



January 5, 2009

Dear AWAC Supporter,

Happy New Year and great appreciation for your support of High Desert water conservation in 2008!

When AWAC adopted regional goals in 2003 and 2005 to reduce water consumption 20% by the year 2020, it was indefinite that the State of California would be as committed to reaching this goal as our coalition. Low and behold, the Department of Water Resources and State Legislature are promoting and working to establish guidelines and/or legislation, like the 20x2020 Statewide Implementation Plan and Assembly Bill 2175 to require that regions throughout the state reduce their urban water consumption by 20%. It is encouraging to see that the effectiveness of AWAC programs and outreach are going to be critical to this emerging water conservation culture.

The AWAC Expo Committee had much success with its event held during the High Desert Home, Recreation and Lifestyle Fair from November 7-9 at the San Bernardino County Fairgrounds. For the first time, AWAC volunteers collaborated to produce an autumn event show after many years with only a springtime showing. The helpful tips on winterizing your home and property to save water and energy were presented through informational handouts, mini-workshops and one-on-one discussions with members of the public, some of whom received hands-on demonstrations of wintertime water-efficient practices. High efficiency toilet replacement was the most-discussed topic by the approximately 4,500 attendees, and promotion of the Water Conservation Incentive Program went along hand-in-hand. A big **thank you** to all of the AWAC volunteers who came out from every high desert community and 13 agencies to provide in-kind services and over 500 hours of time in support of this worthwhile event.

The AWAC 2009 Calendars have been printed and are available for distribution. The AWAC Landscape Committee provided water conservation messages and seasonal watering schedules, which were presented with a very attractive artwork design. Local water-efficient landscapes and water-efficient plant types were the highlights of this year's beautiful monthly photos and cover design.

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 help ensure a safe and reliable supply of water for a growing California.

A note from the Executive Director- I am enjoying participating in this important and dynamic coalition and look forward to working with each and every one of you in the New Year. Please feel free to direct any questions or comments to me, Tamara Alaniz by email at talaniz@mojavewater.org, reach me by phone by calling (760)946-7038 or visit the AWAC website at www.hdawac.org.

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

October through December 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.)

Below are a few examples of turf removal projects, stemming from WCIP participation:



The AWAC 2009 Calendars have arrived and are being distributed. Most of your agencies have already picked up boxes, but, if you have not or need more, please feel free to contact Tamara Alaniz at (760) 946-7038 to make arrangements to get what you need from the storage facility.

Water Conservation Incentive Program Update

	October to December 2008	Since Program (February 2008)
Acre Feet Savings	+/- 110	331
Toilet Vouchers Mailed	421	1,326
Toilets Replaced and Rebated	126	449
Clothes Washers Replaced and Rebated	150	424
Turf Removal Rebate Applications	276	829
Turf Removal (sf)	362,282 square feet of turf to be removed	1,569,290 square feet of turf to be removed

Keep promoting the program to meet our goal of removing 2,000,000 square feet of turf!

Water Conservation topics were incorporated into student curriculum at Victor Valley College during this last quarter. AWAC's Executive Director spoke to the Water Management Course on October 21 and Master Gardener Course on December 10 to promote and educate students on important water conservation information.

The AWAC Quarterly General Membership Meeting was held on October 14, 2008 at the Joshua Basin Water District office. Twenty-one AWAC representatives from 13 participating agencies attended.