

SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL RATE PROGRAM

If you are currently classified as a current TSAWR customer in our billing system you should have received an enrollment form and detailed information regarding this new program. If you are part of the TSAWR rate discount program you need to take action to continue to receive this discount! By June 30, 2021 all previous TSAWR customers receiving the PSAWR program rate must be in one of four different eligibility programs:

- 1) San Diego Growers List - Pesticide Use
- 2) Active Certified Producers Certificate – County of San Diego
- 3) Organic Producers - United States Department of Agriculture
- 4) San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board General Agricultural Order Enrollment Program.

Once Rainbow Municipal Water District receives the **completed Enrollment Form**, along with proof of membership in one of the four lists, we get you enrolled in the program. Make sure to include you accurate APN number for verification of your property. This can be confirmed with a property tax documentation referencing your APN.

Two excellent resources:

- The San Diego County Department of Agriculture Weights and Measures for Eligibility Programs 1, 2 and 3, at 760-752-4700 (San Marcos Office)
- The San Diego Farm Bureau for information on Eligibility Program 4 at 760-745-3023.



Please be aware, inclusion in one of the four lists above does not automatically guarantee enrollment in the PSAWR Program; the PSAWR enrollment form must also be submitted to the district. For more details or to submit your enrollment documents please contact us at 760-728-1178 or by email at billing@rainbowmwd.com



**WATCH FOR NEWS ON THE NEW ONLINE BILL
PAYMENT SYSTEM GOING
live in January!**

2021 SDCWA RATE INCREASE

Many of you already received notice of the upcoming rate increase and we all have become quite aware of the increasing cost of imported water. However, the District is taking every possible measure to control costs and find new means to deliver reliable water to our customers at the lowest possible cost.

One viable possibility is to detach from San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) our current wholesaler and go to Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). EMWD can deliver us water, through the same pipelines, with the same quality and reliability as SDCWA, but at a significantly lower cost.

Last year SDCWA's rate increase amounted to nearly \$1 Million in extra costs to the District. Had the Board decided to pass that along to our ~8200 customers, our customers would have seen about \$120 per year per customer, roughly \$10 per month on your bill.

Now SDCWA has adopted another rate hike takes effect in January 2021. This hike is expected to increase our costs by \$662,583 for 2021.

Although we are still pursuing the detachment from SDCWA this process will take time.

In the meantime, what does this mean to our customers? Unfortunately this year's increases from SDCWA will likely result in bill increases of about \$17 per month on average. Keep in mind that had we been buying our water from EMWD this rate increase would not be needed at all.

In fact, depending on what sort of conditions LAFCO places on our detachment, if we succeed, we will likely be able to both fund the much-needed replacement of failing pipelines AND provide rate relief.



So, what can you do? We encourage you to join in the conversation! See our website at www.rainbowmwd.com for meeting dates and details.