

Water Matters



A MESSAGE FROM ARDEN

Our community had the courageous foresight, in 1953, to create Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) with one mission in mind: "Provide, protect, and preserve our most valuable resource – water." This year we have the honor of winning our 3rd gold medal for the "best tasting water in the world!" This is a huge testament to our community who continually support MSWD.

For decades, nearly 7,000 septic tanks were constructed in the greater Desert Hot Springs area and were too concentrated to work effectively. These septic tanks pose a great threat to our ground water supply – our only source of water.

MSWD was concerned and in 1995, commissioned the US Geological Survey and Michigan Technological Institute to study the potential threat

to our groundwater aquifer. The studies concluded that it is not a matter of if it is going to happen, but rather, when it is going to happen. If these septic tanks contaminate our aquifer, the cost to our community, according to our research, would increase by 10-100 times.

Although MSWD did not permit these septic tanks, our District was proactive and initiated a very successful Groundwater Quality Protection Program (GQPP). Our solution is to replace septic tanks by constructing sewers and treatment facilities, but MSWD cannot use monies generated by rates. The price tag to replace these septic tanks is well over \$80 million. For 25 years, MSWD has been tenaciously pursuing outside funding. MSWD has successfully generated approximately \$30 million in state and federal grants matched by local funds.

Preventing contamination of our wonderful "gold medal" groundwater will save our community hundreds of millions of dollars in the future by avoiding any unnecessary water treatment.

This community's stellar effort to protect its groundwater is very admirable. With the newly formed Assessment District 18 (AD 18) and other ADs, MSWD continually pursues grants and other funding sources. This will protect our groundwater and result in a safe, reliable and affordable water supply for years to come.

MSWD's partnership with our community is invaluable and for that, we thank you!



ARDEN WALLUM
GENERAL MANAGER,
MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT WINS "BEST TASTING MUNICIPAL WATER IN THE WORLD"

Mission Spring Water District (MSWD) does it again! We were awarded top honor at the 30th Annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting with "Best Tasting Municipal Water in the World" for 2020.

Over 100 different waters from across the world entered the Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting.

"This is truly wonderful. Mission Springs Water District is honored to have been selected best tasting water in the world for the third time," MSWD Board

President Nancy Wright explains. "Year after year, all submissions prove worthy. We are deeply proud that Mission Springs Water District can represent the Coachella Valley on the world stage."

This is the largest and longest running water tasting competition in the world, dubbed by BuzzFeed and The Week "the world's most prestigious water tasting!"

"The consistency in winners from year to year with different panels of judges validates the choices," remarked perennial watermaster, Arthur von Wiesenberger.

"It also speaks to the impressively high caliber of the waters entered." This is the ninth medal Mission Springs Water District has received since it began participating in the Berkeley Springs Tasting Competition in 1997.

Mission Springs Water District looks forward to defending its gold medal at the 31st annual Berkeley Springs International Water Tasting in February 2021.



50 BILLION GALLONS SAVED

Mission Springs Water District and the five other Coachella Valley water agencies are part of a regional collaborative group, CV Water Counts. A recent tally of water savings from June 2015 – the implementation date of the State’s drought mandate – to present resulted with great news for the Coachella Valley!

Residents and businesses have been water-wise and have saved more than 50 billion gallons of water! The savings are calculated over approximately 4.5 years.

To put the water savings into context, 50 billion gallons equals:

- 1,250 million loads of laundry (40 gallons per load) or 2,500 loads of laundry per person
- 320 billion venti lattes (20 oz) or 640,000 venti lattes per person
- 400 billion pints of beer or 800,000 pints of beer per person



With our partners on the CV Water Counts team, we are regionally committed to promoting a water-wise valley lifestyle as something permanent.

MSWD TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Jeff Nutter, Maintenance Superintendent

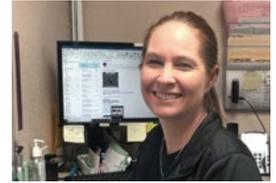
Jeff has been a part of the **MSWD** family for more than 25 years! Jeff began his career with **MSWD** as a Construction and Maintenance Worker I.



He now supervises the Construction and Maintenance team that you will see working outside even in the hot, summer temperatures! In 2019, Jeff was nominated by his co-workers and received the “**MSWD** Supervisor of the Year.”

Lisa Pelton, Customer Service Representative II

A Desert Hot Springs resident, Lisa joined **MSWD** in 2003. Lisa was peer recognized as the “**MSWD** Admin Employee of Year” in 2019.



You may have spoken with Lisa on the phone or if you have stopped by our offices at the front desk. As part of the Customer Service team, Lisa continually goes beyond the call of duty to assist customers.

ASSESSMENT DISTRICT 18



AD 18 was successfully approved by voters in November 2019. This \$34 million capital project would construct sanitary services for approximately 2,400 parcels within Desert Hot Springs and County of Riverside areas within **MSWD’s** service boundary. The Notice of Assessment was recorded with the County of Riverside in December 2019 and will begin appearing on the tax rolls as a zero-dollar assessment.

TRANSITION TO BY-DIVISION ELECTIONS/DISTRICTING

Mission Springs Water District (**MSWD**) has begun the process to transition from at-large elections to a by-division election system. This will separate **MSWD** into five (5) districts throughout **MSWD’s** service area. This process requires four public hearings. If you would like more information regarding the districting process, view the public hearing schedule, or submit a draft map, please visit mswd.org/districting.

WATER TRIVIA:

How much water does it take to build a new car, including tires?

How much water must a dairy cow drink in order to produce one gallon of milk?

WATER TRIVIA SOURCE: EPA.GOV

39,090 gallons

4 gallons



MSWD IS HERE FOR YOU!

Contact us if you have questions or concerns about your water bill. We are here to help answer questions and provide assistance. Give us a call at **760.329.6448**.

MSWD BOARD MEETINGS

The Board of Directors meets on the third Monday of each month, and the Thursday prior to that Monday for study session. Meetings begin at 3 p.m. The public is encouraged to attend these meetings to learn more about the water district. Meeting agendas are posted online days prior to a meeting and include the time and location.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Nancy Wright, President | Randy Duncan, Vice President | Steve Grasha | Russ Martin | Ivan Sewell
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