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IN THE KNOW

SAN BERNARDINO MUNICIPAL WATER DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2021

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SBMWD AWARDED WATERSMART GRANT FOR ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE

The San Bernardino Municipal Water Department (SBMWD) has been selected to receive a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant program. The grant will fund Phase I of SBMWD's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project which will install data communication infrastructure, upgrade 7,500 water meters to smart metering technology, and connect over one quarter of the Department's total water meters to an advanced metering network.

The AMI project will save water with more timely correction of leaks and notification of abnormal consumption patterns, and by providing access to real-time water use data through a new customer engagement portal. Resulting water savings will offset water pumped from San Bernardino's primary water source, the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, and help limit reliance on imported water supplies to recharge the basin.

"The system upgrades accomplished through the AMI project will allow SBMWD to increase operational efficiencies, save water, and provide better services to the Department's customers. The Department is proud to be one of the applicants selected for funding through the Bureau's WaterSMART grant," said Miguel Guerrero, SBMWD General Manager. "Deployment of the advanced metering network supports the many actions SBMWD is taking to ensure sustainability of our local water supplies."



TRUSTED, QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1905

UTILITY AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR SAN BERNARDINO RESIDENTS

Are you a renter in San Bernardino who is behind on rent or utility bills due to COVID-19? The City of San Bernardino may be able to help you with 12 months of rent and utility assistance.

The Emergency Rental Assistance Program is a partnership between the City of San Bernardino and Inland SoCal 211+ which leverages more than \$6.4 million in U.S. Treasury funds to provide rental and utility assistance to City residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Low-income renters who experienced a financial impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic are encouraged to apply today. Immigration status is not a consideration for this program. Household members must reside at an eligible address located in the City of San Bernardino. Address verification is required.

Call **855-SB-APPLY** or apply online at
SBCITYRENT.COM



2.1.1

Get Connected. Get Help.™



YOUR 2020 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT IS AVAILABLE NOW



Each year, SBMWD's Water Quality section collects and processes approximately 30,000 water samples, and utilizes state of the art water treatment and conveyance facilities to deliver high quality water to customers.

View the 2020 Consumer Confidence Report at **SBMWD.org/ccr2020** for more information about the water delivered to your home including the quality of your drinking water, where it comes from, and how the Water Department is working to protect this precious resource.

WATER RESOURCE PLANNING

Reliable water supplies are essential to the prosperity of any community. For years, SBMWD has proactively invested in critical planning and infrastructure projects to ensure the resiliency of its local water resources.

In collaboration with neighboring water agencies, SBMWD is developing plans for a regional recycled water system. Once operational, this system will create a drought-proof resource for the San Bernardino region and reduce the need to import water for groundwater recharge.

Additionally, SBMWD recently completed a joint planning effort to develop the Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan with several agencies within the Upper Santa Ana River Watershed. The plan forms a comprehensive guide for water resource management including actions to ensure adequate water supplies to meet future demands within a wide range of supply conditions including drought and emergency water shortages. View the 2020 Integrated Regional Urban Water Management Plan on SBMWD's website at **SBMWD.org/196/Engineering-Reports-and-Plans**



SBMWD BEGINS OPERATION OF A FUEL CELL SYSTEM

SBMWD must meet several stringent regulations to ensure the health and safety of the community it serves and to protect the environment. This includes air quality standards for operation of wastewater plants such as the San Bernardino Water Reclamation Plant (WRP). In partnership with FuelCell Energy, the Department recently commenced operation of a fuel cell facility at the WRP site.

The fuel cell allows SBMWD to continue to beneficially consume methane produced from wastewater treatment digesters in order to produce electricity for the WRP. As a result, SBMWD will balance the need to maintain compliance with South Coast Air Quality Management District regulations, perform the wastewater treatment function at the most reasonable cost available, and contribute to cleaner air for the region. Learn more about the innovative fuel cell system at **SBMWD.org/FuelCell**





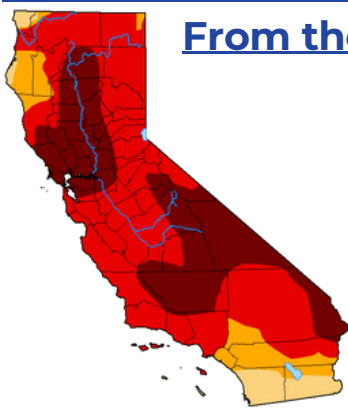
CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

As California moves through its second consecutive year of dry conditions, water purveyors across the state are asking customers to conserve.

In response to widespread drought conditions throughout the state, an emergency declaration was issued calling for 50 counties in central and northern California to strengthen water supply resiliency measures. Although southern California was not included in the emergency drought declaration, all of San Bernardino County is currently experiencing severe to extreme drought levels and Gov. Gavin Newsom has asked all Californians to voluntarily reduce water use by 15-percent as compared to 2020.

Although San Bernardino has worked to secure a reliable source of water in the Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, we cannot predict how long this drought will last. Maximizing local water supplies and sustaining them for the future means that each of us must embrace saving water as the new normal.

SBWMD truly appreciates the many customers and residents who took action during the last drought to use water more efficiently. Even small steps such as reducing irrigation run times and shortening showers make a big difference over time. We urge you to join in building a more sustainable community and thank you for doing your part.



From the U.S. Drought Monitor



As of July 20, 2021, the City of San Bernardino is experiencing **severe drought** and 90% of San Bernardino County is in **extreme drought** conditions.

SUMMER TIME WATER SAVINGS

Efficient irrigation is key as temperatures peak during the hottest months of the year. Help conserve resources and keep a healthy landscape by using water supplies wisely this summer and by getting the most out of every drop.



Adjust sprinkler cycles every season. Water only in the early morning or the evening to prevent water loss from evaporation.



Regularly check for and repair leaks and broken sprinklers.



Visit [SBMWD.org/Conservation](https://www.sbmwd.org/Conservation) for more water saving tips and to apply for water conservation rebates.



WATCH A WATER SAVING PLANT WEBINAR

Did you know SBMWD offers FREE water saving workshops every Spring and Fall? Recordings of the Department's recent water saving webinars are available to view online. Learn how you can save water and cut maintenance time by incorporating beautiful and sustainable plants into your landscape.

Subscribe to SBMWD's YouTube channel or visit [SBMWD.org/workshops](https://www.sbmwd.org/workshops) to view the webinar recordings.

SAN BERNARDINO RANKS 8TH IN NATIONAL WATER CONSERVATION CHALLENGE

This Spring, the City of San Bernardino participated in the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation, a friendly competition to see which city can be the most water wise.

SBMWD is pleased to report that San Bernardino took 8th place in this year's competition. Thank you for protecting local water supplies! The 2021 contest is over but you can still help San Bernardino become the most water wise city in the Nation by taking water saving actions all year long!

Visit [MyWaterPledge.com](https://www.mywaterpledge.com) to learn how you can earn bonus points for next year's competition. For more water saving tips and conservation program resources, visit [SBMWD.org/Conservation](https://www.sbmwd.org/Conservation)



HARD WORK IN EVERY DROP

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

Heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes to Rafael Chavez from the Water Operations section for his service in the Army Reserve last year with the 304th sustainment brigade in Kuwait. Rafael brought back a United States flag which was flown over Camp Arifan in the name of the San Bernardino Municipal Water Department.

The flag and commemorative certificate will always hold a special place of honor at SBMWD. The Water Department thanks Rafael Chavez for his service, and for his dedication providing San Bernardino with trusted, quality water.



SBMWD RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE IN FINANCIAL REPORTING



For the fifth consecutive year, SBMWD has been awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. This prestigious award is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) awarded this recognition for SBMWD's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. SBMWD is committed to fiscal transparency, accountability, and leadership. To view the Department's award-winning CAFR, visit our transparency page at SBMWD.org



Thank you to the Cimarron Ranch Neighborhood Association for the invite to your July meeting!

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Are you planning an upcoming community meeting? SBMWD is always looking for new opportunities to share water saving resources, provide Department updates, and to connect with the community we serve. SBMWD offers informational presentations and updates to local community groups including neighborhood and homeowner associations, businesses, and schools.

If you would like to request a presentation or Water Department participation at an event, please call us at (909) 453-6052 or email Devin.Arciniega@SBMWD.org



We want to connect with you!
Follow us at @SBCityWater



City of San Bernardino Municipal Water Department

1350 South E Street, San Bernardino, CA 92408

(909) 384-5141 | SBMWD.org

Customer Service Office Hours: M-F 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Call Center Hours: M-TH 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM | F 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM