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H2O IN THE KNOW



SAN BERNARDINO MUNICIPAL WATER DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

Small Spaces, **BIG IMPACT**

Join us for a Free Water-Saving Landscape Workshop

Saturday, January 18, 2025

10:00 A.M. to noon

777 N. F Street, San Bernardino, 92410

With a focus on water efficient and low-maintenance plants, this workshop will offer valuable guidance on transforming small areas like park strips and side yards into thriving, sustainable, and beautiful landscapes.

Guests will learn water-wise landscaping techniques, climate appropriate plant choices, and practical design strategies for compact spaces. For more information and to reserve your space at the workshop, visit **SBMWD.org** or call Darian B. at (909) 453-6053.

TOPICS COVERED:

- ✓ **Climate appropriate plant selection**
- ✓ **Landscape maintenance for small spaces**
- ✓ **Efficient irrigation techniques**
- ✓ **More water saving programs and resources**

TRACK WATER AND DETECT LEAKS WITH A FREE FLUME WATER MONITOR!

Customers can save water and money through access to real time water data, instant leak alerts and numerous other features with a Flume Smart Water System.

Through a partnership with Flume, participating SBMWD customers will be able to make informed decisions about water consumption with an easy-to-use smartphone application and DIY installation taking 10 minutes or less.

The Flume system is free for participants so hurry and visit **SBMWD.org** to learn more!

*Save money.
Save water.*



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SHAPING FUTURE WATER PROFESSIONALS

Committed to providing the next generation of water and wastewater professionals with hands-on experience through local career pathways, SBMWD has launched a new internship program with Arroyo Valley High School.



During the inaugural three-week paid internship this past summer, high school juniors and seniors worked alongside staff from various divisions gaining firsthand insight into daily operations. At the end of the program, students shared their positive feedback and impressions with SBMWD management, school district leaders and regional career educators. Looking forward to the next group of interns this summer!

INNOVATIONS IN ENERGY SAVINGS

The Water Reclamation Plant facilities have been upgraded to improve overall energy efficiency as part of Southern California Edison's (SCE) Statewide Water Infrastructure and System Efficiency (WISE) program.

Designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and optimize the wastewater treatment process, these upgrades enhance control over the secondary treatment process and effluent ammonia levels.

By utilizing advanced technology including nitrate sensors, ammonia analyzers, and automatic control valves, notable reductions were achieved over 12 months resulting in approximately \$290,000 and 2,620,782 kilowatt-hours in cost and energy savings, respectively.

SBMWD received an energy efficiency incentive of \$551,021 from SCE for these improvements which continue to benefit the environment and our community.



HARNESSING THE POWER OF SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIPS



A ribbon cutting ceremony in October celebrated the completion of the Waterman Hydroelectric Project which provides innovative energy savings through an ongoing partnership between SBMWD and San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District.

The hydroelectric facility became operational in August and utilizes a Pelton turbine to harness high-pressure water from the State Water Project to generate up to 24,720 kilowatt-hours per day. This is enough energy to power over 400 homes per year! Each agency shared development costs and the result of this collaboration will provide an ongoing benefit to the region for many years.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

The Strategic Plan is an important roadmap which continues to guide the Department through achievable goals and targets. Periodic review and update of the Strategic Plan is done on a regular basis with staff working with the Water Board to ensure SBMWD moves forward efficiently while maintaining trusted, high-quality service to the community.

A workshop was recently held with staff working with Water Board members who provided valuable insight for updating SBMWD's mission, vision, and core values.



COMMITMENT TO ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement is a critical component of the Department's overall mission and values. SBMWD staff actively participates in community events and meetings to share valuable information about important infrastructure improvements, customer programs and services offered and to provide helpful conservation tips.

Throughout the year, SBMWD representatives attend local neighborhood association and community group meetings as well as city and school events to connect, share and learn from community members.

If your neighborhood, organization, or school would like a presentation or is planning to hold a community event, please contact Devin Arciniega at (909) 384-5095.

SBMWD BREAKS GROUND ON A NEW ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Construction of the SBMWD administration building is in progress. The building will provide much needed space for staff and for Water Board meetings as well as educational presentations, landscape and water conservation workshops and other public events.

Follow us on social media @sbccitywater or visit sbmwd.org for more updates.



RESIDENTIAL SERVICE LINE INSURANCE OPTIONS

Residential protection plans from Service Line Warranties of America (SLWA) are available to SBMWD customers as an option. SLWA offers various water, sewer, septic and gas repair protection policies.

For more information about these optional services, or to purchase coverage, please visit www.slwofa.com.



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Municipal Water Department

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SBMWD EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

Meet Oscar Solorzano who works as a Control Systems and Communications Technician in the Electrical Instrumentation and SCADA section at the Water Reclamation Plant. He has been in his current position since November of 2022. Oscar really enjoys the camaraderie and positive working relationships with fellow team members.

Oscar also appreciates the complexities of his job. "There's always something to do, and there's always something to learn," he says. In his free time, he enjoys staying fit by exercising and running with his son. Oscar helps make SBMWD a great place to work!



Say hello to Michael Morehart, Senior Engineering Technician with the Engineering section. Since joining SBMWD in April of 2021, Michael has worked closely with developers, customers, and contractors on projects throughout the SBMWD's service area. Michael conducts plan checks, preliminary design reviews and performs inspections of water and sewer infrastructure.

Interacting with customers and helping turn their projects into reality is the best part of his job. "It's really rewarding working with the general public and helping them with something for their project." Outside of work, Michael is no stranger to the great outdoors, enjoying snow sports, fishing, and hiking. Michael is a husband and father to two sons and enjoys spending quality time with his family at every opportunity. Michael, thank you for sharing what makes SBMWD a great place to work and for your positive impact on our team and community!



We want to connect with you!
Follow us @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:

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

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