



Check Out BSMWC's Drought-Busting Tools

As drought conditions persist across California, we are broadening efforts to help our shareholders reduce water use and save money in the process.

Despite promising rainstorms in December 2021, a drought emergency continues across the state. In January, Governor Gavin Newsom imposed a mandatory ban on irrigation runoff, washing cars without a shutoff nozzle, hosing down sidewalks, and watering grass within 48 hours of rainfall. The order came after Californians failed to meet his call for a voluntary 15 percent reduction in water use from 2020 levels.

To assist shareholders, our website at BSMWC.com offers robust information about opportunities to reduce water use. Making small changes can add up to significant water savings over time. For example, cutting shower time by one minute each day can save more than 900 gallons of water over the course of a year!



We also offer programs dedicated to teaching children the importance of responsible water use. Our Bella the Bee mascot makes the messages relatable to people of all ages.



Through partnerships with Central Basin Municipal Water District and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, shareholders are eligible for rebates to help cover the cost of water-saving improvements through the SoCal WaterSmart program. In addition to high-efficiency appliances and irrigation systems, shareholders can receive up to \$2 per square foot of grass replaced with water-saving plants. Residential accounts are eligible for up to \$10,000 in turf removal rebates, and commercial accounts can receive up to \$100,000.

Please visit our website – BSMWC.com – for more information about ways to conserve!



Bella the Bee Offers the 411 on Conservation

You're never too young to learn good water use habits! That's why we offer multiple options to teach kids about conservation.



BSMWC offers free, age-appropriate lessons for Bellflower Unified School District students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The activities feature our mascot, Bella the Bee, who makes it fun to learn about the value of water and how to conserve it. BSMWC also partners with the Public Water Agencies Group Conservation and Education Team to offer additional resources for teachers, scholarships, and media contests.

Children of BSMWC shareholders are also eligible to participate in art contests sponsored by the Water Replenishment District of Southern California and Central Basin Municipal Water District. These contests allow kids to share their water knowledge and win prizes! More information can be found at BSMWC.com on the Education page.

Behind on Your Water Bills?

Set up a Payment Plan Today

BSMWC offers payment plans to assist shareholders who are behind on their water bills. Payment arrangements allow shareholders to maintain water service while providing an extended period to settle past due balances.



The state moratorium on utility late fees and service disconnections for non-payment expired on December 31, 2021. BSMWC now observes our existing SB 998 policy on shutoffs of residential water service for non-payment. This policy is available on our website at BSMWC.com.

If you have further questions or would like to set up a payment plan, please call us at 562.866.9980 or email customerservice@bsmwc.com.



Digging Deep to Ensure Water for the Future

Construction crews are in the final stages of work on the new Leahy Well, a project that will enhance our water service for generations to come.



The Leahy Well, a new water supply source for Bellflower, located at 14742 Leahy Avenue

The well will provide multiple benefits to shareholders. It will offer a new access point into the aquifer, improving our ability to maintain water pressure and supplies when other wells are temporarily offline. The well will pump up to 3,500 gallons of water per minute, which will also increase the amount of water available to firefighters during emergencies.

The Leahy Well has been in development for nearly a decade. BSMWC looked ahead at future demand and the performance of wells in service at that time and it was clear that an additional water source would be needed to maintain water quality and supply. At that time, BSMWC had to find a suitable site and verify water quality before ground could be broken.

The COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain issues slowed the project, but all work should be finished by late spring. State regulators will then inspect and permit the well, with the approval process expected to be complete by the end of 2022.

This investment is expected to greatly improve service for the next 100 years. The extra capacity will allow us to provide uninterrupted service when older wells are taken offline for refurbishment. The Leahy Well and other projects will ensure that Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company shareholders can enjoy a reliable supply of refreshing drinking water well into the future.

'Smart' Meters Deliver Savings

New water meters will improve our service to shareholders by incorporating modern technology.

Over time, moving water can wear down parts inside meters. Due to the age of the existing meters, they are scheduled for replacement.

Upgrading to an Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system will reduce costs, increase efficiency, and cut down on pollution since the meters are ready, and not cut instead of requiring staff to drive by each home and business. The investment in smart AMI technology will save money for BSMWC and our shareholders.



BSMWC is in the process of replacing old meter registers, and many shareholders already have the new AMI meters installed. The replacement of older registers does not interrupt service during installation. Shareholders do not need to be present or take any action related to this service. There is no additional charge for this upgrade.



By providing real-time information about water use, the new meters will help BSMWC quickly respond to system leaks. It is also an essential tool for conservation. In the future, shareholders will be able to monitor water use online and receive alerts about potential water leaks.

By utilizing these new meters, BSMWC will be able to provide more reliable service while reducing costs and water waste.



Earn While You Learn at BSMWC!

Are you considering a career in the water industry? Bellflower-Somerset Mutual Water Company offers six-month paid internships for a Water Worker I position.

The internship is full-time, teaching the ins and outs of the industry. As a Water Worker I intern, you will gain experience with the following skills and tasks:

- Installing and repairing water meters, water mains, fire hydrants, valves, and water service lines
- Locating, identifying, and marking distribution water system facilities
- Updating GIS water mapping
- Flushing fire hydrants and dead-end water lines
- Testing water quality
- Other water-related tasks

Interns are paid \$15 per hour and are required to have a high school diploma or equivalent. While we do not guarantee our interns a full-time position once the internship is complete, our program equips our interns with experience that will help further their careers in the water industry.

Visit BSMWC.com for additional details and to apply for an internship.

