

The Water Line

INDIAN WELLS VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Arsenic Removal Facilities



Arsenic removal facility located at Well 13 near Mahan St. and Felspar Ave. treats water from both wells 11 and 13.

The wait is finally over. The construction and startup of two arsenic removal facilities was completed in June.

The District had begun the long process of investigating the best arsenic reduction technology for some of its wells long before the federal Environmental Protection Agency reduced the acceptable level of arsenic in drinking water in 2006 from 50 to 10 parts per billion (ppb). The State of California adopted the same Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 10 ppb in November 2008 and began requiring water systems with water sources higher than 10 ppb to inform all their customers and to implement a plan for reduction of arsenic in the water.

COMMUNITY

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A demonstration project, begun in 2004, to remove arsenic using ion exchange proved less than satisfactory. So, in the summer of 2007, several companies were invited to test their arsenic reduction technologies at four District well sites. After reviewing reports from these companies and then inviting three to submit costs, Filtronics, Inc. from Anaheim was chosen to provide treatment equipment for the District's arsenic reduction facilities. The treatment consists of first binding the arsenic in the water with iron which causes a precipitate to form. This precipitate containing the arsenic is then filtered out of the water using a proprietary media designed by Filtronics.


Pascal & Ludwig Constructors of Ontario, CA began construction in January 2010 on the two arsenic removal facilities. One is located at Well 13 (near Mahan St. and Felspar Ave.) and the other between Wells 9A and 10 (west of Brady St. between Sydnor Ave. and Ward Ave.) Both facilities utilize the technology developed by Filtronics to reduce the amount of arsenic in the water from two wells. The cost of building the two arsenic treatment facilities and associated pipelines was just over \$12 million.

Even after these facilities are operational and the arsenic level is reduced to below the MCL, all IWVWD customers will continue to receive quarterly notices regarding arsenic in the water until the quarterly running annual average (average over the last 4 quarters) is below 10.5 ppb. These notices are a federal and state requirement.

If you have any further questions or concerns about the treatment process or have arsenic-related questions please call (760) 375-5086 or contact us at iwvwd@iwvwd.com.



Drought Over?



In March, California Governor Jerry Brown officially rescinded the drought declaration made in 2008 by Arnold Schwarzenegger. With record rainfall, full reservoirs and snowpack at 165 percent of normal in parts of the Sierra, this seems like a logical move. But appropriately, the governor remains cautious: "While this season's storms have lifted us out of drought, it's critical that Californians continue to watch their water use. Drought or no drought, demand for water in California always exceeds supply."

Let's take a closer look.

Most Central and Southern California water agencies import water via the Los Angeles Aqueduct, the State Water Project and/or the Colorado River Aqueduct. Whatever the next few years' weather patterns bring to this state, research conducted by the University of California at Los Angeles in conjunction with the University of Arizona has come up with some startling findings: over the past 11,000 or so years, droughts of 30-60 years have not been unusual in this region and even 150-year droughts have occurred! Eventually, dry days, months, years and even decades will come again and water conservation in the interim is a key strategy to ensure a safe and ample water supply.

Here in the Indian Wells Valley (I WV), we are unique when compared to other California communities of our size. Unlike the norm, we have only one source of water – our aquifer. There is universal agreement that water extraction in our Valley by the Water District, NAWs China Lake, Searles Valley Minerals, private and small system well owners, farmers, and others approaches 30,000 acre feet annually. An AB 303-funded study conducted in 2005 (official report released in April 2010) obtained new data, reviewed and qualified existing data, and reaffirmed that conventional estimates for total basin recharge of between 5,000 and 11,000 acre feet per year are reliable and should be used for the management of our valuable water resource. Indeed, groundwater levels have been dropping here without recovery since the 1960s, resulting from far greater usage than recharge for almost 50 years.

Water efficiency and water conservation are just as important today in the I WV as they were before March. We must preserve our water resource if we are to provide safe and affordable water to our children and grandchildren. We have a supply of water in storage from more wet times in the past. However, not all of the water in storage is good water. To our knowledge, we are using the best water right now. Much of the basin aquifer holds brackish water that cannot be used for drinking without expensive treatment. The Water District is currently producing water for your home or business for about \$230 per acre foot and brackish water treatment would cost over 12 times that! Other alternate water sources would be just as costly.

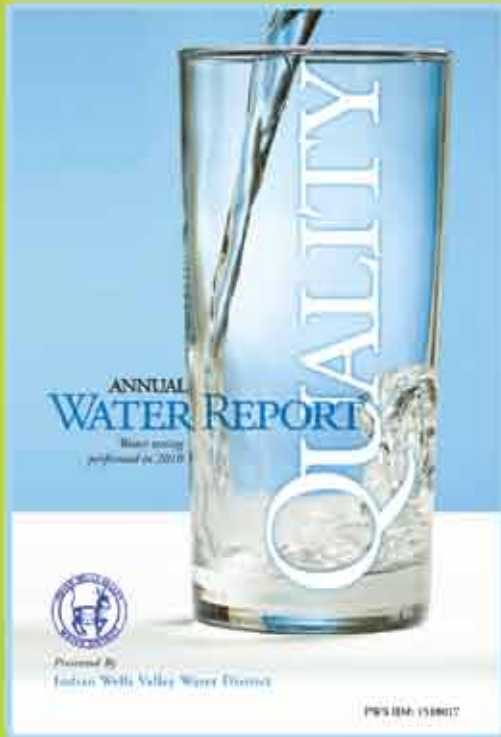
Wasting precious natural resources is never sound fiscal practice and doesn't allow for reliable long term planning. That's why the I WVWD is committed to prudent water management today and tomorrow. So, if we can help you become more water wise through any of our many programs, it is our pleasure to do so. The Indian Wells Valley Water District is here to serve you ... and your children and grandchildren.

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Printing, Design & Bulk Mailing
139 N. Balsam St. Ste 1900

760.384.3700 AP-PRINT.COM

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT



This summer we mailed to all our customers an annual water quality report providing a detailed review of your drinking water, where it comes from, what it contains and how it compares to federal and state standards. If you do not receive your copy by the end of June, visit our website www.iwwwd.com or call the District office at 760-375-5086.

Mandatory Watering Restrictions are in Effect

- Do not waste water.
 - No water runoff from irrigation system.
 - No washing down hard or paved surfaces, except when necessary to alleviate safety or sanitary hazards.
 - Repair leaky water connections immediately.
 - Use a bucket or similar container or a hand-held hose equipped with positive self-closing water shut-off nozzle or device to wash or clean a vehicle.
- No watering between the hours of 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM during the months of May, June, July, August, September and October unless a special permit is issued to accommodate newly planted material. Hand watering and drip irrigating are exempt.

Your cooperation with these rules will help to ensure a self-sustaining water resource for all of our customers and allow the District to be eligible for state grants. The District has begun enforcing these measures in accordance with the District's Ordinance No. 93 and City of Ridgecrest Ordinance No. 09-05.

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BOARD MEETINGS

Monday, July 11th
Monday, August 8th
Monday, September 12th

OFFICE CLOSURES

Monday, July 4th
Independence Day

Monday, September 5th
Labor Day

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Stephen Burfeindt –
Conservation Specialist

If you receive multiple copies of the The Water Line and would like to receive only one, notify Rose Koch at (760) 384-5502 or iwwwd@iwwwd.com.



Indian Wells Valley Water District

P.O Box 1329
500 W. Ridgecrest Blvd
Ridgecrest, CA 93556-1329

Phone: 760.375.5086
Fax: 760.375.3969
Email: iwvwd@iwvwd.com
Website: www.iwvwd.com

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*BRINGING YOU GREAT
WATER TODAY...
AND TOMORROW!*

IWVWD Introduces 2011 Conservation Specialist: **Stephen Burfeindt**



The Indian Wells Valley Water District is pleased to announce that employee Stephen Burfeindt has been chosen as the District's Conservation Specialist I. The born and raised Ridgecrest native, who has worked for the IWVWD since 2006, will be responsible for the notices and the extensive education procedures required by the Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance passed by the Ridgecrest City Council in December of 2009 and by the Water Board in May of 2010.

Burfeindt, who began his career at the IWVWD in Customer Accounts, says he jumped at the opportunity to interview for the Conversation Specialist position. "I applied for this position because I want to help keep the small-town atmosphere here for generations to come," Burfeindt explained. "In order to do this, we need to protect our water source and slow the dropping of our water table."

Burfeindt feels "educating IWV residents about the water situation" is the most helpful thing he can do. "I want to help our customers understand why we have a conservation specialist and why we need to use water more efficiently. I love sports and consider myself a team player, so I'm looking forward to working with my friends and neighbors."

Any questions or comments regarding water waste can be directed to Burfeindt by calling (760) 301-2016 or by email at conserve@iwvwd.com.