Keep Current on Your Community-Owned Utility!

February 2023

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THE PATH TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE REQUIRES CHANGE

WATER **CONSERVATION MUST CONTINUE**

Last summer was tough. The Burbank community endured a lot – with a heat dome hitting Southern California during the middle of a temporary No Outdoor Watering restriction while the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) worked to repair a critical water pipeline that brings water from the Colorado River into the LA basin.

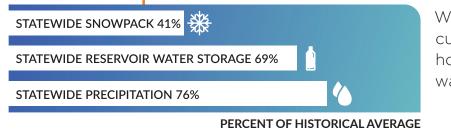
The Burbank community really stepped up during the challenges last summer, helping our city get through the heat by conserving both electricity and water when we needed to most. Thank you to every resident and business that contributed to helping us keep the lights on and water flowing to our city and neighboring communities.

The hot days are behind us, but the drought continues. It will take several years of above-average precipitation to bring our reservoirs back to predrought levels.

As we close out 2022 and look forward to 2023, we need to continue to use water sustainably.

Burbank is 100% dependent on imported water from California's State Water Project and the Colorado River. That is unlike some communities, which rely exclusively on the State Water Project for their water. This year, Burbank is not receiving water from the State Water Project because of the drought. Our only source of water right now is the Colorado River.

California's water year 2021-2022 was exceptionally dry, as these figures from the State of California show we are well below the historical average.



70% of our water goes into our lawns.

A look at one of the state's largest water reservoirs, Lake Oroville, tells the story. Right now, it is less than 33% full.

The Colorado River also is suffering from overuse and years of below-average precipitation. Two of the major reservoirs on the Colorado River – Lake Powell and Lake Mead – were only about 26% filled this summer.



BWP-Currents.com/oroville-lake

We never know what the future may bring in terms of precipitation. That's why we have to focus on what we can control – our water use.

In Southern California, watering a turf lawn can account for as much as 70% of water used each month by a single-family home, according to the MWD. While installing low-flow toilets and waterefficient faucet aerators can help – because every little bit of conservation helps – lawn watering is the largest single use of water by homes in our area.

We recently spoke with two customers to learn more about how they've been reducing water use at their homes.

EMERGENCY REGULATION ADOPTED BY THE STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD IN JUNE 2022

Excludes

In June 2022. The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted an emergency regulation to better manage natural and human-induced climate risks to California's water system. This regulation prohibits watering decorative grass in commercial, industrial, and institutional areas, including common areas of homeowners' associations (HOAs).

FUTURE-PROOFING OUR WATER SUPPLY

After suffering through years of historic the wisdom of that approach. While drought, it's apparent that there's no single silver-bullet solution that can solve our state's water challenges.

But long-term water security can be achieved through a coordinated set of supply-side and demand-side initiatives.

On the supply side, after decades of not building any new reservoirs, the state and federal governments are rethinking

JANIS USES GREYWATER TO FLUSH HER TOILETS

An 11-year resident of Burbank, Janis Cohen-Milch knows a thing or two about using water wisely in an arid climate.

Janis said she noticed that several of her neighbors maintained very lush green turf lawns during the drought. When she spoke to one neighbor about changing the timing of their lawn irrigation to early morning, he responded positively.

"I have found people are pretty good about things like changing their sprinkler times if you discuss it with them," she said. "Most people don't know that if you water your lawn during the middle of the day, between the wind and the evaporation most of that water is wasted."

She said it only took a few minutes to reset her lawn sprinklers to run in the early-morning hours, around 4:30 a.m. She also uses a timer to water her three fruit trees.

Inside her home, Janis says she takes three-minute showers and "religiously" puts greywater to use.

"When I do the dishes. I collect water in the sink in five-gallon tubs, and use that to flush my toilets," she said. "I started doing that back in the 1990s, before I got to Burbank. Now it's a habit."

its unlikely we'll ever see giant dams constructed the way they were a century ago, it's possible that smaller reservoirs can be constructed.

This year Governor Gavin Newsom endorsed a variety of supply-side measures, including building more dams and water desalination projects, to increase the amount of water that can be stored in above-ground reservoirs.

ROY RELIES ON LOW-TECH TO CUT WATER USE

Roy Wiegand lives near the airport. A 34-year customer of BWP, the freelance musician and music teacher described himself as a "water conservation enthusiast."

"I have a low-tech approach to using water wisely," he said. Roy uses five 5-gallon buckets to capture water discharged from his washing machine. He sprinkles the greywater on droughttolerant plants and trees in his yard.

He also washes dishes by hand and reuses that greywater too.

Years ago, he replaced the grass on the parkway between the sidewalk and the street with wood mulch.

"I'm trying to implement a personal circular economy using caveman technology," he said with a laugh. "If I can do it, anyone can." Roy said he may investigate installing a rain barrel or cistern on his property. Rebates are available for both starting at \$35 per barrel or \$250 per cistern from SoCalWaterSmart.com.

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One of the

state's largest

water reservoirs,

Lake Oroville, is

less than 33% full.

WHO THE SWRCB EMERGENCY REGULATION INCLUDES/EXCLUDES

• Residential customers

- Parks, sports fields, and other turf used for recreational purposes
- Landscapes irrigated with recycled water • Private multifamily unit lawns

Includes

• Commercial, industrial, and institutional areas (CII), including common areas of HOAs

Learn more about this regulation at bit.ly/swrcb-regulation.

But that won't happen overnight, and there are plenty of uncertainties along the way. Various regulatory agencies must approve the construction of those projects. It will not be cheap to build whatever structures are approved.

That's why we have emphasized controlling what we can control. By better managing demand for and use of water, citizens and businesses play a vital role in securing our shared water future.

> Roy uses mulch to help his landscape retain water.



The Turf Removal rebate has increased from \$2 per square foot to \$3 per square foot.

Did you know that outdoor watering is one of the biggest uses of water at home? Removing sections of your grass lawn can save about 34 gallons per square foot of water each year, according to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD).

We understand changing to water-friendly landscaping is an investment. That's why we've recently added additional funding to the turf removal rebate program to help our residents and businesses with the costs of improving the sustainability of their landscapes. The turf removal rebate has increased from \$2 per sq. ft. to \$3 per sq. ft. Plus, many other resources are available to help with infrastructure, plants, and inspiration.

You can reserve your rebate online at SoCalWaterSmart.com.

Be sure you submit your application before starting your project!

MAXIMUM TURF REMOVAL REBATE

	Residents	Businesses & Multifamily Units
	Up to 5,000 sq. ft. of converted yard per year	Up to 50,000 sq. ft. of converted yard per year
Old rebate - \$2 sq. ft.	Up to \$10,000	Up to \$100,000
New Rebate - \$3 sq. ft.	Up to \$15,000	Up to \$150,000

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP WITH YOUR TURF REMOVAL PROJECT

Attend a free online workshop from Green Gardens Group for inspiration. See classes and sign up at greengardensgroup. com/turf-transformation/.

Visit the Burbank WaterWise Gardening website at burbank.watersavingplants. **com** to take virtual tours and find native plant species that use less water.

FREE SHADE TREE PROGRAM

Residents can get up to 3 free shade trees, and businesses can get up to 20 trees.

Learn more at BWP-Currents.com/shade-trees.

MORE REBATES

Additional rebates are available for rotating sprinkler nozzles, soil moisture sensors, irrigation controllers, and more.

Learn more at BWP-Currents.com/more-rebates.

BUSINESSES: WATER-SAVING **REBATES AVAILABLE**



We understand our businesses vary tremendously in their water needs depending on the products and services they provide. In addition to increasing our turf removal rebate, we've also added funding to help our business community save water in other areas of their business.

PLUMBING FIXTURES

Premium High-Efficiency Toilets: \$100

Ultra Low and Zero Water Urinals: \$300

Plumbing Flow Control Valves: \$10/Valve (min. 10)

Businesses are encouraged to learn more and apply for these rebates at.

BWP-Currents.com/commercial-rebates

active stations

minimum)



DENTIST

N/

LANDSCAPING EQUIPMENT

16 16

Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers (WBIC): \$50/Station, eligible WBIC will be rebated only for

Rotating Nozzles for Pop-up Spray Heads: \$5/Nozzle (minimum of 30)

Large Rotary Nozzles: \$20/Set (8 set

In-stem Flow Regulators: \$2/ Regulator (25 device minimum)

Soil Moisture Sensor Systems (SMSS): \$50/Irrigation controller station; eligible SMSS will be rebated only for active stations



FOOD EQUIPMENT

A ACAR AC

Connectionless Food Steamers: \$485/Compartment

Air-cooled Ice Machines: \$1,000

MEDICAL/DENTAL EQUIPMENT

Dry Vacuum Pumps: \$125/0.5HP

Laminar Flow Restrictors: \$20/ Restrictor (minimum of 10)

HVAC EQUIPMENT

Cooling Tower Conductivity Controllers: \$625

Cooling Tower ph Controllers: \$1.750

TURF REMOVAL

\$3/sq. ft. to replace grass with drought-friendly landscaping

TIPS TO TRANSFORM YOUR YARD

VISIT THE BURBANK WATERWISE GARDENING WEBSITE

The Burbank WaterWise Gardening website has everything you need to help you create your dream garden. Virtually tour a variety of landscapes, find plants you love, and get inspired by the beauty and endless possibilities of California native plant gardening.

PICK UP A FREE NOZZLE FROM BWP

If you're hand-watering trees and plants in your garden, you should use an adjustable garden hose nozzle. It makes watering tasks more convenient and efficient, plus you'll save water. You can get a free adjustable nozzle from the Conservation counter in the BWP lobby at 164 W. Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91502. The lobby is open Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 5 pm.



You can get a *free adjustable nozzle* from the Conservation counter in the BWP lobby at 164 W. Magnolia Blvd, Burbank, CA 91502.



RAIN BARREL DISTRIBUTION EVENT

Pre-order a rain barrel and pick it up at Foothill Municipal Water District on: March 19, 2023, 9-11 am

Sign up to participate at **BWP-Currents.com/rain-barrel-event**

FOLLOW THE WATERING SCHEDULE

Burbank's outdoor watering schedule is designed for deep watering landscapes. This allows the roots to grow deep and allow plants to be more resilient in dry spells.

In April, Burbank will be switching back to 2 days/ week, on Tuesdays and Saturdays. Outdoor watering is allowed before 9 am or after 6 pm, up to 15 minutes per irrigation station. Attended hand watering is allowed any day, before 9 am or after 6 pm.

STAGE III Watering Schedule



9 am or after 6 pm.

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SCHOOLS AND NON-PROFITS CAN APPLY FOR GRANTS

BWP is bringing back its popular Demonstration Gardens Program to support non-profits and schools who want to change their landscapes to showcase the beauty and diversity of drought-tolerant native flowers, bushes, succulents, and trees. Dry creek bed landscapes can also qualify for funds, as could hardscape projects such as patios, sitting areas, rock gardens, flagstone walks, decks, and gazebos.

Who: Non-profits and schools



What: Application for funding for a Demonstration Garden BWP-Currents. com/demonstration-gardens.

When: Applications will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis until program funds are exhausted.

Why: To demonstrate the beauty and diversity of drought-resistant, native flowers, plants, bushes, shrubs, and trees, as well as locally grown fruits and vegetables, all of which can help our community make the most-efficient use of water.

How Much: Individual grants will range from \$500 to \$15,000.

FIGHT CLIMATE **CHANGE BY COMPOSTING FOOD SCRAPS**

Your home's green bin is going to be filling up a lot faster.

In addition to lawn clippings and tree branches, Burbank residents and businesses are adding uneaten food like potato peels, eggs shells, fruit pits, meat, and bones to organics collection in the green container! It's not only a good environmental practice, it is now the law.

In January 2022, Senate Bill 1383, California's Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Reduction Act went into effect. The law aims to reduce methane emissions from landfills by capturing organic waste, like food scraps, food-soiled paper and yard trimmings, then recycling it into compost or energy. The problem with organics in landfill is when the material decomposes, it gives off methane, a greenhouse gas pollutant more potent and shorter lived than carbon dioxide, according to Amy Hammes, a Recycling Specialist with the City's Recycle Center.

That's why the California legislature passed SB 1383 to aid in the fight against climate change and to recognize that food is really not "trash." While the City of Burbank has been recycling yard trimmings for several decades, this past July food scraps were added to the green cart (organics) curbside collection. Apartment buildings and businesses are now required to have a separate organics waste service to collect this material, unless they qualify for a waiver.

"With the simple act of keeping food waste out of landfills by composting it, you can participate in the fight against climate change."

AMY HAMMES

"A lot of environmental issues are complex, but food waste is one of the most obvious environmental problems to focus on," Amy said. "With the simple act of reducing food waste or keeping it out of landfill by composting it, you can participate in the fight against climate change."

To make this easier, Burbank homeowners qualify for a free kitchen countertop pail to collect food waste and scraps. The City asks you to remove plastic wrap and stickers from food waste before depositing it in the countertop pail. Then empty the contents (loose) into the green (organics) cart or bin on your designated collection day. Don't put the contents of the pail in plastic bags, including compostable plastics-the latter is not compatible with commercial compost operations since they take a long time to break down. Unlined paper bags are an acceptable alternative.

NOTE: Some residents in apartments that are serviced by a private waste hauler may require using compostable bags, so check with your property management or waste hauler for their guidelines.

Burbank residents can pick up their free countertop food-scrap pail at:

Burbank Recycle Center

Conservation counter in the BWP lobby

500 S. Flower Street, Burbank. CA 91502, Monday through Friday, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

164 W. Magnolia Blvd., Burbank, CA 91502, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Every day, over 50 tons of organic matter is being diverted away from Burbank's landfill to be recycled into compost, according to Landfill Supervisor Curtis Jordan of Burbank's Public Works Department. However, the material has contained a lot of plastic bags, treated wood, and other contaminates. This negatively affects the quality of the compost and adds more costs to the overall operations.

It is important that the public understands that what goes in the green pail needs to include only organic material. The City will be enforcing SB 1383 through spot checks of the disposal containers, providing correction notices for proper sorting to reduce contamination. Over time, the City may take other enforcement actions as the program matures. To better understand what goes where, consult the Recycle Center's Where It Goes online guide.



Burbankca.gov/web/ public-works/where-it-goes

Beyond the obvious environmental issues caused by wasting food, there are also economic and social reasons as well. One in five Angelenos have faced food insecurity issues in the past year. SB 1383 addresses this by focusing on expanding food recovery from grocery stores and other businesses for donation to area food banks and nonprofits. Amy added that wasting food also hits close to home given that a family of four in California spends roughly \$1,500 per year on food they bought but didn't eat. "We can start to manage a lot of problems, address food insecurity, save money, and create healthier communities when we recognize the impact of food waste at every level," she said. For helpful tips on how to reduce food waste, check out savethefood.com.



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Amy also invites residents to take a fresh look at the broader issue of reducing food waste and how it affects so many other issues. "California farmers produce an enormous volume of fruits and vegetables each year, but a third of food that is grown ends up going to waste," she commented. "When you consider all the water it takes to grow it, wasting food is also a tremendous waste of precious water resources. Given our state's drought conditions, that can't continue."

Creating a beneficial product like compost from organic recycling can recondition local soil, which has been stressed after years of drought. Healthier soil helps catch and retain rainfall and irrigation improves the resiliency of plants. BWP also encourages residents to incorporate backvard composting to use the material generated onsite to enhance their landscapes.

> Learn to keep nature's bounty in your own backyard with LA County's Smart Gardening workshops and discount bin program. BWP-Currents.com/smart-gardening

BWP ECOCAMPUS GETS BOOST TO SOLAR ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM

"This project is a big step forward to help meet our goal of having a greenhouse gas-free power supply by 2040."

MANDIP SAMRA

Many wind and solar power plants have been constructed across the state in recent years, and they provide electricity at a cost that is competitive with other types of power generation. But the amount of electricity generated by renewable electric power plants usually declines during summer afternoons and evenings, just when customers need it most.

Batteries are an essential part of reducing the environmental impact of electricity generation by storing electricity generated by wind and solar facilities when it isn't needed and then providing that electricity to customers when they need it.

BWP will be increasing its own reliance on solar energy next year when a new battery energy storage system will be installed at our EcoCampus. This system will capture electricity generated by solar panels at that facility whenever that power is not actively needed.



Up to 12 hours, no capacity fade, no power fade



Lower cost than other technologies



<1 second response time



Easily sourced materials; recyclable components

The battery system we'll be installing will be more environmentally friendly than the lithium-ion technology used in most utility battery storage systems today. Instead, our system will use iron-flow battery technology, which is safer and more sustainable.

BWP has signed a contract with leading iron-flow technology provider ESS Incorporated. To help offset the cost of the battery and installation, BWP secured a grant from the American Public Power Association Demonstration of Energy and Efficiency Development for \$125,000. The battery is anticipated to be installed by December 2023.

"This project is a big step forward. It will help us meet our goal of having a greenhouse gas-free power supply by 2040 and will provide energy storage for Burbank now and for decades to come," says Mandip Samra, Assistant General Manager for Power Supply at BWP.

"Although BWP is already using small-scale battery technology at our substations, this initiative will be the largest battery installed in Burbank, providing enough renewable power for 300 homes annually," said Mandip. "We're delighted to partner with ESS on this exciting new project to help us store solar energy to use during the super peak and nighttime hours."

"This initiative will be the largest battery installed in Burbank, providing enough renewable power for **300 homes annually.**"

Our selection of ESS' technology followed a detailed technical assessment of battery energy storage systems, including evaluating the sustainability of the different technologies. Our storage system will be manufactured at the ESS facility in Oregon and then delivered to Burbank.

The ESS iron-flow battery system is anticipated to have a 25-year life cycle. It's a long duration battery, meaning that it can store 6 to 12 hours of energy for use at a later time. The system will be installed in a container about the size of an 18-wheel tractor trailer.

The 75-kilowatt battery system, BWP's first utility-scale system, will move us toward greater reliance on clean, non-emitting electricity. The iron-flow batteries will be able to store electricity longer than the lithium-ion batteries used by many other utilities, and this technology costs less than other types of battery storage systems.

FEATURES OF THE ESS IRON-FLOW BATTERY SYSTEM

75-kilowatt battery 25-year life cycle

Safe and non-toxic

ONEBURBANK DELIVERS **MISSION-CRITICAL CONNECTIVITY FOR HOOD CONTAINER** BURBANK

Optical Network Enterprise: Business networking at the speed of ligh

ONEBurbank is a suite of BWP fiber-optic services offered to Burbank businesses looking for exceptionally fast and reliable bandwidth. Visit ONEBurbank at ONEBurbank.com.

Since its founding 10 years ago, Hood Container Corp. has grown to become one of the top ten paper and packaging companies in the United States. It's a family-owned, mill-to-market company specializing in containerboard and kraft paper, corrugated boxes, high graphic displays, and contract packaging. Committed to safety, innovation, and sustainability, the company's vision is to promote a unified culture focused on its employees, customers, and communities to create innovative customer solutions. With 35 sites across the country. Hood Container's Burbank location specializes in point-of-purchase displays and retail marketing.

Craig Lutes, General Manager of Hood Container Burbank, shares his experience with BWP's ONEBurbank fiber service.

We recently moved to our current location in Burbank, so I asked our new neighbors who provided their fiber connectivity service. They told me that for many years they used ONEBurbank and couldn't recommend anyone else due to the high level of service they receive and the uninterrupted uptime they experience.



Craig Lutes, General Manager, Hood Container Burbank

For us, fast and stable connectivity is mission critical. Our IT infrastructure relies on remote servers and cloud services to function, and our customers and manufacturing locations are located throughout the country. Recently, we launched a new e-commerce site (custompackaging.com) that provides DIY packaging through a web platform. If we lose our connectivity, we may miss customer opportunities and possibly cause delays in manufacturing timelines. At our former location, we had contracted with a national internet service provider that was slow to respond to network outages. We simply cannot live with that.

ONEBurbank's staff is professional and prompt. Our installation was completed on the date promised, and we've experienced no drops in service since we started. Our network speed is constant at the rate we specified for our needs. I can't ask for more than that. I am happy our neighbors recommended ONEBurbank when we relocated here. and I would recommend ONEBurbank to anvone who asks.



We welcome another satisfied **ONEBurbank customer!** For more information on Hood Container Corp., check out hoodcontainer.com.

BWP WINS TWO AWARDS from the American Public Power Association (APPA) APPA is the voice of not-for-profit, community-owned utilities that power 2,000 towns and cities nationwide. This year, APPA gave "Awards of Excellence" to utilities doing exceptional work in telling the public power story in their communities.

BWP won two "Awards of Excellence" in November 2022. One in the "Print & Digital" category for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Annual Report, and one in the "Video" category for Burbank's Water Story.



Check out the Annual Report at BWP-Currents.com/beyond-the-now.

Watch the video to learn more about Burbank's Water Story at BurbankWaterAndPower.com/drought-is-here.

HAVING LANDLORD OR TENANT PROBLEMS?

THE LANDLORD **TENANT COMMISSION** CAN HELP.







OUR FRIDGE RECYCLING



For over 10 years, BWP has been providing Energy Star® certified refrigerators to income-gualified residents through our Refrigerator Exchange Program. BWP participates in a voluntary program to ensure the proper disposal of old refrigerators using the best environmental practices, including recovery of refrigerant, used oil, appliance foam, and recycling durable materials.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently awarded BWP's Refrigerator Exchange Program a Responsible Appliance Disposal (RAD) Champion Award and a 2022 RAD Program Growth Award for outstanding accomplishments in responsible disposal and increased program participation levels.

SINCE 2009, BWP AND OUR PARTNER **ARCA HAVE RESPONSIBLY DISPOSED OF:**

4,013 Refrigerators

61 Stand-Alone Freezers



Recycled rather than landfilled the following durable materials:

570,360 pounds of ferrous metals (e.g., steel)

28,518 pounds of non-ferrous metals (e.g., copper)

46,176 pounds of plastic

17.751 pounds of glass



Properly handled:

281 gallons of used oil

2 PCB-containing capacitors

28 mercury-containing components





ENERGY

SAVINGS

35 million kilowatt hours (kWh),

which translates to consumer savings

Reduced energy use by:

of \$4.88 million

BWP-Currents.com/fridge-exchange



ILLEGAL STREET RACING:



According to the CHP, street racing creased 27% in L.A caused three times as many traffic sions in 2021 as compared to 2020, as well as deaths in the Burbank community.



OUR BURBANK

- street repairs
- and so much more!

Download the app for FREE from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

STREET RACING PENALTIES:





Imprisoned for up to three months and fined up to \$1.000



Driver's license can be suspended and/or revoked



Car insurance may be cancelled or the rates dramatically increased

Spectators of illegal street racing are also subject to criminal prosecution

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DOWNLOAD THE OUR BURBANK 311 MOBILE APP!

Use the Our Burbank 311 app to request: bulky item pickup CITY OF BURBANK





Please use water and energy wisely. PRSRTSTD U.S. Postage PAID Van Nuys, CA Permit No. 72

ECRWSS

Postal Customer



THERE'S MORE TO CURRENTS

Check out the online expanded version of Currents for a deeper dive about the stories in this issue. **BWP-Currents.com/more**



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See what's happening Instagram.com/BurbankH2OPower

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Visit us online at BurbankWaterAndPower.com Always There for You!