K, Lancaster (Room TE3)

**PWD Water-wise Landscape Conversion Program Workshop**  
 Saturday, October 27  
 9 a.m.-12 p.m.  
 Antelope Valley Resource Conservation District  
 10148 West Avenue I, Lancaster  
 Seating is limited. RSVP by calling 661-456-1001.

**Board Meetings:**

Mondays at 6 p.m.  
 PWD Board Room  
 2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale  
 September 10 & 24  
 October 8 & 22  
 November 26  
 (First meeting in Nov. will be rescheduled due to Veteran's Day holiday.)  
 December 10

**2017 Annual PWD Consumer Confidence Report**  
 Each year, Palmdale Water District provides the Consumer Confidence Report online to inform our customers about the quality of our water. The report is available online at [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org). 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](http://palmdalewater.org).  
**Atención:** Esta publicación está disponible en español en nuestro sitio web en [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org).

## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

### Mynor Masaya, Operations Manager

Palmdale Water District Operations Manager Mynor Masaya “fell” into the water business 33 years ago and is still enjoying his accidental profession. In 1985, an acquaintance got him a job at the Santa Clarita Water Company where he started out fixing leaks and installing residential water meters and pipes. Today, Mynor is responsible for a staff of 10 who make certain that water is properly tested and treated at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant.



Mynor Masaya

Mynor oversees the treatment plant that is staffed by plant operators, a lab supervisor and lab analysts. They test water samples at PWD’s three water sources – groundwater wells, the California Aqueduct and the Littlerock Dam. Water from the aqueduct and dam flow into Lake Palmdale where staff test and treat it before it goes through further treatment processes at the plant and distributed to more than 115,000 people in PWD’s service boundaries.

It was five years ago when Mynor joined PWD as a Treatment Plant Supervisor. He was promoted to his current position in 2015. Prior to PWD, he worked for two years for the city of Coalinga in its water treatment/wastewater plant after 17 years as a senior treatment plant operator for Castaic Lake Water Agency. He has Water Treatment Level 5 and Water Distribution Level 5 certifications, the highest available.

For Mynor, he credits his years working on both the crew and operator sides for fully understanding the dynamics of how to manage a treatment plant. He enjoys his job because of his interest in water treatment.

“Water treatment is fascinating to me,” Mynor said. “It’s an exciting field with everchanging technologies for water treatment processes to constantly complying with current and upcoming state water quality regulations. I enjoy the challenge of ensuring we provide the best quality water in the most cost-efficient manner.”

As one of only a handful of water agencies that uses state-of-the-art granular activated carbon (GAC) filtration for Total Organic Carbon removal to prevent formation of disinfection by-products when adding chlorine, PWD provides its customers with water of the highest quality that is disinfected and free of bacteria, parasites, viruses and organic toxins produced by algal blooms.

“People need to know that our water is safe to drink because PWD management provides all necessary resources to maintain the treatment plant running at its optimum performance,” Mynor said.

Mynor and his wife, who have four grown children, have lived in Palmdale for 20 years. He enjoys spending time with his family, traveling and walking his dog, Max.

## Sanitary Survey *(Continued from page 1)*

Mynor urges people to think about the repercussions of littering and illegal dumping. Many times, this can lead to the contamination of water. He said things such as garbage, furniture and dead animals have been removed from the ditch.

Surface water sources also can be negatively affected by events such as wildfires, oil spills, construction, storms and vehicle accidents. Impacts from any of these occurrences are studied as part of the Sanitary Survey. PWD gives information and data to Kansas-based Black & Veatch, an engineering, procurement and construction company, to conduct the survey. The consultant investigates and makes assessments.

According to Mynor, nothing has changed in the past 10 years to directly affect PWD’s surface water sources. The last oil spill was in 2012, and the last wildfire in the area was two years ago. Neither was a threat to the District’s water quality.

Another segment of the Sanitary Survey is the Water Quality Monitoring and Regulatory Compliance requirements. It spells out the need for monitoring raw water at the sources and treated water at the water treatment plant. For PWD, the survey indicates all regulations are being met.

“We are all good,” said Amanda Thompson, PWD Water Quality & Regulatory Affairs Supervisor. “We’ve met all of our regulatory compliance and expect to meet all future regulations.”



The Palmdale Ditch runs eight miles from Littlerock Dam to Lake Palmdale.



Littlerock Dam is one of three water sources for PWD.

## Construction at Littlerock Dam to Begin

Crews and equipment will begin arriving in September at Littlerock Dam for construction of the grade-control structure at Rocky Point. Colorado-based ASI Construction, which was awarded the \$9.275 million contract, will install and operate de-watering wells during the first month of the project. It will be followed by soil excavation. Cement will be poured at the end of the year. This initial phase will end in early 2019 after sediment is put back into the excavated area. The grade-control structure is required for the protection of the endangered arroyo toad during PWD’s sediment removal to restore the dam’s full water capacity to 3,500 acre-feet.

## RESIDENT BEAUTIFIES FRONT YARD, SAVES WATER



This was the Cerdas’ front yard before the renovation.

Francisco Cerda’s front yard is now the envy of the neighborhood. Gone are the dead grass, overgrown tree and two tons of dirt. His new yard features drought-tolerant plants, a small patch of grass, colored rocks and stamped-concrete walkways.

It is a prime example of xeriscape, or landscape that requires little irrigation and maintenance.

Francisco is one of Palmdale Water District’s customers who has taken advantage of the 2018 Water-wise Landscape Conversion Program, which gives property owners cash for removing any grass and/or converting their front yard to a water-wise, drought friendly landscape. The program was formerly known as Cash for Grass, which started in the early 2010s.

“We love it,” said Francisco, a retired electrician. “My neighbors come and ask me if they can hire me. My family visiting from Mexico tells me it’s beautiful.”

The front-yard renovation cost Francisco and his wife, Isabel, about \$5,000. They received \$2,000, the maximum available per qualifying res-

idence, from PWD. The program’s standard rebate offers \$1.50 per square foot up to \$1,500 per household. An additional 50 cents per square foot up to \$500 per household may be awarded for projects that are completed within 45 days.

Aside from how great it looks, the Cerdas are pleased with how much they are saving on their water bill. They are paying \$30-\$40 less per month, compared to when they watered their grass at their Boulder Ranch home in the area of 33rd Street East and Pearblossom Highway.

PWD Water Conservation Aide Linda Trevino said 20 of the 28 applicants this year have completed their landscape renovations.

“It’s always exciting to see the finished yards,” Linda said. “I love the creative ideas and designs of the property owners. Our residents are understanding that xeriscape/drought tolerant doesn’t mean just cactus. We are seeing more texture with various types and colors of rocks, similar to what the Cerdas used.”

There will be a Water-wise Landscape Conversion Program workshop on Oct. 27. (See Upcoming Events listing on page 1.) For more information, visit the PWD website at palmdalewater.org or contact Linda at 661-456-1001.



Francisco Cerda transformed his yard into xeriscape to save water.

## Water at Schools in PWD Service Area is Safe

Students at public schools within Palmdale Water District’s service boundaries can rest assured that the water they are drinking on campus is safe.

The 88 samples taken from 29 public schools all show lead numbers of less than 15 parts per billion (ppb), a threshold that triggers required action from the school district. Only one school, Tumbleweed Elementary School in the Palmdale School District, had a detectable 13 ppb at its multi-purpose room water fountain. Since it is below the 15 ppb, the water is considered safe to drink and no changes need to be made at the water source.

The remaining school campuses all had non-detectable lead levels in their drinking water samples.

“We are really happy with the test results,” said PWD Water Quality/Regulatory Affairs Supervisor Amanda Thompson. “We are dealing with some older schools, so having only one fountain with a higher level is definitely better than what we expected.”



## CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF SERVICE

More than 600 community members and elected officials attended Palmdale Water District’s 100th Anniversary Grand Celebration on July 22 to mark its important milestone of reaching the centennial and to kick-start the second century of service. A ceremonial ribbon was cut, and officials sliced into a 100th anniversary cake.

PWD also re-introduced its mascot, Aquadog, who underwent a makeover and is now a brown, floppy-ear dog. Attendees enjoyed free tacos and ice cream. They viewed historical displays, PWD’s new book and videos highlighting the agency’s projects, history, infrastructure and staff.

As part of its anniversary, PWD collected mementos for a time capsule that will be sealed until its 200th anniversary in the year 2118.

“We have accomplished a lot in our first 100 years, despite droughts, the Depression and recessions,” said GM Dennis D. LaMoreaux. “We are optimistic that our second century will be just as successful.”

