

# Water Matters



## Get Digging This Fall

Fall is a great time to transform your boring water-thirsty lawn into a gorgeous low-water use landscape filled with native plants that will attract butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, and other pollinators to your yard. Here are some plants to consider:

### Ground Covers

**California Fescue** (*Festuca californica*) – The California Fescue is a bunching grass that grows up to two feet tall by two feet wide and has stunning blue-green foliage. It works well as an accent plant or in masses.

[Get Digging | page 2](#)

## Update on SSWD & CWD Combination Talks

In June, both CWD and SSWD hosted public workshops on the status of combination discussions. The workshops were well attended and shared findings from an initial study on combination, the current state of discussions, a look ahead, and included a lengthy question-and-answer period. You can view a complete recording of the SSWD workshop, as well as fact sheets and Frequently Asked Questions at <https://www.sswd.org/about/mou-with-sswd-and-carmichael-water-district>.

CWD and SSWD are currently developing a detailed Technical Analysis that examines potential governance structures, water supply and rights, capital improvement projects, operations, cost savings, staffing, and other related issues.

**Save the Date** – SSWD and CWD are holding a Joint Board meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., in the District Boardroom at 3701 Marconi Avenue. Complete details on how to attend in person or via video conference are available at: <https://www.sswd.org/about/meeting-agendas-packets-minutes>.

## MulchTober Fest: Prep Your Yard for Fall and Winter

Saturday, October 21st  
8:00 a.m. until 12 Noon

That's right! SSWD is holding a second free mulch give away for our customers. Mulch is nature's gift to your water-wise yard. It helps reduce evaporation, moderates soil temperature, and adds nutrients to the soil as it breaks down. Adding two to three inches of organic mulch around your trees and plants can help you save thousands of gallons of water a year.

Please bring a shovel, a tarp, or container, and a means to take it home. First-come, first-served, one cubic yard per customer, while supplies last.

**Where:** 917 Enterprise Dr.,  
Sacramento, CA 95825





## Top Reasons to Switch to Paperless Billing

Still getting a monthly water bill? Here are some reasons why you should make the switch to paperless billing.

- It cuts down on clutter and helps the environment. Each month you will receive an email or text message letting you know your bill is ready for review and payment.
- It conveniently lets you pay your bill at anytime from anywhere. Taking a long vacation? Out of town for work? No worries. You can pay your bill from your phone, tablet, or laptop computer, whenever it's best for you. You can also set up automatic payments and never worry about paying your bill late again.
- It's secure. The transactions are all encrypted. You won't have to worry about your check being stolen or lost in the mail.

Not ready to make the switch to paperless billing? You can still pay your monthly water bill online, as well as check your monthly water usage, compare yearly trends, and find out quickly if your home or business might have a leak.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact our Customer Service Team at 916.972.7171.



## Water Supply Update | SSWD Shifts to Surface Water to Recharge Groundwater

With the record-breaking amount of snow this winter and runoff continuing to flow through our rivers, SSWD has shifted to using more surface water in order to let the groundwater aquifer recharge.

SSWD has the largest network of groundwater wells in the Sacramento region and typically relies on groundwater for 76 percent of its supply in a normal year. In 2023, groundwater use has shifted to only 47 percent, allowing SSWD to bank 1,236,535 million gallons in the aquifer. That's enough water to serve 5,152 households for a year.

This ability to use both surface water or groundwater according to availability is called conjunctive use and has provided SSWD with a more sustainable water supply. SSWD's conjunctive use program, which was made possible by our rate payers, has allowed the District to bank more than 124,792 billion gallons of ground water over the past two decades. This means more water will be available in years of drought and for the future.

[Get Digging from page 1](#)

**California Fuchsia** (*Epilobium canum*) – The California Fuchsia is known for its bright red flowers and is one of the few California natives to bloom in the middle of summer. It grows to around three feet tall by three feet wide and requires little to no water in summer once it is established.

**Sonoma Sage** (*Salvia sonomensis*) – The Sonoma Sage or Creeping Sage grows a little over a foot high by five to 15 feet wide. Its flowers range in color from blue to lavender, purple and white. It does best in shade to part-shade.

**Purple Needle Grass** (*Stipa pulchra*) – Purple Needle Grass is the state grass of California and excellent for use in a water-wise landscape. It grows to up to three feet high by two feet wide and produces airy seedheads that start out purple and then fade into a silver-tan color.



[Get Digging | page 3](#)

Get Digging from page 2



**Woodland Strawberry** (*Fragaria vesca*) – The Woodland Strawberry is a fast-growing groundcover that produces white flowers followed by small, tasty, red berries. It does well in partially shady areas and only needs watering once a week when established.

### Shrubs

**Silver Lupine** (*Lupinus albifrons*) – The Silver Lupine grows to two feet wide by five feet high.

It has light blue to purple flowers on long stalks and is beloved by butterflies. It requires little supplemental water once established.

**Coffeberry** (*Frangula californica*) – It might not produce beans for your morning coffee, but you'll love having it in your yard. It's native to California and southwestern Oregon and can grow up to 15 feet tall. It produces red berries that turn black as they age. It works well as a hedge and is very popular with birds.

**Buck Brush** (*Ceanothus cuneatus*) – Buck Brush is a low-water, evergreen shrub that can grow up to 11 feet wide by 11 feet high. It flowers in late spring/early summer with small, fragrant white blossoms that turn into seeds in the fall. It's a great source of food for butterflies, bees, and birds.



### Trees

**Blue Oak** (*Quercus douglasii*) – The Blue Oak, or Mountain Oak, is a deciduous tree that can grow up to 66 feet high and has blue-green leaves. It's available for free from Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD). Its acorns are an important food source for wild life.

**Incense Cedar** (*Calocedrus decurrens*) – The Incense Cedar can grow up to 70 feet and is a fast grower, adding up to three feet a year. It has low water needs once established. The Incense Cedar's bark starts out orange-brown before becoming grayer as it matures. It's also available free from SMUD.



Find more plant ideas at [BeWaterSmart.info](http://BeWaterSmart.info).

## SSWD Rebates: Upgrade and Save

SSWD offers many types of rebates to help customers save water and money, including rebates for:

**WaterSense-labeled weather-based sprinkler timers:** They use local weather conditions and information about your yard to precisely time how long your sprinklers should run. \$150 rebates are available.

**Sprinkler system upgrades:** Upgrade your old pop-up sprinklers with drip irrigation and high-efficiency rotator sprinklers to have a healthier, water-wise yard. \$500 rebates are available.

**Pool covers:** If you have a pool, make sure you cover it to reduce water loss to evaporation by up to 95 percent and lower your pool heating costs. \$100 rebates are available.

**Leak repairs:** SSWD can help you with the cost of fixing a running toilet, broken sprinkler line, or dripping faucet. \$500 rebates are available.

## SSWD Board of Directors

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Contact SSWD

Monday - Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

916.972.7171 Fax 916.972.7639

[sswd.org](http://sswd.org) [feedback@sswd.org](mailto:feedback@sswd.org)

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**Inside...**

- Get Digging this Fall
- Update on SSWD & CWD Combination Talks
- Mulchtober Fest: Prep Your Yard for Fall and Winter
- Top Reasons to Switch to Paperless Billing
- Water Supply Update
- SSWD Rebates: Upgrade and Save

3701 Marconi Avenue, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95821



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# Working Together for Tomorrow

## You're Invited! SSWD 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House

Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Mark your calendar for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House on Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to:

- Connect with SSWD staff
- Engage with the management team and Board members
- Learn the latest on SSWD's ongoing discussions about a potential combination with Carmichael Water District (CWD)
- Hear about current and future capital improvement projects
- Explore careers in the water industry
- Discover the latest in water-efficient technology for inside and outside of your home or business
- Enter to win a weather-based sprinkler timer
- Enjoy refreshments

Learn more at [sswd.org](http://sswd.org). We can't wait to welcome you!

4<sup>th</sup> Annual

