

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

April 15, 2025

Update on CIMIS Station Installation

On March 25th, DWA, DWR and Escena staff and legal counsels met to finalize contract language regarding the installation of a CIMIS station on the Escena golf course. Once DWR receives the final language, the contract will go to their Land Use staff for a final review and then be disbursed to all parties for signatures. This process may take several weeks to complete.

The CIMIS station is part of a critical strategy to gather relevant local evapotranspiration data for Making Conservation a California Way of Life. The CIMIS station works by gathering various weather data which ultimately feeds into DWA's Urban Water Use Objective. By more accurately reflecting local conditions compared to spatial averages, DWA hopes that the CIMIS station will increase the Urban Water Use Objective and make compliance with the regulation simpler.

Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation – DWA Partnership with City of Palm Springs

Desert Water Agency is proud to once again partner with the City of Palm Springs to promote the Wyland National Mayor's Challenge for Water Conservation throughout the month of April. DWA and the City last collaborated on this campaign in April 2021. The annual challenge encourages residents to take simple, everyday actions to reduce water use and protect the environment. As part of this joint effort, the City will issue a proclamation at its April 6, 2025, Council meeting recognizing April as Water Conservation Month. The proclamation highlights the importance of using water wisely in our desert community and reinforces the City's commitment to long-term sustainability and conservation.

Tyler Utility Billing Update

Since the go-live on March 10th, 24,268 bills have been issued, and 19,384 payments have been processed in the new system. All March bills were processed by April 2nd and mailed out by April 4th. To date, 2,230 customers have registered on the new myDWA.org website with 710 of those customers signing up for auto pay.

In general, customer interactions have been positive with most customer inquiries being related to requesting their new account and customer number or asking when their bill will be available. While extremely busy handling increased call volumes, DWA staff have been patient and diligent in following up with customers. As each day goes by, staff are becoming more comfortable working in the new system.

A few obstacles were encountered while processing March billings. Bill mailings were delayed several days due to issues with the folder/insert machine leading to recalibration of the machine and other collaborative efforts to get the physical bills mailed out. Electronic bills were sent to customers at the time of bill issuance without delay.

Late fees will not be assessed in the month of April, allowing customers additional time to pay their March bills without penalty due to DWA's delay in getting customers their physical bills in the mail. Monitoring of accounts for disconnection will begin mid-April. Extra care will be taken when dealing with these accounts to ensure the billing change did not play a role in delayed payments. Typically, disconnection dates are measured from billing date, however, in the month of April, staff will be determining disconnection dates from the physical bill mailing date.

With the new billing system DWA staff now have expanded capabilities to extract billing data and no longer need to rely on IT staff to generate reports upon request for this information. This will help streamline backend accounting processes to allow for more efficient reporting.

Potential Impacts of Tariffs for DWA

On April 5, 2025, the United States imposed a 10% ad valorem baseline tariff on imports of foreign-origin goods, in addition to any other applicable duties or tariffs. Additionally, on April 9, 2025, the U.S. implemented country-specific tariff rates on imports, with certain carveouts.

The extent to which imported component materials used in DWA operations and capital improvement projects remains unknown. For instance, while a contractor may source a reservoir recoat product domestically, the pigments and various chemicals used in manufacturing the coating might be imported, thereby increasing the cost of coating. However, since a reservoir recoat job involves a substantial amount of labor compared to materials, the project cost increase will not be equivalent to the tariff level imposed.

DWA prefers U.S.-sourced products and components whenever possible. For perspective, of the last five replacement pipeline projects, the ductile iron pipe used was manufactured by US Pipe, which is made in the USA. However, within the same replacement projects, one included fittings from a material provider sourcing products globally. When non-U.S. products are used, they must meet established quality and specification standards. Even when U.S.-sourced products and materials are purchased, it does not guarantee the absence of imported inputs. If the tariffs persist long-term, DWA will certainly experience an increase in material and equipment costs, though the extent is not possible to determine at this time.

While it is certain that tariffs will impact procurement costs, there is also speculation that they may affect procurement lead times. If manufacturers switch to U.S.-only inputs, availability and lead times may increase, or become an additional cost increase driver as demand for U.S.-sourced materials grows.

Currently, the impact of tariffs on DWA is unknown. Staff will monitor the tariff status and its implications for the Agency's current and upcoming budget and potential procurement lead time impacts to determine if future actions are necessary.

Update on DWA/CVWD Emergency Intertie Project

In December 2012, Desert Water Agency (DWA) and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) entered into an agreement for the installation of two emergency interties at Date Palm Drive and Ramon Road, respectively, that would connect DWA's potable system with CVWD's potable system. These interties would provide a backup source of water for each agency in the event of an emergency.

Intertie #1 at Date Palm Drive and Highway 111 was constructed in 2012 and included installation of approximately 55 lineal feet of 12-inch ductile iron pipe and appurtenances, 12-inch two-way control valve, 12-inch two-way flow meter, and two vaults. Intertie #2 at Ramon Road was slated for construction at a later date.

In November 2022, Coachella Valley Regional Water Management Group (CVRWMG) Agencies submitted a regional application for funding through the Department of Water Resources Urban Community Drought Relief (UCDR) grant program. DWA submitted Intertie #2 at Ramon Road as one of the projects in the regional grant application. In January 2023, CVRWMG Agencies were notified that some of the projects in the regional application, including Intertie #2 at Ramon Road, were awarded funding.

The Intertie #2 at Ramon Road project includes construction of approximately 1,400 lineal feet of horizontal directional-drilled pipeline and appurtenances with two-way flow capabilities that will provide an emergency connection between DWA's potable system and CVWD's potable system and will serve as a backup source of water to each agency in the event of an emergency. This project also includes the purchase of two, 5,000-gallon pillow tanks which will provide temporary emergency storage.

DWA and CVWD are in the design phase of the Intertie #2 project and intend to begin construction in fiscal year 2025/2026. DWA will be administering the contract for construction of the intertie, and CVWD will be responsible for operation and maintenance of the intertie once constructed. The interconnection agreement is in the process of being amended to incorporate updates to the Intertie #2 project.

The current project completion date for Intertie #2 is June 30, 2026, per the grant.

SYSTEM LEAK DATA 2025

Mar 25, 2025 - Apr 6, 2025

Street Name	Number of Leaks	Pipe Diameter (inches)	Install Date	Material	Coatling/Linning
INDIAN CANYON DR	3	6"	1951	Steel - SP	UL
SANTA ROSA DR	2	4"	1936	Steel - SP	UL
INDIAN CANYON DR	2	6"	1951	Steel - SP	UL
BARISTO RD	1	4"	1936	Steel - SP	UL
ARQUILLA RD	1	4"	1950	Steel - SP	UL
INDUSTRIAL PL	1	4"	1948	Steel - SP	UL
PALM CANYON DR S	1	10"	1938	Steel - SP	UL
BISKRA RD	1	4"	1958	Steel - SP	UL
CHUPEROSA RD	1	4"	1957	Steel - SP	UL
DEL LAGO RD	1	6"	1957	Steel - SP	UL
VENTURA RD	1	6"	1958	Steel - SP	UL
OLEANDER RD	1	4"	1946	Steel - SP	UL
VIA MONTE VISTA	1	8"	1953	Steel - SP	UL
Total Leaks in System					
22					

Planned Replacement

Awarded

Summer 2025

Future CIP

SYSTEM INFORMATION

Oldest Pipe in the System (Year of Installation): 1936, 89 years old

Average Year of Installation of Unlined Steel Pipe (Systemwide): 1953, 72 years old

Total Length of Unlined Pipe Systemwide (Linear Feet): 228,090 ft

Average Length of Pipe Replaced Annually (Linear Feet): 15,000 ft

Projected Time Frame for 100% Replacement of Unlined Steel Pipe: 15 years

Year Agency Transitioned to Cement Lined Steel Pipe: 1960

DETAILED LEAK DATA 2025

Mar 25, 2025 - Apr 6, 2025

Leak Date	Street Name	Number of Leaks	Labor Hours
3/25/2025	OLEANDER RD	1	10
3/26/2025	CHUPEROSA RD	1	8
3/27/2025	INDIAN CANYON DR	1	6
3/28/2025	BARISTO RD	1	12.5
3/29/2025	ARQUILLA RD	1	8
3/29/2025	VIA MONTE VISTA	1	8
3/31/2025	PALM CANYON DR S	1	9
3/31/2025	DEL LAGO RD	1	6
3/31/2025	VENTURA RD	1	7.5
4/2/2025	SANTA ROSA DR	2	8
4/4/2025	INDUSTRIAL PL	1	9
4/4/2025	INDIAN CANYON DR	3	16
4/6/2025	INDIAN CANYON DR	1	7.5
4/6/2025	BISKRA RD	1	7.5
		Total Leaks in System	Total Labor Hours
		22	159

SYSTEM LEAKS

Mar 25, 2025 - Apr 6, 2025



Human Resources Meetings and Activities

Meetings:

03/18/2025	DWA Board Meeting	DWA Offices
03/24/2025	DWA Staff Meeting	DWA Offices
03/24/2025	Weekly Safety Check-in Meeting	DWA Offices
03/31/2025	DWA Staff Meeting	DWA Offices
03/31/2025	Weekly Safety Check-in Meeting	DWA Offices
04/01/2025	DWA Board Meeting	DWA Offices
04/02/2025	DWA Special Board Meeting	DWA Offices
04/07/2025	DWA Staff Meeting	DWA Offices
04/07/2025	Weekly Safety Check-in Meeting	DWA Offices

Activities:

03/19/2025	Webinar: Leadership Development 101	Virtual Meeting
03/20/2025	ACWA JPIA Webinar: Crime or Abuse Victims Leave	Virtual Meeting
03/24/2025	New Employee Orientation	DWA Offices
03/26/2025	DWA Hosted Blood Drive	DWA Offices
03/27/2025	DWA Safety Meeting	DWA Offices
03/27/2025	Webinar: AI, Automation, and Agility: Rethinking Tech Talent for Competitive Advantage	Virtual Meeting
04/02/2025	DWA Safety Committee Meeting	
04/03/2025	Worker's Compensation Basics Training Class	Virtual Meeting
04/03/2025	Capital & Extraordinary Expense Budget Meeting	DWA Offices
04/10/2025	Budget Planning Meeting with Safety & Training Specialist	DWA Offices

General Manager's Meetings and Activities

Meetings:

04/02/25	DWA Special Board Meeting	DWA
04/02/25	SWC Golden Mussel Workshop	Virtual
04/03/25	2025/2026 Budget Meeting	DWA
04/03/25	I.T. Department Update	Virtual
04/07/25	Weekly DWA Department Heads Meeting	DWA
04/08/25	2025/2026 Budget Meeting	DWA
04/08/25	DWA/CVWD/MWD Coordination Meeting	Virtual
04/09/25	Executive Committee Meeting	DWA
04/09/25	Technology Transformation Prep Meeting	DWA
04/09/25	Perris Seepage Project Update	Virtual
04/09/25	SWC State Legislative Update	Virtual
04/10/25	Sites Joint Budget & Financial Meeting	Virtual
04/10/25	DWA Federal Legislative Update	Virtual
04/10/25	SGPSB Coordination Meeting	Virtual
04/14/25	Weekly DWA Department Heads Meeting	DWA
04/14/25	DWA State Legislative Update	Virtual
04/15/25	Bi-Monthly DWA Board Meeting	DWA

Activities:

- 1) Sites Reservoir Financing
- 2) DCP Financing
- 3) Strategic Planning
- 4) AQMD Rule 1196
- 5) DWA Organizational Staffing
- 6) DWA Remote Meter Reading Fixed Network
- 7) DC Project – Finance JPA Committee (Standing)
- 8) DWA/CVWD/MWD Operations Coordination (Standing)
- 9) DWA/CVWD/MWD Exchange Agreement Coordination Committee (Standing)
- 10) ACBCI Water Rights Lawsuit
- 11) Whitewater Hydro Operations Coordination with Recharge Basin O&M
- 12) Delta Conveyance Project Updates
- 13) MCSB Delivery Updates
- 14) SWP East Branch Enlargement Cost Allocation
- 15) RWQCB Update to the CV-SNMP