

the PIPELINE

PALMDALE WATER DISTRICT



Plans Being Developed to Monitor & Control Golden Mussels in Lake Palmdale

With confirmation from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) that three golden mussel veligers were detected in plankton tow samples collected from a dock at Lake Palmdale, Palmdale Water District (PWD) is preparing a Monitoring and Control Plan to address the invasive mollusk.

The veligers, which are the larval stage of the mollusk, were collected on June 26 and July 10 from a dock close to the California Aqueduct inlet to the lake. Lake Palmdale stores raw water from the aqueduct and Littlerock Reservoir prior to treatment at the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant. The actual source of the veliger mollusks has not been determined.

"I want to reassure our customers that the golden mussels are not affecting the water quality," PWD Assistant General Manager Scott Rogers said. "What they can do is multiply and clog pipes, pumps and treatment plants. It is important that we have a plan to monitor and control these mussels."



An infestation of golden mussels can clog pipes, pumps and treatment plants.



Artificial substrates like the one pictured are checked for the presence of mussels at the lake.

According to Rogers, a copper-based algacide, commercially available as EarthTec QZ, is effective in controlling mollusks. Other water agencies have used it effectively.

On July 15, CDFW confirmed the golden mussel veliger's presence using cross-polarized light microscopy, polymerase chain reaction and DNA sequencing. It marked the first of its discovery in a body of water connected to the aqueduct's East Branch. Invasive mussels have been detected in numerous locations in Northern California and the aqueduct's West Branch.

Since the golden mussels were discovered last October in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, they have been moving south along waterways next to the aqueduct. The Delta is the heart of the California State Water Project, which moves water from the north to the south via the 444-mile aqueduct.

In 2009, the PWD Board of Directors adopted the Policies and Procedures for Boat Access Restrictions at Palmdale Lake, Vessel Inspection, Tamper-proof Tag and Lake Monitoring Program. The Fin & Feather Club, which leases portions of Lake Palmdale for boating and fishing, works cooperatively with the District to have strict inspection rules for boats that are used in the lake under the program. Boaters are required to complete a survey prior to entry, and all boats are subject to inspection. The boat inspections performed by the club have been consistently conducted since 2009 to prevent the infestation of invasive mussels by contaminated boats.

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Calendar:

Board Meetings

Mondays @ 6 p.m.
Sept. 8 & 22
Oct. 13 & 27
Nov. 10 & 24
Mathis Board Room
2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale

Holiday Closures

Veterans Day
Tuesday, Nov. 11

Thanksgiving
Thursday, Nov. 27



Construction Moving Ahead on Pure Water AV Demonstration Facility

The steel framework has taken shape at the Pure Water Antelope Valley Demonstration Facility, marking a major milestone toward bringing this state-of-the-art project to life.

In about one year, the facility will showcase advanced water purification technology designed to turn recycled water into a safe, sustainable drinking water source for our community. The Demonstration Facility will test processes, train operators, and share the science of water reuse with the public before expanding to full-scale production.

Over the coming months, crews will continue installing structural components and preparing for the next phases of construction. We'll keep you updated on the progress, so you can watch as this vital resource for our region comes to life.

Learn more and follow the progress at www.purewaterav.org.



An artist's rendering depicts the PWAV Demonstration Facility at completion.



This aerial photo shows the PWAV building under construction.

We Appreciate Our Customers!



Dozens of customers and community members attended Customer Appreciation Day on July 22 at PWD's main office. Guests enjoyed light refreshments, met Aquadog, participated in hands-on water experiments, and took home water-saving tools and other giveaways. They also explored booths highlighting District services, conservation programs, job opportunities, and the Pure Water AV project, while also watching live demonstrations such as a water main repair. Thank you to everyone who joined us!





Customer Care Corner

Ask Customer Care Supervisor Tara Rosati

Q I paid a security deposit. Can I get that refunded?

A Yes. You may request a deposit refund in writing if your account has remained in good standing for at least one year. The account can have no shutoffs for non-payment or returned payments, and all PWD Rules & Regulations requirements must have been met.

Q Can I shut off my water at the meter?

A No. For safety and to protect the system, only PWD staff are authorized to operate the shut-off valve at the meter.

Q Does my new meter detect leaks?

A Yes. Our smart meters record hourly water usage, making it easier to spot possible leaks or over-irrigation.



PWD Board Director Vincent Dino Passes Away at 82

Board Director Vincent Dino, who represented PWD's Division 5, passed away on July 20 at his home in Palmdale. He was elected to the Board in 2013 and completed a little more than half of his third term prior to his unexpected death.

Director Dino, 82, served as the PWD Board President from 2018 to 2021, followed by two years as Vice President. He was also the Vice President in 2016 and 2017. His other PWD duties included chairing internal committees and serving as a liaison to external agencies. He was a retired Journeyman Electrician of 35 years and served on the city of Palmdale's Planning Commission for eight years, including two terms as chairman.

Having moved to Palmdale from the San Fernando Valley with his wife, Debbie, more than 30 years ago, he learned to garden in the desert and transformed his yard into drought-tolerant landscape. He was always eager to share his gardening skills and water conservation knowledge.

PWD General Manager Dennis D. LaMoreaux remembered Director Dino as an advocate for his constituents and a strong supporter of staff.

"I will not forget Director Dino's character and contributions to the District," LaMoreaux said.

The Board of Directors is expected to fill the vacant Division 5 seat by appointment before Sept. 18. The term will expire in December 2026, which will require the new appointee to file to run for the seat.

PWD Breaks Ground on Palmdale Ditch Conversion

PWD marked a major milestone with the groundbreaking on June 26 of the Palmdale Ditch Conversion: Upgrading the Flow project at Lake Palmdale. Funded in part by \$17.58 million from the California Department of Water Resources and \$5 million from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the multi-million-dollar effort will convert the first 2.5 miles of the historic 1880s open ditch into an enclosed pipeline. Once the entire 8.5 miles ditch is enclosed, the project will increase water flow from 18 to 60 cubic feet per second and save more than 1,500 acre-feet of water annually by reducing seepage, evaporation, and overspill. This investment ensures greater climate resilience, improved efficiency, and long-term benefits for PWD customers and the community.



The PWD Board and California Department of Water Resources Branch Manager for Financial Assistance Jule Rizzardo celebrate the groundbreaking at Lake Palmdale.

Stay Connected!

Follow us on social media for the latest news, events, and water-saving tips.

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855-498-9969
PAY ONLINE:
PALMDALEWATER.ORG

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

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The Pipeline is published by Palmdale Water District's Public Affairs Department.

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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.

WATER AWARENESS EDUCATION PROGRAM Attention Palmdale School District Teachers:

Schedule a Water Awareness Class Today!

This engaging and educational program is tailored to address essential water topics for various grade levels. Each 30-minute session includes informative content and time for questions and answers.

Topics Covered:

- A Fun Water Cycle Lesson: Water Is Never New
- The Journey of PWD's Water and Local Water Sources
- How Pollution Affects Our Water Supply
- How Is Water Treated?

This program is available to schools within PWD service boundaries.

To schedule a presentation, please contact Water-Use Efficiency Specialist Robert Rosati at 661-441-5943.

Rate Assistance Program Returns in November!

The PWD Rate Assistance Program (RAP) will begin accepting applications again this November for qualifying customers. Seniors aged 62 and older, veterans of any age, and low-income households may be eligible for assistance with their monthly service fee.

The program is offered on a first-come, first-served basis, and all participants must reapply each year. Customers already enrolled in the CARE program with Southern California Edison or SoCal Gas, and who can provide income verification, are encouraged to apply early to secure their spots.

