

SPRING 2024

H2 IN THE KNOW



SAN BERNARDINO MUNICIPAL WATER DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER



GET PAID TO SAVE WITH WATER CONSERVATION REBATE PROGRAMS

Single home residential customers are now eligible to receive up to \$3,500 back by participating in the San Bernardino Municipal Water Department (SBMWD) indoor and outdoor water conservation rebates. Multi-family and commercial property rebates are also available!

INDOOR REBATES

- Up to \$100 for water efficient toilets
- Up to \$400 for a water efficient clothes washer
- Up to \$100 for a water efficient dishwasher
- Up to \$30 for water efficient showerheads

OUTDOOR REBATES

- \$3 per square foot of turf removal, up to \$3,000
- Up to \$400 for drought-tolerant plants
- Up to \$400 for turf replacement materials including mulch, gravel and other water permeable hardscapes
- Up to \$250 for a smart irrigation controller
- Up to \$200 for high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles
- Up to \$150 for drip irrigation
- \$10 for each garden hose nozzle
- Up to \$500 for use of a professional landscape design

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Want more inspiration for your yard? Attend a free landscape workshop! Visit www.SBMWD.org/workshops

Apply for these rebates and find more water conservation resources
at www.SBMWD.org/Conservation



Rebate up to \$250



Rebate up to \$150



Rebate up to \$400



Rebate up to \$100

TRUSTED, QUALITY SERVICE SINCE 1905

BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATER LEADERS



SBMWD takes pride in supporting water education throughout the San Bernardino community. The Department collaborates with many local education groups such as the Akoma Unity Center (pictured left) to introduce the next generation to careers in water as well as the skills and science behind providing safe, reliable, drinking water to our customers.

SBMWD employees regularly conduct career day and classroom presentation visits to local educational institutions including California State University, San Bernardino, Arroyo Valley High School, Kimbark Elementary School and many others to promote water conservation and careers. For more information and for additional resources visit www.SBMWD.org/Education.

COMMUNITY BASED SCIENCE WITH CLAREMONT MCKENNA COLLEGE

The Keck Science Department at Claremont McKenna College partnered with SBMWD to introduce a new community research-based wastewater sampling program. This program offered to all of the College's undergraduate students is part of the "Codes of Life" biology course curriculum and provides a unique opportunity to apply scientific principles to the real world.



SBMWD SUPPORTS A SECOND RUBE-A THON

SBMWD was pleased to support and help judge the second annual Rube-a-thon, a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) based competition that empowers K-12 students to use imagination, design and planning to craft Rube Goldberg Machines. As part of this year's participation, SBMWD contributed tool kits for each of the 20 competing teams ranging from grades K-12.



LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL TEAMS MEET THE CHALLENGE

SBMWD is a proud sponsor of the Inland Solar Challenge, an annual competition that provides high school students from across Southern California the opportunity to design and build 16-foot boats powered by solar technology.

This challenge highlights the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics careers and encourages the next generation of leaders in our communities to put their project management, creativity, and problem solving skills to the test.

Participation in the Inland Solar Challenge prepares students for success in the workplace as the ability to work as part of a team is a critical component of building a career.

2024 WATER AWARENESS POSTER CONTEST

Calling all young artists and conservationists: SBMWD's 2024 Water Awareness Poster Contest is happening now until April 26, 2024!

Each year, SBMWD hosts this contest for K-12 grade students within the San Bernardino City Unified School District and SBMWD's water service area. Winning entries receive a \$100 prize and selected artwork will be featured in SBMWD's annual water conservation calendar. For more information and to participate visit www.SBMWD.org/PosterContest.

Thank you to participating students, parents, and teachers for spreading the important message of water conservation in your community!



HARD WORK IN EVERY DROP

REINVESTING RATES INTO CRITICAL WATER AND WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

SBMWD's mission is to provide customers with reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services with environmental and community interests in mind, and that sustains the resources entrusted to our care. The operating and capital budgets are developed within the framework of long-term strategic goals and objectives to ensure sufficient funds are retained for future infrastructure needs, replacement of aging facilities, and various operating expenses in a manner that maintains efficient and consistent rates. Capital investments make the overall utility systems more reliable and resilient in the face of earthquakes, droughts, and other unexpected changes.

The following 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) spending breakdown outlines SBMWD's financial investments toward completed and ongoing projects for the development of water and wastewater capital facilities.

DRINKING WATER CIP EXPENSES

2019	\$8,055,766
2020	\$6,579,884
2021	\$6,994,391
2022	\$1,004,191
2023	\$5,758,586

5-YEAR ANNUAL AVERAGE: \$5,678,564

WASTEWATER CIP EXPENSES

2019	\$2,467,336
2020	\$7,483,801
2021	\$19,169,382
2022	\$4,813,045
2023	\$2,978,522

5-YEAR ANNUAL AVERAGE: \$7,382,417

DRINKING WATER CIP HIGHLIGHTS



WATER RESERVOIR SEISMIC RETROFITS

After conducting an extensive infrastructure vulnerability study, SBMWD developed plans to upgrade 12 water reservoirs located throughout the City with seismic retrofits. Since 2019, SBMWD has invested nearly **\$20 million** including over **\$14.4 million** in State and Federal funding for these projects.

Maintaining adequate storage and pressure in the water delivery system is a vital component to responding to the public's drinking water and fire suppression needs after a seismic event. Projects such as the reservoir upgrades are a direct and long-term investment for the security of water storage and strengthen safety and resiliency against earthquakes, wildfires and other natural disasters.

WASTEWATER CIP HIGHLIGHTS

DIGESTER GAS BENEFICIAL USE PROGRAM

Conceived and approved in 2018, this innovative and collaborative effort consisted of ten construction projects totaling over **\$27 million** in costs. Construction projects centered around a fuel cell system built to clean and convert digester gas into electricity and hot water.

The program required substantial process, mechanical, and electrical retrofits to the Department's existing facilities in addition to the installation of several new components. Construction of the Digester Gas Beneficial Use Program marked an important milestone for the Department, allowing SBMWD to maintain sustainable energy sources necessary for operations.



City of San Bernardino

Municipal Water Department
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SBMWD EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Introducing Shana Trent! Shana joined SBMWD's Finance Division in 2011 and as the Department's Payroll Specialist, oversees all payroll functions ensuring employees are paid accurately, on time, every time. Shana assists employees with making important changes to their tax deductions, benefits, and direct deposits, in addition to handling SBMWD reporting to CalPERS. Thanks to her resolve, hard work and expertise, Shana has also been instrumental in the smooth implementation of the Department's new time keeping software.

What Shana finds most enjoyable about her job is the challenge of finding solutions to complex problems. Shana also enjoys assisting and interacting with Department employees, answering finance-related questions and always providing top-notch customer service. "I'm a people person, I like dealing with the employees," shared Shana, "It's nice that they have enough faith in me to call me for various reasons. I like helping them out!"

Shana is a wife, mother and grandmother and enjoys time spent with family. Shana is also a big baseball and Dodger fan and will be rooting for the boys in blue this Spring! Shana, thank you for your dedication and for sharing your reasons why SBMWD is a great place to work!



Say hello to Lizet Felix, who currently works as a Water Treatment Operator II in the Department's Water Utility Division. Lizet began her career with SBMWD in 2020 as a Water Treatment Operator I and was promoted in 2023. As part of her daily responsibilities, Lizet performs visual checks and monitors complex supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) software. Lizet's attention to detail and technical skills ensure that SBMWD water utility facilities are operating as intended and proper treatment levels for the community's drinking water are maintained. Lizet is also responsible for inspecting self-contained breathing apparatuses making sure they are operable and that employees can use them safely.

Lizet shared that her favorite part of the job is "working with an awesome team" and working at various sites and locations throughout the city. Lizet also shared that she appreciates the Department's culture and being recognized as a valued part of her organization. In her spare time, Lizet enjoys dancing and spending quality time with her two children.

Lizet, Thank you for sharing your story and for being a valued part of the SBMWD team!



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



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SBMWD.org

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICE HOURS:

MON - THURS 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

FRI 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.