



Xeriscaping: What's it all about?

Xeriscaping is a water-wise approach to landscaping, becoming more widespread in drought-prone regions like California. In a nutshell, it's a system of using native plants only — reducing the need for irrigation. It rejects the notion that bringing in water-intensive plants (i.e. lush green grass yard) from other climates is required to create beautiful gardenscapes.

Check out our [GardenSoft](#) website. You'll find information on how to design and install a water-wise garden, irrigation methods and equipment that'll help you to water your landscape more efficiently, and suggestions on how to easily and effectively maintain your garden.

Valley Water offers rebates to help protect your yard from dry weather by transforming your lawn into a beautiful water-wise landscape. Get started at [watersavings.org](#).

Conservation is a California Way of Life



Drought Update

With dwindling snowpacks and a dry winter, Californians are facing drought conditions. The current water year is tied for the third driest on record with heightened fire risk for the upcoming summer months. On April 12, 2021, we shut down our Montevina Water Treatment Plant due to a lack of available water supply in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

Keep up with the latest drought information and conservation tips at [sjwater.com](#).

Having trouble paying your bill?

If you are struggling to pay, SJW has ways to help. We offer extended flexible payment plans and a 15% discount ([WRAP](#)) for our income-eligible customers. Give our helpful customer service advocates a call. And, if you are a renter, the [COVID-19 Rent and Utility Bill Relief](#) program may be able to offer aid to pay your water bill. More info at 833-430-2122.

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SJW SAN JOSE WATER

Annual Water Quality Report 2020



2020 Water Quality Report

Our latest annual Water Quality Report has just been released and is available online at [sjwater.com/ccr](#). The report provides you with a snapshot of last year's water quality data, including where your water comes from and how its quality compares to California state standards.

We are pleased to report that your tap water met all EPA and State primary drinking water health standards in 2020. SJW is continuously improving methods and technologies to build upon and exceed your expectations moving forward.



GRC Smaller Rate Increase

After filing our General Rate Case (GRC) application in early January, we have reached a key milestone in a year-long review process: the 45-day update. The update indicates that **SJW customers can now expect to see a smaller rate increase than initially anticipated.**

The 45-day update provides the actual impact of our application based on the most current rates effective January 1, 2021. The update is a standard part of the application process which takes place every time SJW files a GRC.

With the 45-day update, the updated proposed numbers are now lower. The average monthly residential bill with a 3/4-inch meter using 11 Ccf per month is increasing by approximately:

- \$8.92 (or 9.36%) from \$95.30 at present rates, to \$104.22 in 2022
- \$3.96 (or 3.80%) to \$108.18 in 2023
- \$4.45 or (4.11%) to \$112.63 in 2024

For additional information, visit our General Rate Case page at: sjwater.com/GRC2022.



Your Rate Dollars at Work: Columbine Station

In 2020, San Jose Water launched a multi-year project to improve the storage facilities at our Columbine Station. This capital improvement project is demolishing the existing earthen-embankment reservoir built in 1963 — replacing it with two 5.07 million-gallon pre-stressed concrete water storage tanks. The original facility has reached the end of its useful life.

Columbine Station serves as the primary water storage facility for more than 30,000 customers in the San Jose area.

The project includes:

- Earthwork and construction of concrete tank foundations and pre-stressed tanks
- Replacement of the inlet/outlet pipe within the boundary of the site grading and drainage
- Improvements to the storm drain infrastructure, including storm water control and treatment basins
- Tree replacement/landscaping improvements
- Upgrades to public infrastructure fronting the project site

Once complete, the Columbine Tanks will provide over 10 million gallons of water storage to the surrounding communities.



No Contact Outdoor Water Checkups Now Available

Did you know that we offer a free water audit for our customers? After shutting down due to COVID-19 and following an extensive safety review, a new contactless, outdoor-only water conservation CATCH program is now available to customers. Our CATCH Program helps you find leaks you may not be aware of, and recommends ways you can save water AND money.

Our water efficiency experts will check for leaks outdoors, recommend critical water and money-saving improvements, and leave the results along with some conservation materials for you at your doorstep. All contact is via phone. For more details, visit: sjwater.com/CATCH.

