



## PROP 218 To Include Open House, Workshops

PWD is in the process of hiring a consultant to perform a Proposition 218 rate adjustment study. The consultant will look at factors including the community's water demand and infrastructure needs to determine the recommended water rate adjustments for the next five years, or 2020-2024. Once the rate adjustment study is completed, PWD will hold events to allow community members to learn about the study and its recommendations. The summer Pipeline newsletter that will be published in June will have more detailed information.

Tentative Schedule of Events:  
**June** – Community Survey  
**July** – Open House at Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant  
**August** – Community Workshops  
**September** – Public Hearing/Board Vote

## NEW Jr. Water Ambassadors Academy for High School Students

May 16, 2019

Now Accepting Applications!



Palmdale Water District is hosting its first Junior Water Ambassadors Academy to give interested high school students the opportunity to learn about PWD's history, infrastructure, facilities, water sources, and future projects.

The goal of this FREE program is to engage and educate the youth of the Antelope Valley about our current water portfolio, and the future of water and jobs in the industry.

Applicants must be a sophomore or junior in high school and have permission from a parent/guardian to participate.

The academy is from 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. on Thursday, May 16, 2019. Students will attend a guided tour of the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant.

To submit your application, please go to [palmdalewater.org/jrwaterambassadors](http://palmdalewater.org/jrwaterambassadors). **The deadline to submit is April 12, 2019. Space is limited.**

If you would like more information, please contact Public Affairs Specialist Laura Gallegos at [lgallegos@palmdalewater.org](mailto:lgallegos@palmdalewater.org) or 661-441-5944.



Palmdale Water District

# the PIPELINE

Volume 5 Issue 1

Spring 2019



## Behind the Scenes at the Water Treatment Plant's Winter Maintenance

Each winter, the Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant is completely shut down for about four weeks so that the entire system can go through maintenance and inspections. The repairs, cleanings and safety checks ensure that the plant's infrastructure is in prime shape to run 24/7 for another year.

During this year's shutdown from mid-January to mid-February, Palmdale Water District (PWD) had two other projects that needed to be completed, along with the routine chores. The most critical was repairing the leaking 30-inch effluent pipe that moves water from the plant to the nearby clearwell tank, where it sits briefly before being piped to customers. The leaking effluent pipe needed to be fixed immediately to prevent water loss.

It took PWD's Facilities staff about two weeks to complete the difficult project. It called for the use of a crane to remove the 10-foot-long pipe and replacing it with a new one. PWD was able to save money by doing the job in-house. A contractor's bid on the project was \$236,000.

"Our Facilities Department did an outstanding job," said Assistant General Manager Adam Ly. "It was a complicated project."

During the shutdown, staff also installed a second saltwater brine tank, which is required for making chlorine to treat the water. An extra tank was necessary because one is insufficient during the summer months when water demand is high. Using their construction skills, the plant operators built an apparatus to connect the two brine tanks' piping systems.

"Our infrastructure is aging and things break," said Operations Manager Mynor Masaya, who oversees the treatment plant. "Throughout the year, there is always preventive maintenance being done without disrupting the treatment process and the water supply. But there are many things that we can't fix and clean while the plant is running."

(Continued on page 2)

**Atención:** Esta publicación está disponible en español en nuestro sitio web en [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org). Para obtener una copia impresa en español, visite nuestra oficina o llame al 661-441-5944.

**Attention:** This publication is available in Spanish on our website at [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org). For a hard copy in Spanish, visit our office or call 661-441-5944.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

**PWD Closure**  
Memorial Day, Monday, May 27

**Board Meetings**  
Mondays @ 6 p.m.  
PWD Board Room  
2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale  
April 8 & 22  
May 13 & 28  
June 10 & 24

**SMART Water Expo at Home Show**  
Saturday, March 23 & Sunday, March 24  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Antelope Valley Fairgrounds  
2551 W. Avenue H, Lancaster  
Admission: FREE  
Parking: \$5

**FREE Landscape Workshops:**  
9-11 a.m. @ Antelope Valley College  
3041 West Avenue K, Lancaster (Room TE3)  
- **Using Rock & Boulders in Your Landscape**  
Saturday, March 16  
- **Having a Vegetable Garden**  
Saturday, April 13  
- **Surviving Summer**  
Saturday, May 18

### Board of Directors

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Don Wilson, Division 2

Marco Henriquez, Division 3

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Adam Ly  
Assistant General Manager, COO

Michael Williams  
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The Pipeline is published by Palmdale Water District's Public Affairs Department.

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### Mission Statement

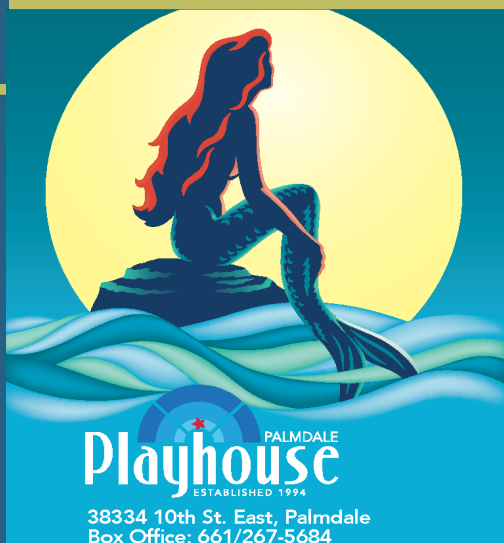
Since 1918, the Palmdale Water District has provided high-quality water at a reasonable cost. We pride ourselves on great customer care; advocating for local water issues that help our residents; educating the community on water-use efficiency; and leading our region in researching and implementing emerging technologies that increase operational efficiency.

## Rate Assistance Program Helps Hundreds of Customers

More than 700 PWD ratepayers received financial help with their water bills in 2018 through the Rate Assistance Program (RAP).

RAP participants qualified for a 50 percent credit of the monthly service fee on their statements. The program, launched in 2015, aims to assist eligible seniors 62 and older, veterans of any age and low-income families with paying their PWD water bill.

For more information on the program, go to [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org) or call Customer Care at 661-947-4111.



CITY OF PALMDALE AND PALMDALE PLAYHOUSE  
IN COLLABORATION WITH PALMDALE REPERTORY THEATRE PRESENT

# Disney THE LITTLE MERMAID

MUSIC BY ALAN MENKEN LYRICS BY HOWARD ASHMAN & GLENN SLATER BOOK BY DOUG WRIGHT

Based on the Hans Christian Anderson story and the Disney film produced by Howard Ashman & John Musker, and written and directed by John Musker & Ron Clements.

Originally Produced by Disney Theatrical Productions

MARCH 22-24 & MARCH 29-31

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT

[www.PalmdalePlayhouse.com](http://www.PalmdalePlayhouse.com)



## Employee Spotlight: Curtis Cobb, Lead Plant Operator

Lead Plant Operator Curtis Cobb is always the first to volunteer to give tours of Palmdale Water District's Leslie O. Carter Water Treatment Plant. It's his home away from home, and he is proud to educate anyone interested in learning about the intricacies of a high-tech water system.



CURTIS COBB

Armed with a large flashlight, Curtis takes visitors to many areas of the treatment plant, including the control room, chemical building and sedimentation basins. Half way through tours, he will pull out a 6-foot-tall plastic tube that accurately shows PWD's filtration system made up of 3 feet of anthracite coal and 1 foot of silica sand. Then he shares the fact that the granulated activated carbon (GAC) system makes it possible for PWD to provide top-notch water.

"I believe the water we provide is some of the best" Curtis said. "Our water quality is second to none. GAC is the best technology for treating water for a myriad of contaminants and more."

Curtis began his career at PWD in 2007 as a meter reader. Six months later, he was the maintenance worker at the treatment plant. In 2008, he became a plant operator and then was promoted to the lead position a little more than two years ago. He has a Water Distribution D4 and a Water Treatment T5 certificates (5 is the top level for each) and is a member of American Water Works Association's Competition Committee.

"Curtis does an excellent job," said Operations Manager Mynor Masaya. "He is a great communicator and follows through. He's a true asset."

Along with four other plant operators who work 12-hour shifts, Curtis ensures that there is always one of them overseeing the 35-million-gallon treatment plant that operates 24/7.

"I enjoy my job because what I do matters," Curtis said. "You go home knowing that you did something good for the people of our community. It certainly is self-fulfilling. I also enjoy working with a group of people who are skilled, conscientious, and care as much about being a water professional as I do."

Prior to PWD, Curtis repaired and sold janitorial equipment in Modesto and Santa Clarita. He credits his time in sales in different industries with helping him understand the importance of taking care of customers.

Originally from central California, Curtis and his family have lived in Palmdale for 15 years. When he is not busy operating the plant, Curtis enjoys golf, bowling, cooking and eating good food.



Senior Service Worker Tony Espinoza Jr. welds the new pipe for the effluent line.

### Winter Maintenance (Continued from page 1)

One major annual task is thoroughly cleaning the different underground areas, vaults and deep channels where bio-solids accumulate. These areas must be hosed down by hand before the equipment's condition can be checked. All inspections are done by PWD staff.

In order to inspect the infrastructure, water and all chemicals have to be drained from areas including tanks, sedimentation basins and filtration systems. The operations-tech mechanics change oils and other fluids in motors.

When the plant is not operating, customers receive water that is pumped from PWD's 22 groundwater wells. Unlike water from the California Aqueduct and the Littlerock Dam, well water does not need to be treated at the plant. It only needs a trace amount of chlorine for disinfection.

The water treatment plant can treat up to 35 million gallons of water per day. In the summer months when demand is at the highest, it maxes daily at about 24 million gallons. During the cold months, only about 7-8 million gallons are needed each day.



One of the sedimentation basins is drained for cleaning and inspection.



The new saltwater brine tank is installed at the treatment plant.

## Littlerock Dam Construction Postponed by Heavy Rain



After a series of heavy storms, water spills over the Littlerock Dam on Feb. 14.

The first phase of the Littlerock Dam Sediment Removal Project, which called for the construction of a grade-control structure, has been suspended.

Two months into the construction, the area was inundated by water following numerous rainstorms since the beginning of the year. Much of the prep work for the concrete structure was damaged. The area received so much water that the dam's spillway overflowed on Feb. 14. The last time the spillway was breached was in early 2017.

The contractor on the project, ASI Construction, is scheduled to return in the summer to resume building the grade-control structure. The concrete structure is required for the protection of the endangered arroyo toad during the sediment removal to restore the dam's full water capacity to 3,500 acre-feet. The sediment removal, which is phase two of the project, will be a multi-year process that will begin no earlier than 2020.

The Littlerock Dam is closed to the public for safety reasons by order of the U.S. Forest Service.

## Conservation Now Known as Water-Use Efficiency

Following the trend in the water industry and to better identify its focus, PWD's Conservation Team has been renamed the Water-Use Efficiency (WUE) Team.

The team establishes programs that help customers be efficient with their water and save money. They are responsible for numerous programs, including rebates, landscape surveys, school visits, water meter testing, landscape workshops and documenting water waste.

The most popular program is the high-efficiency toilet rebates, which were given to ratepayers for changing 89 toilets last year. The rebate for a high-efficiency toilet is \$60.

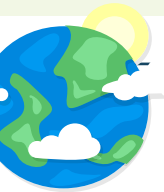
School visits also keep the team busy. The Water Awareness Education program consists of different topics for various grade levels. For 3rd and 4th graders, their program is titled "The Journey of PWD's Water & Its Local Water Sources," which gives students a glimpse of the 600-mile journey that the water takes from northern California to Palmdale.

For information about WUE programs, visit our website at [palmdalewater.org](http://palmdalewater.org) or contact WUE Specialist Linda Trevino at [ltrevino@palmdalewater.org](mailto:ltrevino@palmdalewater.org) or 661-456-1001.

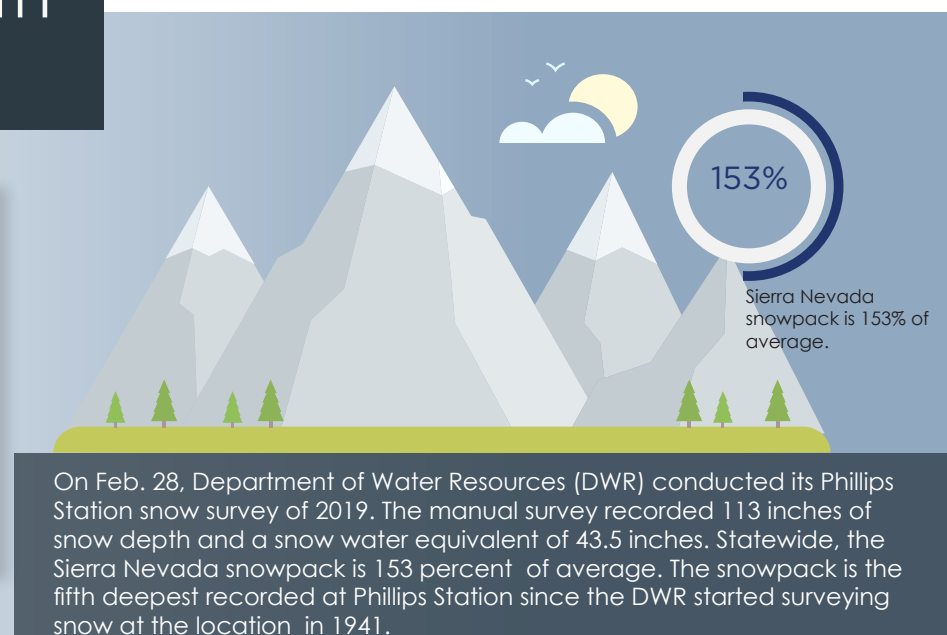
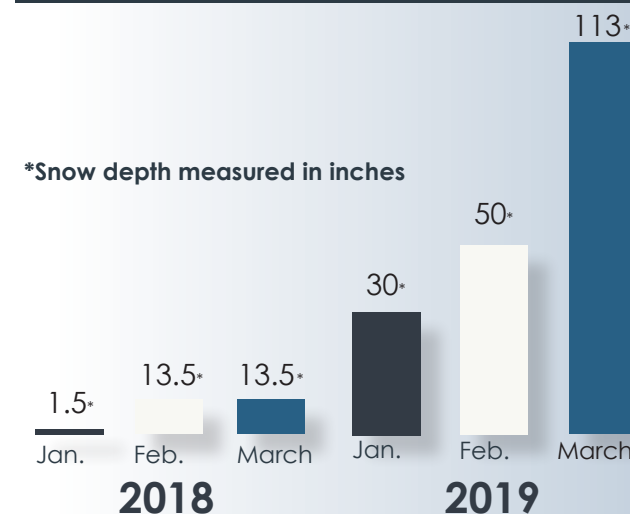
### Join us on Earth Day!

April 22, 2019

PWD's Water-Use Efficiency Team is hosting a FREE bird-feeder educational activity for children of all ages between 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Earth Day. It will be hosted in the Small Board Room at PWD, 2029 E. Avenue Q, Palmdale.



## CALIFORNIA SNOW DEPTH LEVELS, 2018 vs. 2019



On Feb. 28, Department of Water Resources (DWR) conducted its Phillips Station snow survey of 2019. The manual survey recorded 113 inches of snow depth and a snow water equivalent of 43.5 inches. Statewide, the Sierra Nevada snowpack is 153 percent of average. The snowpack is the fifth deepest recorded at Phillips Station since the DWR started surveying snow at the location in 1941.