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# Exploring California's water resources

## Huell Howser focuses on water in new multi-part PBS series

**A** new PBS television series is up and running and its mission is to educate the public about California's most precious natural resource. "California's Water" is a multi-part series produced by Huell Howser and underwritten by members of the Association of California Water Agencies.

The series explores California's water resources and the complex system of natural and man-made features that has allowed growing cities, productive farms, and ecosystems to co-exist in a state that receives little or no rain for months at a time. It is the first of its kind for public television.

Three segments of the series are currently airing. The first, *Climate Change* takes viewers high into the Sierra for a look at the snow-pack and its role in providing storage for the water California relies on year-round. It also traces the journey our melting snow takes from the mountains to rivers and streams, and ultimately into man-made reservoirs as part of our elaborate water supply system.

In segment two, *The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta*, visit the Delta by boat for a tour of the important but vulnerable system of levees that protects farmland, homes, infrastructure, and the water supplies for 23 million Californians.

In *Flood Fight of 2006*, venture to the frontlines of April 2006 flooding for a look at efforts to keep high water at bay and protect lives, homes, and property from dangerous floods.

## Overview of "California's Water" series

In each "California's Water" segment, Huell Howser visits important features of California's water system and gets a first-hand look at water management tools and challenges facing our water future. For air dates, visit [www.acwa.com](http://www.acwa.com).

- ◆ Climate Change - currently airing
- ◆ The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta - currently airing
- ◆ Flood fight of 2006 - currently airing
- ◆ California's Water System
- ◆ What's New on the Colorado River
- ◆ Sacramento Valley: Working Together Pays Off
- ◆ Storing Water
- ◆ Water Recycling Imitates Nature
- ◆ We all Live in a Watershed
- ◆ Desalting Ocean Water
- ◆ Living With Nature
- ◆ Moving Water and Meeting Needs
- ◆ Protecting Against Floods
- ◆ Regional Solutions for Local Needs
- ◆ Using Water Wisely

# What's growing on at the library

## Friends of the Library secure water-wise garden mini-grant

Move over bookworms. New landscaping at the Laguna Beach Public Library is attracting a different kind of worm. The California-friendly, plant-loving kind.

Thanks to a \$2,500 Water-wise Garden Mini-Grant from the Water District, the library landscape has undergone a transformation. It now showcases California-friendly plants and is irrigated with a new water-wise irrigation system and Smart-timer irrigation controller.

Martha Lydick, president of the Friends of the Library, saw the District's water-wise garden mini-grant as the perfect solution to completing a much needed library landscape renovation. And, with the help of Laguna Beach city staff, the project is now complete.

"The Library's desire to use water-wise plants and drip

irrigation fit perfectly with the goal of the District's mini-grant program," says Bruce Scherer, Chairman of the District's water commission. "And the high-visibility corner is the perfect spot to showcase water-wise plants."

The District's Water-wise Garden Mini-Grant helps fund innovative projects designed to encourage public acceptance, desire for, and use of water-wise landscapes.

In order to qualify for a mini-grant, projects must focus on water conservation and increase individual and community involvement in water conservation efforts. The program is open to nonprofit organizations, schools, and public agencies.

For information on the Water-wise Garden Mini-Grant, call the District's water-use efficiency department.



*The Library has undergone a landscape makeover, thanks in part to a \$2,500 Water-wise Garden Mini-Grant from the District.*

## How accurate is your water meter?

When water bills show usage higher than expected, it's not uncommon to wonder if the water meter is at fault.

Actually, meters that malfunction (usually due to age) will *under-read* your water usage, so your bill would be lower than it should be. The District has an ongoing program to replace meters on a regular

basis. Typically, meters last about 20 years before replacement is necessary.

Chances are, if your bill seems unusually high, there's probably a leak somewhere on your property. Contact the District's customer service department at 494-1041.

Waves is an in-house publication for the customers of the Laguna Beach County Water District.

Information in this publication is provided to keep customers informed about water related issues and events. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

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