



Rosamond Community Services District

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An Earthquake Resilient Water Supply

Did you know that one of California's biggest earthquake vulnerabilities is the State Water Project (SWP), often referred to locally as the aqueduct?

The California aqueduct conveys water from the wetter parts of Northern California, south through the central valley, all the way down to Lake Perris near Riverside. Over 27 million people and 750,000 acres of farmland get some or all of their water from the SWP. However, much of the infrastructure for the SWP was built more than 60 years ago and is vulnerable to damage from earthquakes. This includes a vast system of delta levees that prevent saltwater from contaminating the fresh water conveyed by the SWP.

A recent report from the California Department of Water Resources stated that "Of the over 1,100 miles of Delta levees, many are not in a condition to withstand significant shaking. An earthquake could cause a possible outage in water supply delivery lasting anywhere from several months to several years to perform necessary levee repairs and restore salinity levels to where the SWP could resume normal operations. Cessation of SWP operations of this magnitude would have catastrophic social and economic effects, including a loss of water necessary for public health and safety."

As dire as that situation may appear, Rosamond is largely immune to failures in the SWP. This is because RCS D has been investing in a resilient water supply based on groundwater pumping rather than water

imported from other communities. RCS D has developed this secure and sustainable water portfolio through land and water-rights purchases, and the recently completed Rosamond Water Reclamation Project (RWRP). The RWRP enlarged the old water treatment plant, giving it a vastly larger capacity and developing an innovative treatment process that returns treated water to the aquifer, earning RCS D valuable pumping credits.

Like all water agencies, RCS D's infrastructure is still subject to natural disasters like earthquakes. The RCS D team has worked hard to protect our infrastructure the best we can and has in-depth plans in place to help get our community the safe and healthy water it needs as soon as possible after disaster strikes.

Get Quake Safe

California is beautiful and diverse, with mountainous forests and desert valleys. However, the same seismic forces that created this geologic diversity threaten California with potentially devastating earthquakes.

Living in California means facing the possibility of earthquakes each day. While we may not know when, where, or how powerful the next quake will be, there is a lot we can do to prepare ourselves, our families, and our community to deal with earthquakes and their aftermath.

[Earthquake.ca.gov](https://www.earthquake.ca.gov) is a great resource that can help you get prepared, including installing an earthquake warning app on your

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phone. Remember, during an earthquake you want to protect yourself by dropping to the ground, seeking a strong cover like a table or desk, and holding on until the shaking stops. You may need to be ready to take care of yourself and those around you if services and infrastructure are disrupted by an earthquake. [FEMA recommends](#) keeping at least a three day supply of food and water on-hand for each member of your household, including daily medications.

Another great way to prepare for the next earthquake is to participate in the annual Great Shakeout Event that is held each October. You can learn more about how to participate at [shakeout.org](https://www.shakeout.org).

Billing Basics

Like everything we do, RCSD's billing policies and practices are geared toward helping us provide our customers the best water possible at the lowest rates possible. For this reason, your water and sewer bills are split into two different categories that are paid for differently.

Base rates cover the overall cost of the water and sewer infrastructure. These fees make up

the majority of your total cost and are stable, predictable, and do not vary from month to month. In order to ensure that all RCSD customers pay for the water they use, base rates are collected on the tax rolls. This helps keep rates low by preventing our customers in good standing from having to cover other customers' unpaid balances.

Usage rates vary depending on the amount of water that flows through the meter between RCSD's system and your home or business. The amount charged for usage covers the actual cost of procuring water and varies depending on how much water you actually use. Remember, lower usage means lower bills, so saving water means saving money!

LIWAP Program Extended

If you're falling behind on your payments or need assistance with your current bill, CAPK's Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) may be able to help you reduce your water or wastewater bills.

Learn more and see if you qualify at <https://energy.capk.org/water-utility-assistance/>

Get Ready for Winter

With summer's hot days behind us, it's time to start getting ready for winter. Look at shortening your irrigation times or even reducing your outdoor irrigation to just a few days a week to accommodate the shorter, cooler days. Remember, saving water also saves you money by lowering your usage bill. The fall is also a great time to protect yourself from freezing pipes by checking and repairing, or installing insulation to pipes that are exposed or in uninsulated spaces.

