

South Mesa Water customers reduce water use by 14%

South Mesa Water Company customers have stepped up to the challenge of California's drought by achieving a 14% reduction in water use when comparing January 2021 to 2022. It's just slightly below the governor's request for voluntary conservation of 15% but exceeding the state average of 6%.

"South Mesa Water Company wants to extend our thanks and congratulate our customers who are off to a great start on their water conservation efforts," said David Armstrong, General Manager of South Mesa Water Company. "It's no easy feat especially given additional development and we commend our customers for their hard work."

"Changes in water habits have a lasting effect in reducing water use. During the last drought, California mandated a 25% reduction in water use. Our customers exceeded expectations by adopting conservation measures as a way of life well after the mandate was lifted. Compared to the last 20-year average, our customers have reduced water use by 12%," said Armstrong.

In 2021, California experienced its driest year in over a century landing us back in a drought. In August 2021, the governor responded with a statewide declaration of emergency, asking Californians to reduce water consumption by

15% to combat the drought. Since then, data shows that California has fallen short, achieving only an average of 6% in water reduction.

"While we are closely watching how the drought progresses, South Mesa Water Company is equipped to handle any water shortage. Our Water Shortage Contingency Plan serves as an operating manual to efficiently manage water resources and prevent catastrophic service disruptions through proactive measures. The plan measures the severity of the shortage that sets off triggers to determine the percent water reduction needed," said George Jorritsma, Board President. "SMWC is part of the Yucaipa Sustainable Groundwater Management Agency which protects local groundwater resources."

"To respond to the drought, we need all communities and sectors to join the all-hands approach to conserve California's limited water resources. We at South Mesa extend our greatest appreciation for your conservation efforts and encourage you to keep it up," said Armstrong.

SMWC is a not-for-profit water company founded in 1912 that serves about 3,000 households in portions of Yucaipa and Calimesa. The company's shares are owned by the residents that SMWC serves and the governing board members.



Yucaipa Valley Water District

Community Water Meeting Monday, February 28th at 6:00 pm

The Yucaipa Valley Water District will be hosting a community meeting to discuss our integrated approach for water resource management.

The Community Water Meeting will also include topics related to groundwater resources, recycled water, water quality, imported water, drought conditions, and future projects planned to augment the water resources available to our community. The presentation and discussion will focus on current and future plans for customers in Yucaipa and Calimesa.

The meeting will be held at the Yucaipa Valley Regional Water Filtration Facility, 35477 Oak Glen Road, Yucaipa on Monday, February 28, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

For additional information, please contact the Yucaipa Valley Water District at (909) 797-5117 or visit our website at www.yvwd.us.

Over \$312 million in clean California projects

As part of Gov. Gavin Newsom's landmark \$1.1 billion Clean California initiative, Caltrans is awarding \$312 million for 126 beautification projects along the state highway system - including five (5) projects in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

Designed to foster cultural connections and civic pride, the projects are expected to generate 3,600 jobs as part of the multi-year initiative led by Caltrans to remove trash and beautify community gateways and public areas along highways, streets, and roads while creating thousands of jobs for Californians. About 98% of the projects will benefit historical-

ly underserved or excluded communities.

"Caltrans partnered with communities throughout California to identify and develop projects that meet the specific needs of each individual region while also enhancing and beautifying public spaces," said Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin. "By working together, we are better able to restore public pride in our communities and help change the habits that create litter in the first place."

Developed in close collaboration with tribal and local governments, non-profits, and businesses, the 126 state beautification projects include art

installations, green space, and proposals that improve safety and promote community connections. Construction begins in April 2022.

- Caltrans projects include:
- Nipton Road Gateway Monument on I-15
 - Needles Gateway Monument on I-40
 - Blythe Gateway Monument on I-10
 - San Bernardino Gateway Monument on SR-18
 - Stateline Gateway Monument on SR-62

Over three years, Clean California will remove an additional 21,000 tons of trash from the State Highway system alone.

"I always thought patients chose hospitals because of the doctors. Who knew nurses were just as important?"

- Sheila S., RN



"People are surprised Redlands is so different from other hospitals," says ICU Nurse Sheila. "When everyone is devoted to a 'Patients First' philosophy, it shows with satisfied patients and important awards."

Being honored for Overall Patient Satisfaction puts Redlands in the forefront of Caring Science and distinguishes it as a national leader. "We take tremendous pride in helping people," Sheila stresses, "and we are proud the experts have noticed it too."

Learn why Redlands is rated one of the best hospitals in the nation. Visit www.redlandshospital.org/outcomes

