



FALL 2026

DWA Increases Bill Assistance Program

Desert Water Agency (DWA) is expanding its Help2Others billing assistance program, giving income eligible customers a one-time **\$300 credit** per 12-month period to help pay their water bills.

The annual assistance amount went from \$200 to \$300, which can cover about two months of an average residential water bill. The change went into effect July 1, 2026.

DWA works with Inland SoCal United Way to provide the Help2Others fund. The program is offered by various water providers in Riverside County and helps customers who qualify for aid avoid water service shutoffs due to unpaid water bills.

The Help2Others program is funded through contributions from DWA, its employees and community donations.

Customers interested in applying for assistance, or community members who would like to donate, can learn more at www.dwa.org/h2o.



“At Desert Water Agency, we understand that our customers may face hardships that make paying their bills difficult,” said Board President Kristin Bloomer. “We hope that by increasing the amount of assistance available through our Help2Others program, we can ease some of that burden.”

Fall Planting Tips

October and November are the best months in our desert region to plant trees, shrubs, perennials and some herbs and vegetables.

With the fall season, we welcome cooler temperatures while still maintaining plenty of daylight to help promote plant growth.

DWA encourages its customers to choose native, desert-friendly plants when updating landscaping. These plants are accustomed to the weather conditions in the Coachella Valley and require less water and maintenance, making them a smart choice for desert living.

If you are interested in an edible garden, now is the time to plant broccoli, Swiss chard, kale, beets, lettuce, collards and cilantro. For a month-by-month guide to gardening in the desert, go to www.dwa.org/plantingguide.

Cool weather conditions also make it a great time to convert your lawn to desert-friendly landscaping. DWA offers customers \$2 per square foot to make the switch.

For information on the grass removal rebate, efficient landscaping resources and other water-saving tips, go to www.dwa.org/save.

Go Gold! Skip Overseeding

In the Coachella Valley, many people overseed their lawns in the fall for green grass in the winter.

Overseeding is when warm-weather Bermuda grass goes dormant and is replaced with winter rye grass.

Getting the new rye seeds to sprout is a very water intensive process. That's why DWA encourages customers to “Go Gold!” for the winter. By skipping overseeding, you can:

- **Save money.** Seed and labor costs are expensive.
- **Conserve water.** Overseeding uses a lot of water.
- **Improve air quality.** Less mowing or scalping means less dust and particles in the air.
- **Maintain healthy grass.** Overseeding can stress your lawn.



To “Go Gold,” simply let your Bermuda grass go dormant. Continue to water your lawn minimally in the evening. It will eventually turn golden. When the spring weather warms up, it will return!

Tired of maintaining grass? Update your yard with desert-friendly landscaping. DWA offers a grass removal rebate of \$2 per square foot for customers.

Go to www.dwa.org/overseeding for more information.





Where does my water come from?

DWA has four main water sources: groundwater, imported water, streams and recycled water.

We are lucky in the Coachella Valley to have a large aquifer beneath our feet filled with groundwater. But, it's important that we manage our supplies and replenish what we use.

Learn more at www.dwa.org/your-water



It's Tour Time!

Go behind the scenes! DWA's 2026 annual tours will take place on Tuesday, Oct. 27, and Wednesday, Oct. 28. Each tour date offers the same locations and agenda. The tour is free and lunch is provided. To sign up for the tour interest list, go to www.dwa.org/tours.



Pipeline Replacement Projects

DWA is replacing several aging water pipelines throughout our system to help improve water reliability, decrease repair costs and reduce water loss.

Our system is made up of about 425 miles of pipeline. Some of it is very old and was installed during the Great Depression. DWA has an aggressive pipeline replacement program that aims to replace several miles of the oldest and leakiest pipes each year.

Three projects are scheduled for fall and winter. Construction on the first project began in September in portions of the **Racquet Club Estates** and **Park Imperial North** neighborhoods. Two more projects are scheduled to start in October, in parts of the **Movie Colony East** and **Warm Sands** neighborhoods.

All three projects are expected to be complete in early 2027. However, the



schedule is subject to change based on factors such as supply chain, weather or other unforeseen circumstances.

During construction, people will maintain access to their property and water. As the project nears completion, water service will be shut off for some properties for 2-4 hours.

Properties most affected by the projects will receive a letter in the mail with details. For more information, project updates and area maps, go to www.dwa.org/pipelines.

Get Social with DWA!

Instagram: @desertwateragency

Facebook: @dwawater

X (formerly Twitter): @DWAwater

YouTube: @desertwateragency4898

Nextdoor: Desert Water Agency

LinkedIn: Desert Water Agency



Conservation Corner

Saving water inside your home is just as important as outside! Here are some quick tips to be more water efficient indoors:

- Install a low-flow shower head.
- Upgrade to a high-efficiency toilet. DWA offers a residential toilet rebate of up to \$300 on certain models.
- Turn off the faucet when you brush your teeth or lather your hands.
- Run only full loads in your washing machine and dishwasher.
- Fix leaks! Check faucets, toilets, under sinks, and around appliances.
- Get a FREE conservation kit with water-saving tools from DWA!

Get more info on water-saving tips & rebates at www.dwa.org/save



WANT TO KNOW MORE?

For more information, please contact: DWA Public Affairs at Outreach@dwa.org or 760-323-4971, ext. 184. To learn about DWA's conservation programs, please visit: www.dwa.org/save

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kristin Bloomer, President (Div. 5)
Gerald McKenna, Vice President (Div. 2)
Paul Ortega, Sec./Treasurer (Div. 4)
Jeff Bowman, Director (Div. 3)
Steve Grasha, Director (Div. 1)

The public is welcome to participate in our board meetings at 8 a.m. on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at 1200 S. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs. For a meeting schedule, please visit: www.dwa.org

