

# ANNUAL REPORT

2020-22



CHINO BASIN

**Water  
Conservation  
District**



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2020-2022

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# LETTER FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

There is no denying the challenges we as a community faced over the past two years. At Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD), with half of our team working from home and the Board of Director and Committee Meetings taking place virtually, we proved to be resilient by providing essential services necessary to meet the needs of our community.

On March 18, 2020, at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the CBWCD main building was closed to the public and remained so through a portion of 2021. However, during this period, the CBWCD pivoted our communications tactics with our community by offering live virtual adult education workshops and live virtual student field trips for grades K – 12 online. Moreover, in May 2021, having been absent for almost 10 years due to construction and the CBWCD's building remodeling,

we brought back eight goats and a guard llama to a 12-acre, groundwater percolation basin at Montclair Basin No. 4 to assist with an environmentally safer approach to weed control. We relaunched our Waterwise Garden Planner website, adding a brand-new feature: scalable garden designs in eight different styles, ranging from butterfly and songbird gardens to succulent sculpture gardens. Throughout the challenges of several State-ordered lockdowns, our goal was to continue to serve our community and partners with excellence. We remained focused on innovation. We continued to do whatever it took to keep our vision of ensuring our community understands the true value of water and uses it wisely in every home, every business and every neighborhood while expanding our local water supply through basin recharge.

Throughout Fiscal Year 2021, we accelerated our virtual outreach efforts. Many of the old ways of doing things were re-examined in light of a changed world, and staff had the opportunity to step back and rethink how we engage with the community and deliver exceptional service.

Fiscal Year 2022 was also transitional: A shift away from the uncertainty of the early COVID-19 pandemic toward a renewed focus on growing our impact in a new and increasingly digital future. In many ways, we are coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic stronger than we were before it started. And through it all, we have remained steadfast in our mission, a promise to the Chino Basin of protecting and replenishing our regional groundwater supply since 1949.

I would like to thank each one of our employees for the vital role they play in serving our community – for their skills, expertise, and commitment to making the CBWCD a dynamic workplace that is continuously innovating and improving. Our annual report serves as a historical record for the District, and as accountability to our community.

I want to recognize the Chino Basin Water Conservation District Board of Directors for its continued leadership throughout these challenging two years. In addition, I want to acknowledge our partners and community for their resilience and their commitment to water conservation, and the many other contributions they make in support of our mission.

**Elizabeth Skrzat**





# ABOUT US



The Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD) was formed in 1949 to help protect and preserve the Chino Groundwater Basin for the San Bernardino County communities that rely on it as a water source. Our formal service area includes all or part of the cities of Chino, Chino Hills, Montclair, Ontario, Fontana, Rancho Cucamonga, and Upland.

We provide services to increase water supply, by recharging the Chino Groundwater Basin through the operation and maintenance of eight large-scale percolation basins. These properties capture stormwater runoff that would otherwise be lost and allow it to be stored underground for later use by area water providers. In collaboration with other local agencies, we also manage these sites to allow

for additional groundwater recharge through the percolation of stormwater, recycled water, and imported water. The Waterwise Community Center, located in Montclair, serves as the public face of the District, offering our community free resources and inspiration for water conservation. The Waterwise Community Center provides a nexus in which staff can focus on reducing water demand through community engagement and conservation programming. We provide free resources and workshops to inspire and empower community members of all ages to be water stewards. The Waterwise Community Center's Demonstration Garden is free and open to the public and offers a living example of how beautiful conservation can be.

CBWCD is reducing water demand through community engagement and conservation programming.



# DID YOU KNOW?

CBWCD staff manages 134 acres or 5.8 million square feet of land for groundwater recharge.



## RECYCLED WATER:

FY22: **623 AF\***  
FY21: 396

FY20: 1,585  
FY19: 1,842  
FY18: 1,771



## IMPORTED WATER:

FY22: **98 AF**  
FY21: 1,564

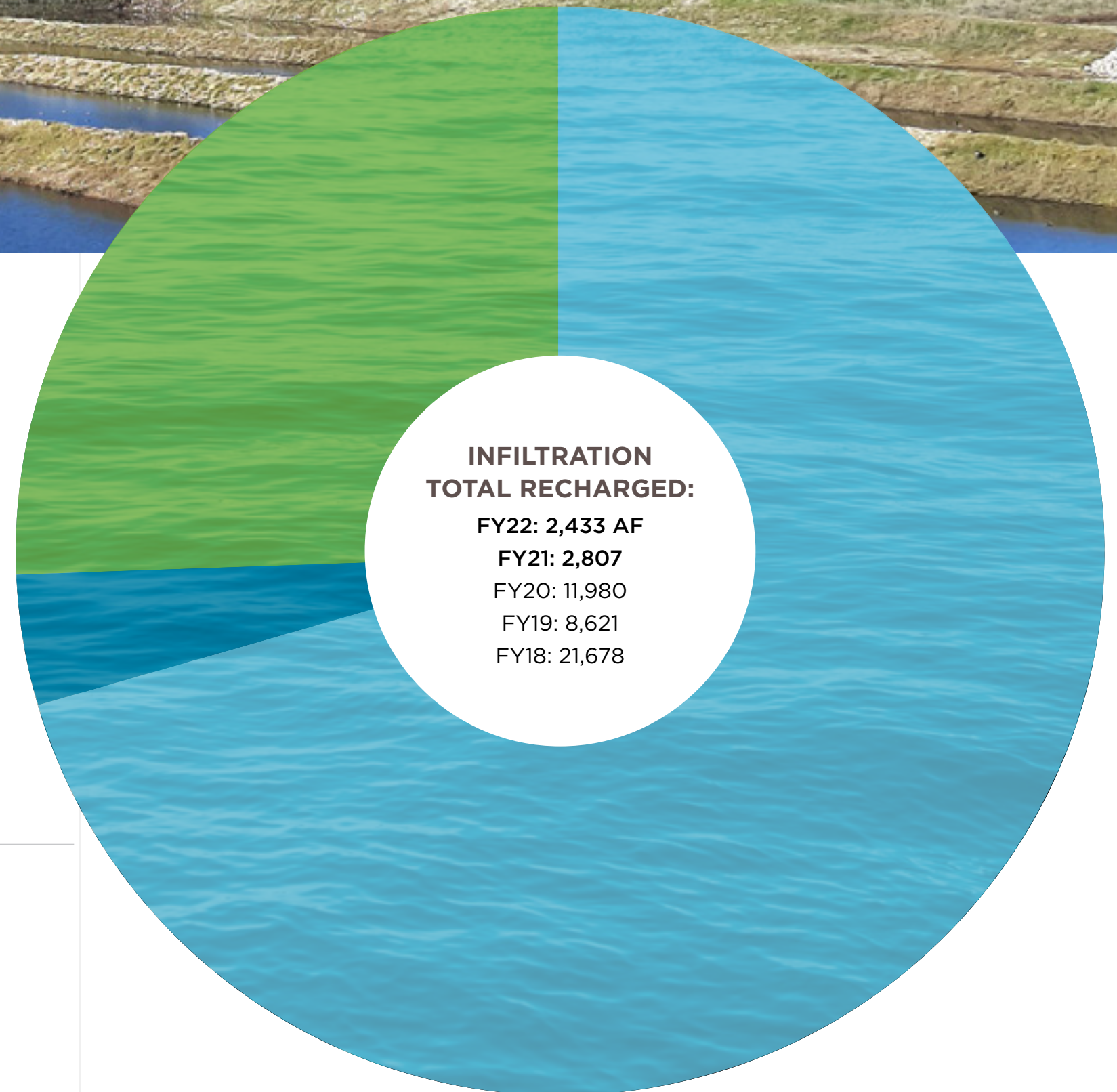
FY20: 8,089  
FY19: 3,962  
FY18: 19,272



## STORMWATER/ LOCAL RUNOFF:

FY22: **1,712 AF**  
FY21: 847

FY20: 2,306  
FY19: 2,816  
FY18: 635



\* An acre-foot (AF) is about 325,600 gallons of water; enough water to cover an acre of land, about the size of a football field, one foot deep. An average California household uses between one-half and one acre-foot of water per year for indoor and outdoor use.





#### ANNUAL PRECIPITATION\*:

FY22: 10.8 inches\*\*

FY21: 8.8

FY20: 18.3

FY19: 21.4

FY18: 24.1



#### WATER CAPTURED AT CBWCD DEMONSTRATION GARDEN, PARK, AND PARKING LOT\*\*:

FY22: 1.7 million gallons

FY21: 1.4

FY20: 2.1

FY19: 2.4

FY18: 0.6



#### IN-PERSON VISITORS TO THE WATERWISE COMMUNITY CENTER:

FY22: 4,785 visitors\*\*\*

FY21: 0\*\*\*

FY20: 9,640\*\*\*

FY19: 15,491

FY18: 16,916

\* Precipitation data from California Irrigation Management Information at <https://cimis.water.ca.gov/> for Pomona Station ID 78.

\*\* CBWCD has standardized its collection of precipitation data so these numbers may differ from previous years' reporting.

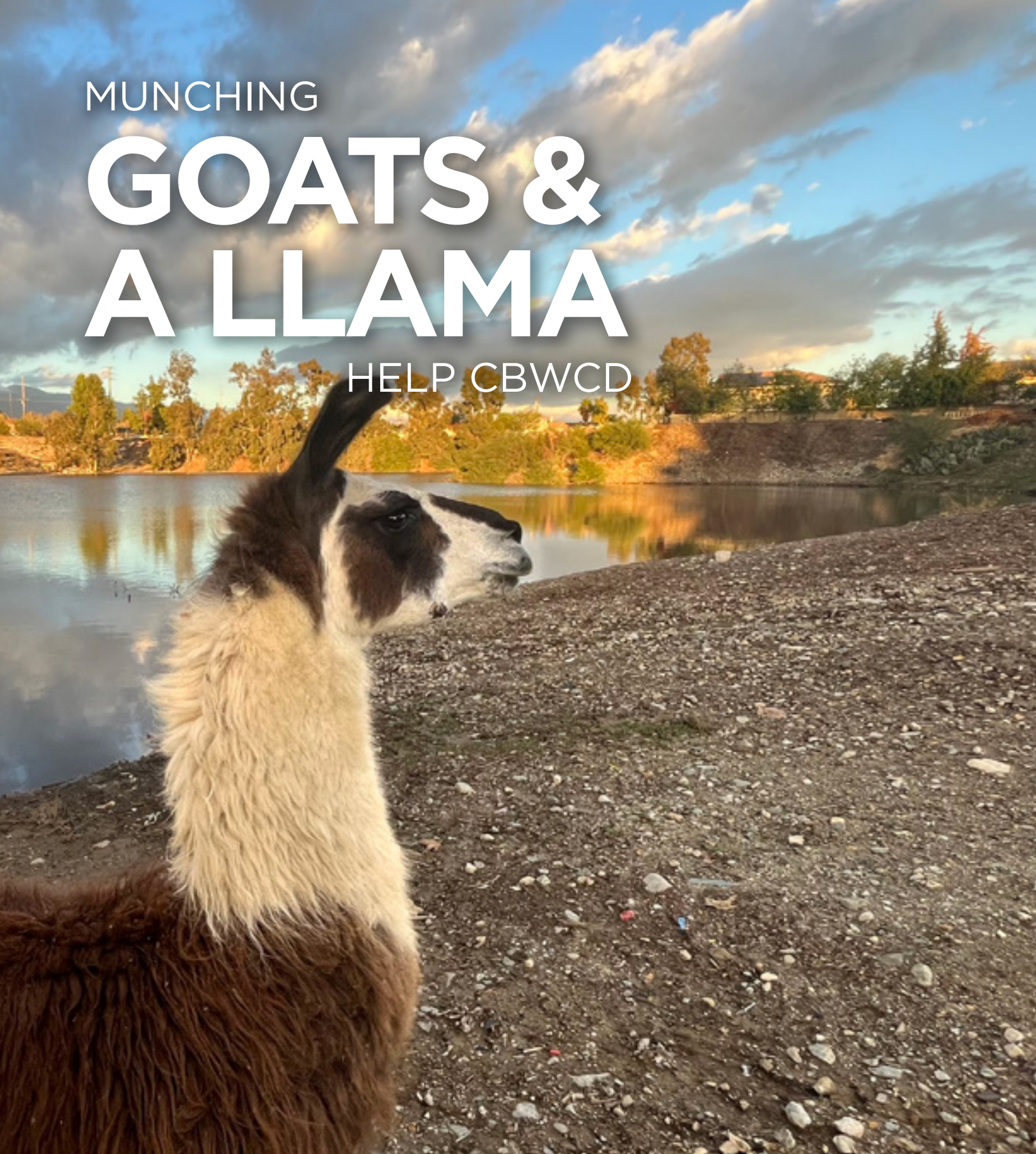
\*\*\* All in-person events and workshops from March 2020 to October 2021 were canceled due to COVID-19 health restrictions.

The Waterwise Community Center and demonstration garden are free and open to the public.



# MUNCHING GOATS & ALLAMA

HELP CBWCD



Bazzle the llama is a 9-year-old black-and-white tuxedo-colored “goat guard.”



Munching goats are gaining popularity in weed and wildfire mitigation across California as a sustainable method to minimize our carbon footprint. Grazing goats are a natural way to remove weeds, especially weeds from invasive plants, while protecting the nutrients in the soil. Goats are the ideal choice for this task because they have four compartments in their bellies, which break down tough vegetation, including seeds. That means they digest even the seeds of the weeds completely, so they won't grow back from the manure left behind. The goats graze on grasses, leaves, poison oak, and a variety of shrubs and trees. By standing on their hind legs, they can reduce ladder fuels up to six feet high. Ladder fuels are low-lying tree branches and shrubs and trees under the canopy of a large tree. In areas prone to wildfires, creating a separation in vegetation by removing ladder fuels is an important task to reduce the spread of wildfires.

“Since May 2021 the CBWCD's Montclair No. 4 percolation basin is now maintained by eight female Boer goats, a breed developed in South Africa,

which are provided in partnership with Foyil Farms in Ontario”, explains Facilities and Operations Manager Dave Schroeder. The District's contract with Foyil costs \$1,500 per year and covers supplemental feed and medical checkups for the goats.

And the llama Bazzle? Bazzle is a 9-year-old black-and-white tuxedo-colored “goat guard.” His job is to protect the goats from attacks by coyotes and stray dogs. Of the farmers surveyed by Prof. William Franklin of Iowa State University\*, about 50% saw their llamas interact with potential predators. A variety of responses were noted including alarm call (32%); run at predator (62%); pursue fleeing predator (58%); kick/strike predator (21%); rounding up sheep for protection (34%) or positioning himself between predators and sheep (8%). Llamas bond with sheep, alpacas, goats, deer, and poultry, guarding them against predators. For these reasons, Bazzle was selected to protect our goats and the District has not lost any goats under Bazzle's watch.

\* Franklin, W., (2006). *Guard Llamas – A Part of Integrated Sheep Protection*. *Carrelid Quarterly*. 1-7.



# FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

## HIGHLIGHTS

### 2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ely Basin No. 3:** South landscape weed abatement, tree trimming, and mulching.
- **Montclair Basins No's. 2 & 3:** Slope erosion repairs and installation of metal pipe slope drains.
- **Goats and Llama:** Weed abatement and education.
- **Montclair Basin No. 3:** Remove old fencing. Grade east road and install road base.

### 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Ely Basin No. 3:** Slope tracking for weed abatement and minor erosion repairs. New drought tolerant landscape installation at the northwest corner.
- **Montclair Basin No. 1:** East fence demo and replacement. Facilities staff removed old chain link fencing and graded/cleaned area for the new fence installation by a contractor.
- **Montclair Basins No's. 1 & 3:** Removed silts from nuisance water ponds

CBWCD maintains 8 groundwater basins and 134 acres of land along our regions creek channels.



# CONSERVATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS



## LANDSCAPE EFFICIENCY AUDITS:

**FY22:** 148 landscape efficiency audits with the potential to save 4.4 million gallons or 13.7 acre-feet of water per year.

**FY21:** 16 (COVID program paused for most of FY) landscape efficiency audits were conducted, potentially saving 16.3 million gallons or 50.16 acre-feet of water per year.

FY20: 144

FY18: 106

FY19: 161

FY17: 49



## LANDSCAPE DESIGNS:

**FY22:** 36 landscape designs created from the Design Assistance Program for residents planning to convert to waterwise landscapes at home (in collaboration with IEUA and area water providers).

**FY21:** 19

FY20: 26\*

FY19: 93

FY18: 67

*\*Starting in 2020, the district required those seeking a landscape design to attend our "Landscape Transformation Basics" workshop to raise the percentage of participants who installed their landscapes within one year.*



## RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE WORKSHOPS:

**FY22:** 35 workshops with 2,389 attendees.

FY20: 34

**FY21:** 44 workshops with 2,359 attendees.

FY19: 35

FY18: 22



**Waterwise  
Garden Planner**  
for Southern California

## INLAND VALLEY GARDEN PLANNER

(recently rebranded [Waterwise Garden Planner](#)):

**FY22:** 329,963 Unique Users,  
4,831 Sphere of Influence Users,  
814,828 Page Views.

FY20: 225,374 users

FY19: 113,386

FY18: 51,543

**FY21:** 363,760 Unique Users,  
6,625 Sphere of Influence Users,  
926,620 Page Views.



## YOUTUBE ON-DEMAND RECORDED WORKSHOPS, VIEWS:

**FY22 Total:** 37,357

**FY21 Total:** 9,777



## USERS OF THE CBWCD WEBSITE:

**FY22:** 53,608 users

FY20: 37,263

**FY21:** 37,983

FY19: 44,916

FY18: 81,915





## MULCH/COMPOST GIVEAWAYS

During the COVID-19 Pandemic, staff created a new way to give away mulch and compost that allowed for greater social distancing. Mulch and compost were left in designated parking areas in the District parking lot, allowing community members to pick them up on their own schedule and at their own pace. Therefore, there was minimal contact between community members. As pandemic restrictions eased, compost giveaways moved back to being available only during the first and third Saturdays of the month, while mulch remained available in the main parking lot. Therefore, measurements for FY 20 – FY 22 were taken by cubic yards than by number of people served, as they are in FY 18 and FY 19.

**FY22:** Community members picked up more than 400 cubic yards of free mulch for the gardens and more than 546 cubic yards of free compost through our ongoing self-serve giveaway.

**F21:** 325 cubic yards of free mulch, 619 cubic yards of free compost.

FY20: 260 cubic yards of free mulch, 425 cubic yards of free compost.

FY19: 1,177 community members received free mulch to help with landscape water savings at mulch giveaway events.

FY18: 944 community members

Free mulch is available in the CBWCD parking lot and compost is available on the first and third Saturdays of the month.





# DESIGNING WATERWISE LANDSCAPES

## BECAUSE LAWNS ARE BORING

Originally launched in May 2017, CBWCD's Inland Valley Garden Planner website has recently undergone a relaunch to the Waterwise Garden Planner website at [waterwisegardenplanner.org](https://waterwisegardenplanner.org). It is a top resource for learning about waterwise plants and gardening in Southern California. The initial website focused primarily on a searchable waterwise plant database, detailed plant profiles, and useful reference lists.

While information related to individual plants is a key part of success with waterwise gardening, community members embarking on larger projects requested resources that would help them create their own landscape designs or better communicate design ideas with contractors. Staff took on this challenge, creating a unique "template" approach to waterwise

landscape design for our region. In August 2021, CBWCD relaunched a renovated Inland Valley Garden Planner website, including a new section of the site dedicated to landscape design. This new section features detailed landscape plan templates created around eight different popular themes for waterwise gardens that embrace the California lifestyle. It provides easy-to-emulate plans for small, medium, large, and extra-large gardens corresponding with each theme, plus additional resources for homeowner success. This content has proved a popular addition to the website, with the core design pages receiving 47,711 page views between August 2021 and the end of June 2022. On March 17, 2022, the District hosted a launch party for the new version of the Inland Valley/Waterwise Garden Planner for area municipal and public

agency managers, board members, and city council members. Fifty attendees saw what the site has to offer for residents of their communities and participated in a panel discussion on increasing water savings through conservation in Homeowners Association (HOA) landscapes.

The response to the site from the public has been enthusiastic, and the design templates played a key role in the Landscape Design Assistance Program as well as in-person workshops offered in 2022. The District views the

Waterwise Garden Planner as a living platform that will continue to develop additional content based on continued feedback from our community members and program participants. Conservation Program Manager Scott Kleinrock, who led the team in redesigning the website, comments, "We are excited to continually develop this website to best meet the needs of our community as they embark on this change and are thrilled to hear from our local residents who have used it as an integral part of their landscape transformation projects."



**Waterwise  
Garden Planner**  
for Southern California

[WaterwiseGardenPlanner.org](https://WaterwiseGardenPlanner.org)



# EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR 2021



## Robert Sotomayor

Employee recognition is not new to CBWCD. Each month, the District's managers select an employee whose outstanding work ethic is honored with a "Sam Buck." The Sam Buck allows for the honored employee to take one hour of leave time either at the start or end of their shift.

What's new in 2021 is the Annual Employee of the Year Award. The award recipient is voted on by secret ballot by hourly staff only and he or she is acknowledged during the December Holiday Party by the District's Employee Appreciation Team (known affectionately as the "EAT Team"). CBWCD was honored to have the opportunity to recognize Robert Sotomayor as the District's first Employee of the Year recipient. Sotomayor has worked for the district since June 2008 and currently holds the position of Facilities and Basin Technician. His typical workday includes meeting with the Facilities and Operations team to discuss priorities for the workday, including watering garden and parking lot plants, building inspections, maintenance (trash

& landscape pruning) at our eight basins, and turning basin irrigation systems on and off. The team also works on mulching projects in the District's Wilderness Park; assists with Demonstration garden projects; and works on basin projects such as weed abatement, installing new irrigation, landscape maintenance, and trash and graffiti removal.

Sotomayor is also in charge of quarterly maintenance projects for the District's main campus of buildings, such as HVAC maintenance, waxing, electric work, and tree trimming. In the rainy season, Sotomayor goes into the field with the crew to open and close basin storm gates and clean out basin channels. Although he spends most of his workday in the field at the CBWCD's basins, his positive attitude, dedicated work ethic, and attention to detail are what shine in his interactions with staff. As the recipient of the Employee of the Year Award, Sotomayor received eight Sam Bucks that entitled him to one workday off during the next calendar year.

Sitting down with the first employee of the year allowed for questions and answers insight into what motivates Sotomayor.

### *Who has made the biggest difference in your life and how?*

My wife Jessica, because she motivates me and pushes me to be better than yesterday. She knows that I am a lot more than what I sometimes tell myself. She sees the potential in me that I don't always see in myself, which motivates me to be a great and positive employee in my everyday work here at CBWCD.

### *What is your dream job?*

My current job! I enjoy the opportunities provided working for CBWCD through the years and continuing to learn and grow every year.

### *What is your favorite quote?*

My favorite quote is from Scripture: Joshua 1.9 "Have I not commanded you to be strong and courageous, do not be afraid, do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you always."

### *What makes you stand out from your peers?*

My can-do attitude. Trying to figure out a solution for whatever problem occurs.

### *How did it feel to hold Eight Sam Bucks at once?*

I felt like the King of the World for a full workday.

### *In three words, how would you describe yourself to a stranger?*

Fun, unpredictable, wildcard.



# COMMUNITY PROGRAM

## HIGHLIGHTS



### K-12 EDUCATION STUDENTS SERVED BY CBWCD NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS-ALIGNED YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAMS:

<b>FY22:</b> 4,834 students*	<b>FY20:</b> 5,928**
<b>FY21:</b> 1,817**	<b>FY19:</b> 7,738
	<b>FY18:</b> 8,430



### STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN FIELD TRIPS:

<b>FY22:</b> 3,344 students	<b>FY20:</b> 3,803**
<b>FY21:</b> 1,303***	<b>FY19:</b> 4,624
	<b>FY18:</b> 5,023



### ONLINE OUTREACH FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS:

<b>FY22:</b> 3,626 followers	<b>FY20:</b> 3,225
<b>FY21:</b> 3,656	<b>FY19:</b> 2,848
	<b>FY18:</b> 2,419

\* Includes participants in in-person Field Trips, the annual Poster Contest, and Volunteer Cohort.

\*\* Educational programs were closed or canceled in the spring of 2020 due to COVID-19 health restrictions.

\*\*\* All field trips were virtual due to COVID-19 health restrictions.



During the 2020-2021 and 2021-22 school years, our education program fully adapted to distance learning, developing different synchronous and asynchronous lessons. We continued to share free educational curriculum materials and resources, and in 2020 launched “The Drop: Educator Edition,” a newsletter designed specially to support educators during distance learning. Each month educators were introduced to videos and links on topics that reinforced STEM learning and environmental literacy through Next

Generation Science Standards (NGSS) aligned activities for grades K-12. With almost 500 subscribers, the last edition of The Educator Edition was May 2022 to allow Community Programs staff to gear up for the upcoming school year, in which the District will return to hosting three in-person, on-site field trips per week.

CBWCD offers a variety of programs from Pre K – 12th grade to inspire, inform, and empower youth in our communities to become the next generation of water stewards.





# VIRTUAL INTERACTIVE FIELDTRIPS PROMOTE A SENSE OF WONDER

by Lynn Lipinski

March 27, 2021

During a virtual field trip to the Waterwise Community Center, the third graders from Arroyo Elementary School in Ontario, California, had tons of questions.

What do mosquitofish eat? Can you drink the water stored in a cactus? Is Sam the tortoise a boy or a girl?

Chino Basin Water Conservation District field trip leaders Jenna Hoover and Billy Mercado smiled as the students asked questions and chimed in with observations, raising their hands physically or virtually in the window of the Zoom call.

“Do you see any clouds in the sky today?” Mercado said as CBWCD intern Jovana Durovic aimed the camera upward, filling the lens and the students’ screens with deep blue sky. Several children shook their heads no and one or two typed the answer into the chat screen. “That’s right, no clouds over Montclair today,” Mercado said.

With off-campus outings on hold due to the pandemic, local schools and the Waterwise Community Center closed to visitors, and many Southern California children learning from home, virtual field trips offer students a window into the outside world during the COVID-19 pandemic. That’s why CBWCD staff has teamed up with area schools to virtually reimagine their field trip program and create a sense of adventure and exploration as they teach students about local water supplies through computer screens.

“We wanted to connect students to the outdoors and outdoor education while they are learning from home,” said Maia Dean, CBWCD’s Community Program Manager. The virtual field trip lasts about an hour and can be tailored to students as young as five to high school seniors. It gives children the chance to virtually experience the native plants, bioswales, and groundwater basins of the Waterwise Community Center grounds through

an interactive scavenger hunt and a tour. It ends with a perennial favorite: an up-close visit with Sam the Sulcata Tortoise.

The children were visibly thrilled when Sam the tortoise appeared on the Zoom screen. Their questions came fast and furious. Was he a turtle? Does he ever wander off? What does he eat? Where does he sleep? And of course, how much does he weigh? Hoover and Mercado kept up with the questions verbally and in the chat. (Sam weighs 100 pounds, by the way.) Hoover called Sam the Center’s “waterwise hero” because he’s perfectly adapted to survive in semi-arid climates just like the Chino Basin area or his native African Sahel region.

CBWCD staff loves showing the students something new, though it isn’t quite the same as when they get to come experience all the sights, smells, and sounds of the garden in person. The sensory aspects of hearing the geese squawk in the basin and the spicy scent of the salvias in the garden usually combine with learning to make a memorable experience. “Try to get outside later today if you can and feel the wind on your face,” Hoover told the children.

Even virtually, teachers like Jennifer Baik have found the experience memorable and educational for their students. Baik, a fourth-grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School, said that her students were highly engaged during the hour-long session. They loved the interactive walk-around tour... seeing the tortoise, the lizards, and all the other plants and living organisms at the center,” she said.

Fourth-grade teacher Diane Werdmuller was impressed with the virtual tour and how it held her students’ interest. She had taken previous classes on the in-person field trips and found the virtual tour offered a very similar experience. “Everything was wonderful,” she said. Until schools return to in-person excursions, virtual field trips will likely be a classroom staple at least through this school year.

Before the pandemic, the Waterwise Community Center typically hosted more than 5,000 TK-12 students annually. Virtual tours may not be a perfect substitute, but they are creating enrichment for students during the pandemic.

“Field trips are what kids remember, which makes them so effective for teaching kids about water conservation as a way of life in California,” said CBWCD Board Vice President Margaret Hamilton, an educator with nearly four decades of experience mainly as a first-grade teacher. Hamilton continued, “This is such a tough time to be a student, which is why it’s so exciting to be able to provide such an enriching experience for our kids. I just love seeing their excited little faces on the screen.”

Since schools reopened, the CBWCD continues to receive requests for 1-hour virtual field trips as well as 2 to 3 hours educator-led in-person field trips. Therefore, so long as there is a need, CBWCD will continue to allow teachers to choose which field trip fits their education style.



# ADMINISTRATION

## HIGHLIGHTS



- Successfully completed the Decennial Redistricting following the 2020 Census
- Adopted new Mission & Vision statement.
- Adopted a District Seal by Ordinance.
- Established a District Logo and Branding Guidelines.
- Received Transparency Certificate of Excellence from Special District Leadership Foundation.
- Completed Compensation and Benefits Study with Koff & Associates.
- Developed Employee Appreciation Team (EAT) and formalized Sam Bucks employee recognition program.

# SECURING LONG-TERM FINANCIAL STABILITY



In June 2022, the Board approved a one-time payment of \$959,000 to reduce the District's unfunded employee pension liabilities. The advance funding plan will reduce the District's unfunded employee pension liabilities by \$6 million over 23 years. On June 30, 2019, the CBWCD assessed an AL Significant Increase of \$982,287 and went from Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) of 78.7% funded in 2018 to 55.2% funded in 2020.

The Board directed staff to find ways to address this challenge, which is impacting government agencies throughout California. Board President Terry King explained that "We must pay down our unfunded pension liability for the fiscal health of the District. We have a responsibility to our employees and our taxpayers."

District staff's key objective for pensions in FY 21-22 was exploring alternatives to reduce unfunded employee pension liabilities. The first steps included paying the California Public Employees Retirement System in full each year and saving 3% by making the annual unfunded liability payment in one lump sum at the beginning of the fiscal year. The District's unfunded pension liability is essentially a debt on which the district pays 7 to 7.5 percent interest. However, unlike other debt, the amount owed changes annually based on the difference between the expected and

actual performance of CalPERS pension plan's investment assets during a given year. The expected performance is based on the California Public Employees Retirement System's actuarial assumptions, including expected earnings from interest, expected mortality rates, and the number of contributions CalPERS expects to receive from member agencies. Staff consulted with CalPERS Senior Pension Actuary Daniel Miller, attended workshops and seminars offered by CalPERS, and worked with a prepayment modeling tool provided by CalPERS. In addition, in 2021, the Board authorized putting funds for CalPERS in a California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust (CEPPT), which is a restricted trust for future payments likely to yield a higher return on investments than our Local Agency Investment Fund (LAIF) or CalTrust portfolios.

CalPERS payment modeling expects the \$959,000 payment to increase the District's funded status to 74 percent by 2024.

General Manager Elizabeth Skrzat explains "If the Board had not approved the voluntary payment, the District's employee annual payments to CalPERS would increase from \$140,000 this year to as high as \$163,000 in the fiscal year 2030-31, and the District would not pay off its employee pensions until 2044."



# GOVERNANCE:

## REDISTRICTING & REPRESENTATION



Generally, residents know who their city, county, governor, and U.S. president representatives are and what they do. However, the role of a government special district often remains enigmatic.

Who elects the Board of Directors of the Chino Basin Water Conservation District? The answer is you! More specifically, registered voters in our service area elect Board Members that live in and represent their communities.

The Chino Basin Water Conservation District (CBWCD), incorporated on December 6, 1949, is an independent special district that operates under the authority of Division 21 of the California Water Code. Located in the western region of San Bernardino County, California, the CBWCD's service area encompasses the entire cities of

Montclair and Chino, portions of the cities of Chino Hills, Ontario, Rancho Cucamonga, and Upland, and some of the unincorporated areas of western San Bernardino County.

The CBWCD is governed by an elected seven-member Board. Each Director must reside within the geographical area established for their respective Divisions.

### ***How are these geographical areas established?***

Every ten years, districts must be redrawn so that each district is substantially equal in population. This process, called redistricting, is important in ensuring that each board member represents about the same number of constituents. In the CBWCD, the Board of Directors is responsible for drawing board member division

boundaries. This year, redistricting was done using U.S. 2020 Census data, which was released in August 2021. The redistricting process was completed by the California legislature required due date of May 12, 2022.

Redistricting determines which neighborhoods and communities are grouped into a division to elect each board member. To the extent practicable, division lines were adopted using the following criteria:

1. geographically contiguous districts.
2. the geographic integrity of local neighborhoods or communities was respected in a manner that minimizes its division.
3. geographic integrity of a city was respected in a manner that minimizes its division.

4. followed easily identifiable boundaries that follow natural or artificial barriers (rivers, streets, highways, rail lines, etc.)
5. lines were drawn to encourage geographic compactness. In addition, boundaries were not drawn for purposes of favoring or discriminating against a political party.

### ***How many Water Conservations Districts are in California?***

The CBWCD is one of 15 Water Conservation Districts in California with Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District and San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District as our closest conservation district neighbors.



# SERVING THE PUBLIC

## THE CHINO BASIN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**TERENCE M. KING**  
**DIVISION 1**  
*Board President*

Terry King serves portions of the Cities of Upland and Montclair and serves as the Board President. He has been a resident of the City of Upland since 1978. Along with his wife, Pamela, of 34 years, he has raised two grown children. He has been a Director for the District since January 2002, and is a member of the Recharge Committee, and has served on the Education and Facilities Committees.

President King earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of

California, Riverside. He is a registered professional engineer in California. President King was employed by the Army Corps of Engineers for over thirty-five years. His responsibilities included engineering and construction management on many flood control and water conservation projects in Southern California, including the Seven Oaks and Prado Dam projects on the Santa Ana River in San Bernardino County. He is currently a project director for Citadel CPM, Pasadena, CA. President King is a combat decorated veteran of the United States Marine Corps.



**MARGARET HAMILTON**  
**DIVISION 3**  
*Board Vice President*

Margaret Hamilton serves the northern, historic neighborhoods of the City of Ontario. She was appointed to the CBWCD Board in January 2012 and ran for re-election in 2014, 2018, and 2022. She currently serves as Vice President of the Board and serves on the Personnel Committee and the Education Committee. Her focus on the Board has been supporting the District's programs educating the public about the importance of water and how to use it wisely.

Vice President Hamilton has been an Ontario resident for over 40 years. She is a retired schoolteacher having taught at Ontario Christian School, Chino Valley Unified School District, and the Department of Defense, teaching overseas on military bases in England and Japan.

Vice President Hamilton has been active in the community serving as a neighborhood watch captain with her husband, collecting funds for the American Heart Association, and serving on the board for the Ontario Christian Schools. She is also active with her church by serving on several committees. She has been married to her husband Bob Hamilton for 41 years. They have two married daughters, and seven adorable grandchildren. In her spare time, she and her husband like to garden, travel, and read. She has been active in the recycling programs of Ontario and is interested in water conservation and educating the future generations.



**MARC GRUPPOSO**  
**DIVISION 2**  
*Board Treasurer*

Marc Gruppосо serves parts of the Cities of Upland and Rancho Cucamonga and serves as the Board Treasurer. He was appointed to the CBWCD Board in July 2016 and chairs both the Finance Committee and the Personnel Committee.

Treasurer Gruppосо is a small business owner who operates a service-based business throughout Southern California. He has raised three children who have attended Upland Public Schools. His oldest son is proudly serving in the Navy, his daughter followed him into the family business, and his youngest son is a high-school student who shares his passion of running and participates on his school's cross-country team.

Treasurer Gruppосо has been actively involved in charity work for the past 20 years with Kerus Global Education preventing the spread and compassionately caring for those infected and affected by HIV/Aids, promoting the health and well-being of youth especially young women and vulnerable children, and providing after school orphanages in South Africa.

Treasurer Gruppосо is a huge water conservation advocate and believes water education and conservation play a vital role in the Chino Basin to ensure future water supplies.





**MARK LIGTENBERG**  
DIVISION 4

Mark Ligtenberg serves northern and eastern areas of the City of Ontario. He was born in Pasadena and lived most of his life in Chino and Ontario. Director Ligtenberg attended Ontario Christian High School. He is self-employed as an electrician, largely focusing on residential customers. He was appointed at District 4 for Chino Basin Water Conservation District in 2016 and appointed again in 2020. On his free time, he enjoys traveling and spending quality time with his grandchildren



**GIL ALDACO**  
DIVISION 5

Gil Aldaco serves parts of the Cities of Montclair and western Ontario. He served on the District Board from 2002 through 2012 and again 2016 through the present. He is a longtime resident of Chino, attended Chino schools, and graduated from Chino High School. Director Aldaco retired from the City of Chino after 45 years of service in Water Utilities Management, which includes Water Supply & Systems operations, Wastewater and Stormwater Collection Systems, and Recycled Water Distribution. He is a lifetime member of the American Water Works Association. Director Aldaco currently resides in Ontario with his wife and several farm animals, including miniature horses, chickens, geese, and ducks.



**DR. HANIF GULMAHAMAD**  
DIVISION 6

Dr. Hanif Gulmahamad represents the southeastern portion of the City of Ontario and portions of the City of Chino. He has served on the CBWCD Board since 2014. Director Gulmahamad received his BSc in Agricultural Biology from California State University, Pomona, in 1972 where he graduated with honors. He obtained a PhD degree in Entomology, with a minor in Ecology, from the University of California, Riverside, in 1975 where he graduated with honors. He was a lecturer at California State University, Pomona, in the School of Agriculture in 1975. He taught at the University of Guyana, Turkeyen, in the Department of Biology from 1976 to 1977. He returned to California in December 1977 and worked for Terminix International as a Technical Specialist for 17 years. He subsequently worked for the Los Angeles Unified School District for ten years as an Operations Training Specialist and retired in December 2011. He is currently working as a consultant in the fields of Urban and Structural Entomology. He is a Board Certified Entomologist and an emeritus member of the Entomological Society of America.



**RYAN SONNENBERG**  
DIVISION 7

Ryan Sonnenberg serves the southern portion of Chino and Chino Hills. He has lived his entire life in Chino. Director Sonnenberg attended Don Antonio Lugo High School, Mt. San Antonio College and multiple vocational programs. He is currently a water treatment plant operator for Three Valleys Municipal Water District, a 25,000,000 gallon-a-day conventional treatment plant which is a member agency of the Metropolitan Water District. Prior to that, he was employed by the City of Chino Hills Public Works Department for seven years and served in the Water Production, Water Distribution, Customer Service, and Landscape Divisions. Director Sonnenberg holds a State Water Resources Control Board Water Treatment Grade 4 and Water Distribution Grade 4, CSU Sacramento Water Treatment Plant Specialist Certification and an American Water Works Association Water Quality Laboratory Analyst Certification.



# SAVE WATER WITH US!

Being “waterwise” in our everyday lives is more important than ever as we recognize that drought conditions are the new normal. At the Waterwise Community Center, we have lots of resources to help you save water inside and outside your home and your business or organization. Here are just a few highlights:

## **SPRINKLER CHECKUPS**

CBWCD offers qualifying properties a free and complete evaluation of their landscape and irrigation system and recommendations on how to improve overall water use efficiency.

## **HOMEOWNERS’ WORKSHOPS**

A variety of online and in-person workshops scheduled throughout the year educate residents on how to water their lawns and gardens, landscape with native and drought-tolerant plants, take advantage of rebate programs, maintain irrigation systems, and more.

## **LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION**

In addition to our online and in-person workshops, we offer several resources to assist with using less water outdoors, such as the Waterwise Garden Planner website which helps people learn about

and choose the best plants for inland Southern California landscapes.

## **WATERWISE DEMONSTRATION GARDEN**

A stroll through our 1.75-acre Demonstration Garden inspires many visitors to try waterwise plants in their landscapes. This Certified Wildlife Habitat includes garden sections in styles including Southwest, Mediterranean, and Woodland, each designed to thrive in our sunny, inland climate without using too much water. You can also view our turf demonstration area to learn more about how much water your lawn needs, discover how bioswales help collect runoff water when it rains, and why permeable surfaces help our groundwater basin.

At the Waterwise Community Center, we have lots of resources to help you save water inside and outside your home and your business or organization.





CHINO BASIN  
**Water  
Conservation  
District**

