



October 1, 2008

Dear AWAC Supporter,

This past quarter has been an exciting time for those of us in the water conservation industry. Since Governor Schwarzenegger declared a statewide drought in June, California water conservationists have had a critical task to perform. Fortunately during the summer, we have had several workshops and other opportunities to reach out to water users during the time of year when water use is at its highest. One example of this has been the phenomenal success of the Water Conservation Incentive Program (WCIP). Now with twenty participating agencies, a total of 280 acre-feet of water savings has been processed, with more to come. We can anticipate a greater number of applications for turf replacement during the winter months, in expectation of cooler weather and a greater willingness to work outside in the yard.

The AWAC Expo Committee is working toward the success of its first Fall Season Desert Communities Water Awareness Expo event to be held during the High Desert Home, Recreation and Lifestyle Fair from November 7-9, 2008 at the San Bernardino Fairgrounds. The focus will be on winterizing your home and property to save water and energy. AWAC volunteers are still needed, so please contact us as soon as possible to offer your time and talent to this beneficial event.

On November 4, 2008, many residents of the High Desert will be turning out to vote at the polls. There are several water boards and local government councils with influence on water conservation issues that have candidates on the ballot. Electing local officials who support water conservation efforts is one way to implement our message and ensure that our leaders are making responsible decisions about water use.

Joe Mathein, from San Bernardino County Special Districts is retiring from the County and has stepped down as AWAC President after three months of service. Our collaborative efforts will continue through 2008 in anticipation of a new president in the first part of 2009.

Participants of AWAC are volunteers from public and private sector organizations within the Mojave Water Agency service area. Water conservation is a foremost way to ensure a safe and reliable supply of water for a growing California. I am very excited to be part of this important and dynamic coalition and look forward to working with each and every one of you in the years to come. Please feel free to direct any questions or comments to me by email at talanz@mojavewater.org, reach me by phone by calling (760) 946-7038 or visit the AWAC website at www.hdawac.org.

Tamara Alaniz
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

July through September 2008

(These activities summarize some of the achievements during the past quarter and do not represent the progress AWAC has made since its inception in 2003.)

Summertime is when per capita water use is at its highest. Providing outreach opportunities to the community is an important component of implementing the goals of AWAC. The following workshops have been held within the last quarter:

Adelanto Residential Irrigation Workshop – July 12 a.m.

High Desert Wildfire Workshop – August 23 a.m.

High Desert Municipal Pumping Efficiency Workshop – August 26 and 27 a.m.

High Desert Agricultural Pumping Efficiency Workshop – August 26 p.m.

Hesperia Yard Design Workshop – September 20 a.m.

Helendale Master Composter Workshop – September 27 p.m.



Staff has received several returned surveys tracking the impacts of water conservation and the overall customer demand on the regional water supplies. AWAC has asked each agency to provide answers to a baseline water use report from the year 2000 and is beginning to compile data from retailers within the MWA service area. We need all of the retailers to participate and look forward to providing better data for regional conservation savings assessments and per capita usage information within AWAC participating agencies.

Water Conservation Incentive Program Update

Since February 2008:

- 280 acre feet water savings processed
- 822 Toilet Vouchers Mailed
- 241 Toilet Rebate Applications
- 219 Clothes Washer Rebate Applications
- 639 Cash For Grass Applications
 - 1,234,330 square feet of turf to be removed

The Water Symposium will be partnering with the Practical Advances in Southwestern Sustainability (PASS) Eco-Summit to provide a booth display for water conservation information. AWAC materials and speakers will be participating to get the word out about water conservation. The Water Symposium will be held on October 9, from 8 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. at the Joshua Tree Retreat Conference and Wellness Center, 59700 29 Palms Highway, Joshua Tree. The PASS Eco-Summit will follow on October 10-12 at the same location. Come out and show your support for water conservation and sustainable development.

Don't Forget to Calendar:

The AWAC Quarterly General Membership Meeting will be held at Joshua Basin Water District in Joshua Tree on October 14 from 12-2 p.m.