

# Water Annual Report

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WATER | ENERGY | LIFE



PUBLIC UTILITIES



At Riverside Public Utilities, we take our water seriously, which is why we have been dedicated to providing our customers with safe, reliable and high quality water for more than a century.

**We're proud that our water is among the safest and cleanest in the nation.**

Our staff, many of whom live here and use our water each day, are committed to the people of Riverside and our mission of providing the highest quality water and electric services at the lowest possible rates to benefit the community.

In this booklet you'll learn about the thousands of tests we carry out each year ensuring the water we rely on is safe to enjoy. You'll also learn about where our water comes from and why it's so important that we work together to conserve it.

As always, if you have questions about our water or any of our services, contact us by calling (951) 826-5485 or by going to [BlueRiverside.com](http://BlueRiverside.com).

**Water for growth.**

**Water for life.**

**Water for Riverside.**



David H. Wright  
*General Manager*

Scan this code with your smartphone or go to [BlueRiverside.com](http://BlueRiverside.com) for more information.





# Source & Supply

Riverside's water begins as snow and rain that touches down on our local mountains and foothills. As it flows downhill and into underground aquifers, it's filtered through percolation, a naturally occurring purification process. Each year, this process is repeated with each storm.

Our water sources, which are located throughout Riverside and San Bernardino, allow us to provide something for our customers not all utility agencies can – water independence.

**With our many wells and reservoirs, we're able to deliver more than 26 billion gallons of water each year.**





Riverside Public Utilities is committed to strengthening the reliability of our city's water system. We carefully invest our resources into Riverside's water infrastructure every year.

**This investment has led to the completion of projects that will help ensure the delivery of safe, reliable water for years to come.**

Our latest investment in Riverside's water future:

### ***Evans Reservoir Replacement Project***

The Evans Reservoir has served the people of Riverside since 1968. For any water provider, having the ability to store water until it's needed is critically important, which is why the Evans Reservoir has been a crucial part of our reliability.

The Evans Reservoir Replacement Project includes the construction of a 16 million gallon capacity reservoir that will consist of more than 10,000 cubic yards of cast-in-place, reinforced concrete and new water pipelines. The reservoir features state-of-the-art water meters, instrument control panels, and seismic actuated valves designed to shutoff to prevent flooding during an earthquake. When completed in early 2012, the new reservoir will cover 1.82 acres.

# System Investments

# Standards & Safety

California's drinking water standards are among the highest in the United States. The Safe Drinking Water Act, which was passed by Congress in 1974, requires all states to carry out rigorous testing to ensure that the nation's drinking water is free of harmful chemicals. This law ensures that the water you receive from a water provider is safe for you and your family.

**Our testing procedures meet or exceed all standards. We know this because we conduct more than 17,000 lab tests each year, which are carried out daily by a team of certified laboratory technicians, as well as utility staff.**

Test results are reported to the California Department of Public Health. With these procedures in place, you can be confident that the water you receive from Riverside Public Utilities is safe to drink.

For more information on water quality and conservation visit [BlueRiverside.com](http://BlueRiverside.com) or call 951.826.5485.



## **Is my water safe to drink?**

Yes. In fact your water meets or exceeds all state and federal standards set by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

## **Do I need a water filter to make my water drinkable?**

No. A safe amount of chlorine is used to purify your water and prevent harmful bacteria and viruses from growing in it. If you wish to remove the chlorine from your water, there are carbon filters designed for this purpose.

## **Who helps make sure our water is safe?**

Your water quality is regulated by both state and federal guidelines. In California, water quality standards are among the highest in the nation, helping to ensure that your water is safe to drink and free from harmful chemicals and bacteria. With more than 17,000 lab tests carried out on your water each year, you can be sure that the water you receive from Riverside Public Utilities is safe to drink.

## **Who tests Riverside's water?**

Riverside's water is rigorously tested by a private laboratory certified by the CDPH and evaluated annually to ensure its ability to effectively perform the testing.

## **Where can I find information on Riverside's water quality?**

Information on Riverside's water quality is published in the annual Consumer Confidence Report. We abide by a state of California mandate that requires us to produce an annual water quality report. The report is attached here and is available online at **BlueRiverside.com**.

## **I'm finding a white residue on my dishes – is this caused by my water?**

Water with calcium carbonate, often called "hard water," can sometimes leave a white residue or film on dishes. Calcium carbonate, which is absorbed into our water supply through natural processes, is not harmful. Calcium carbonate poses no health risks, but if you'd like to avoid this residue, consider using a water softener.

# Recycled Water

Riverside Public Utilities is building a network of pipes to take treated wastewater from the Riverside Water Quality Control Plant and pump it along side the Santa Ana River. This water will travel through purple pipes and be used to irrigate landscaping in parks, golf courses, and municipal sites, and for groundwater recharge. Using recycled water to irrigate allows us to provide more drinking water supply to Riverside.

For this project, Riverside Public Utilities will partner with the Public Works Department and Western Municipal Water District.

**Over time, the Recycled Water Project will result in nearly 20,000 acre feet - or 6.5 billion gallons of new water supply each year.**



# Water Saving Tips

## **Indoor:**

**Turn off the water when you brush your teeth** and save about 3 gallons per day

**Shorten your showers by one or two minutes** and save about 5 gallons per day

**Fix leaky faucets** and save about 20 gallons per day

**Wash only full loads of laundry** and save about 20 gallons per load

## **Outdoor:**

**Water your yard only before 8 a.m.** to reduce evaporation and interference from wind and save about 25 gallons per day

**Get a rebate when you install a weather-based irrigation controller** and save about 40 gallons per day

**Use a broom instead of a hose** to clean driveways and sidewalks and save about 150 gallons each time

**Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray, and broken sprinkler heads** and save about 500 gallons per month



# Saving for our Future

Riverside's water supply remains abundant, but increasing demands mean we all have to work together to use water efficiently. Most Southern Californians overwater their lawns and landscapes with double the amount of water needed to keep plants healthy. Since half the water used by single family homes is for outdoor watering, using a weather-based irrigation controller or reducing watering times when there is cooler weather can save a lot of water.

According to the California Department of Water Resources, by conserving water outdoors, 1.2 million acre-feet or 391.2 billion gallons of water could be saved each year in California. In fact, water conservation is an essential tool to use the existing water supply the best way possible. This will ensure that our supply will continue to meet demand for years to come.

Riverside Public Utilities is proud of the work we do to protect our water resources, improve delivery systems, maintain quality, and promote conservation for this and future generations.





## **Weather Based Irrigation Controller**

These controllers adjust irrigation schedules based on the weather and can reduce outdoor water use by about 20 percent. Purchase a 12-station controller and get a \$200 rebate.



## **High Efficiency Toilet**

These water-efficient toilets use only 1.28 gallons of water per flush (gpf) or less. Replace old toilets and receive up to \$95 back for each toilet (limit four).



## **High Efficiency Clothes Washer**

High efficiency clothes washers use about 30% less energy and use over 50% less water than traditional washers. Receive a rebate up to \$155 when purchasing an approved model.



## **Artificial Turf**

A typical home can conserve about 22,000 gallons of water per year. Replace your turf and receive a rebate of up to \$1 per square foot (limit \$1,000).



## **Rotating Sprinkler Nozzles**

Using pop-up sprinkler spray heads with rotating nozzles can save up to 6,600 gallons of water per nozzle over a 5-year period. Buy approved rotating sprinkler nozzles and get a rebate of \$3 per nozzle.



## **Waterwise Landscaping**

Receive 40 cents per square foot up to \$2,400 when you replace your lawn with a waterwise landscape.

Programs are subject to change without notice.

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