



RMWD Awarded \$1.59 Million Grant with Support From Congressman Issa

The District has been awarded \$1.59 million from the Community Grants Program administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the District's Lift Station and Sewer Improvement Project. The grant required the District's project to be selected for appropriation by a member of Congress. Congressman Darell Issa (CA-48) and his office partnered with the District to introduce the project to an appropriations sub-committee.

The Lift Station and Sewer Improvement Project will expand a critical station reaching the end of its useful life, two gravity mains, and one force main. The project improvements are required to replace deteriorating and undersized sewer lines alongside the San Luis Rey River. The size and location of the existing sewer lines near and under the river create significant inflows during storms that can lead to sewer overflows. The project will move the sewer line from under the river onto a bridge over the river to prevent future damage to infrastructure.

In addition to support from Congressman Issa, the Pala Band of Mission Indians provided a letter of support for the project proposal. The project relocates and replaces critical wastewater infrastructure currently constructed on land traced to and traditionally occupied by the Pala Band of Mission Indians and their ancestors of Cupeño and Luiseño descent. The project is immediately adjacent to important Luiseño cultural features (grinding stones) in the San Luis Rey River bed that will be protected from future sewer failure or maintenance work.

The Rainbow team worked diligently to explore new opportunities to fund this capital improvement project by applying for this grant. The District's board members applauded the achievement due to the competitive process and support from a Congressional member.

Progress on the Thoroughbred Lift Station

Have you noticed the construction at Thoroughbred Lane and SR-76 and wondered what is happening behind the block wall? It's not a new Starbucks, but a District improvement project to upgrade the sewer infrastructure. The upgrade accommodates the Citro new homes development and surrounding communities east of the 15 freeway.

The project began in Spring 2022 and is in the final stretch of completion of the new sewer lift station and pipelines along SR-76, Camino Del Rey, and Old River Road. The project is a shared cost funded through developer capacity fees that support the District's infrastructure. The \$1.59 Million grant from the US House Appropriations Committee will also help fund the project.



*Construction underway at
Thoroughbred Lift Station.*

Prepare Your Home for Fire Season

The summer months bring heat and potential for fires, but there are steps you can take to put together a plan of action before the threat of a fire.

Follow the tips below to prepare for a fire emergency.

Defensible Space: Create a barrier around buildings on your property and the surrounding area. Trim down trees and plants, remove dead plants, clean out gutters and clear brush that can fuel a fire. Keep propane tanks stored at least 10 feet from any building or trees.

Exit Plan: Create a family or business evacuation plan. Set up emergency contacts, exit routes, and safe spaces to evacuate animals.

Prepare an Emergency Kit:

Collect emergency items in a box or bag to grab during an evacuation quickly. Be proactive by storing extra medication, a first aid kit, non-perishable food, water, flashlights, radio, batteries, mobile chargers for cell phones, extra clothing, and pet food.

Learn more about protecting your home by visiting CAL Fire's Ready, Set, Go website:

<https://tinyurl.com/ms9h33ak>

Protecting the Community

The District is committed to providing safe and reliable water for the community. The Operations team remains prepared for all emergencies with a plan for swift response to infrastructure damage, environmental disasters, and other incidents. The District has implemented policies, procedures, and improved infrastructure throughout the service area to battle against wildfires. Here are some of the ways we remain prepared for fire season:

- **Communication:** The operations team in the field monitors fire responses via the Watch Duty and Pulse Point applications. Several staff members are equipped with the San Diego County 800 mghz radio system which provides interagency communications between Rainbow Water and fire agencies. When available, supervisors will report to the incident command post of a fire to gather relevant information like pending power outages to pump stations and to gain situational awareness so that staff can be better prepared to address any water issues as a result of the fire.
- **Operations Team:** A dedicated and experienced team of over 20 professionals are available 24/7 every day of the year to respond to emergencies. The team regularly clears brush around pump stations, equipment, and tanks to eliminate potential fuel around the District infrastructure. Trimming trees and bush around reservoirs helps reduce the ash and debris that can fall onto the reservoir covers during a fire.
- **Rapid Aerial WaterSupply (RAWS):** The District is home to the only heli-hydrant in San Diego County that serves as a quick response strategy for fighting fires. The heli-hydrant is a 12-foot wide, 3,000-gallon open-top tank connected to the Pala Mesa tank. It is available for firefighting helicopters to use as a source to fill water through a suction hose connected to the bottom of the helicopter as it hovers over the tank. Visit our YouTube channel for video of RAWS in action: <https://tinyurl.com/4xj6ey3r>

We Value Your Opinion

Let us know all about your customer service experience by taking the one-minute online survey or in-person at the District office. Your feedback will help the District to plan and identify important issues to better serve the community.



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