

DESALINATION PROJECT MOVES AHEAD

The Rainbow Municipal Water District, along with several other local agencies, is a partner in the Carlsbad Desalination Plant. This project will provide San Diego County with a locally-controlled and drought-proof supply of drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal drinking water standards. The project will provide 56,000 acre-feet per year of new local water supply - enough water to meet the needs of nearly 300,000 people. The project could be expanded to twice this capacity in the future. Rainbow has contracted to receive 7,500 acre-feet of water per year of desalinated water, about 30 percent of our annual demand. One acre-foot of water is about 325,000 gallons.

After ten years of planning and five years in the state's permitting process, the Carlsbad Desalination Plant has now received final approvals from every required regulatory and permitting agency in the state, including the California Coastal Commission, State Lands Commission and Regional Water Quality Control Board. The Carlsbad project has been delayed by numerous legal and environmental challenges, but Poseidon Resources—the owner/operator of the plant—recently announced it has reached an agreement with the California Coastal Commission that will ensure the timely construction of the Carlsbad Desalination Project.

The project will result in increased regional spending of approximately \$170 million and the creation of 2,100 jobs during construction. When operational, it will generate an additional \$37 million in annual spending and create 400 permanent jobs. The Project is scheduled to begin construction this year and will be operational before the end of 2012.

Is There Rain In Our Future?

Although conservation efforts have been successful so far, reservoirs throughout the State Water Project and Colorado River Basin remain at historic low levels. We have high hopes of an above-average rainfall this winter and the Experimental Climate Prediction Center at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography is providing a glimmer of hope by forecasting moderate warm (El Niño) conditions for late 2009/early 2010. El Niños are the name given to the occasional migration of warm water to the Eastern Pacific. They have sometimes caused rainfall to double or triple from normal levels in California.

The presence of El Niño can be a good news/bad news scenario: While a strong system may bring much needed rain to Northern California and the Colorado River Basin, the rain is often torrential and has the potential to cause flooding. A weak El Niño system can actually result in drier than normal years. At present scientists are watching to see how the current El Niño system shapes up.

So please continue conserving water, and you may want to consider some advanced preparation around your home just in case the predictions for El Niño come true and we have a lot of rain this winter. We will continue to provide updates on the rainfall outlook in later newsletters.

**RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT**

3707 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92029
760-728-1178
www.rainbowmwd.com

**2009
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Gerald Walson
Division 1

Jack Griffiths
Division 2
(760) 940-8935

George McManigle
Division 3
(619) 701-7974

Bob Lucy
Division 4
(760) 728-8325

Rua Petty
Division 5
(760) 731-6584

STAFF

General Manager
Dave Seymour

Operations Manager
Chuck Sneed

Finance Manager
Gene Buckley

Human Resources
René Bush

District Engineer
Brian Lee

**PROPOSITION "A"
FAILS TO PASS**

Ordinance 09-09, or Prop "A", was defeated by 235 votes out of 11,546 ballots mailed to registered voters. That means that the original Ordinance 95-1 remains unchanged. District staff is working with our volunteer ratepayer committees and the Board of Directors to determine the best way to generate the revenues necessary to complete mandated projects with a goal of minimizing the impact to the consumer. Staff estimates it will take 60 to 90 days to develop an alternative financing plan, which may include water rate increases, fixed monthly surcharges, or the development of a special assessment district. Other options may include taking the Morro or Beck Reservoir (or both) out of service.

EMPLOYEE ANNIVERSARY

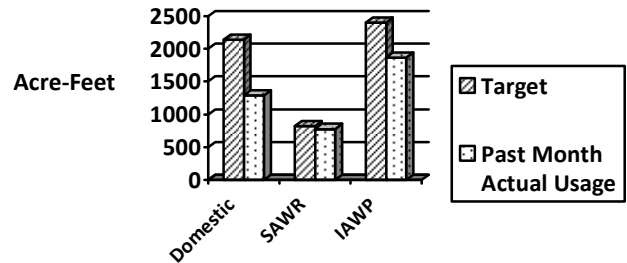
Mark Cline is celebrating his 20th anniversary with the District. Mark joined the District in September, 1989 as a Meter Reader and is currently an Electronic Technician. His responsibilities include installation, repairs and troubleshooting various electrical and mechanical equipment associated with generators, pumps, pneumatic and hydraulic equipment, as well as the District's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system as well as other facility electrical maintenance.

Congratulations, Mark!

IAWP and SAWR Users Opt-out Period

Customers who are in the Interim Agricultural Water Program or Special Agricultural Water Rate will soon be receiving their forms in the mail to voluntarily opt out of those programs beginning with January's water bills. We are waiting on final program details from our wholesale suppliers, and will send the forms out in early fall. Customers may exit the programs at the end of this year or choose to stay in until the next opt-out period at the end of 2010. Additional information will be provided along with your opt-out forms.

Water Conservation By User Type



**DROUGHT STATUS AND MANDATORY
CONSERVATION
FOR SEPTEMBER 2009**

<u>CUSTOMER CLASS</u>	<u>CONSERVATION LEVEL</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
Domestic	Mandatory 8%	
SAWR	Mandatory 13%	
IAWP	Mandatory 30%	Don't forget your new allocation started with the January bill. Check your allocation each month on your water bill