

RMWD Monitoring Group Accepting Applications

If you are a farmer or nursery grower you have no doubt heard of the Regional Board's Conditional Waiver #4. Rainbow MWD has formed a Monitoring Group as a service to our customers. **Joining Rainbow's Monitoring Group is voluntary.** Participation is limited to parcels within our service area where water service is provided by RMWD. There is no cost to join; however, there will be ongoing costs to pay for the mandatory water testing once that criteria is established by the Regional Board. We anticipate those costs will be approximately \$10 per acre per year. Contact our customer service department or visit our web site for an application to join Rainbow's group. For those of you less familiar with the waiver, here are some frequently asked questions:

What is Conditional Waiver #4?

Conditional Waiver #4, was established by the San Diego Regional Water Quality Control Board to *"Regulate discharges from agricultural and nursery operations, which contain pollutants that can percolate to groundwater or runoff to surface waters. Discharges from agricultural and nursery operations include discharges resulting from growing operations, irrigation return flows, and storm water runoff which can transport pollutants from agricultural and nursery operations to surface waters and groundwater."*

Who is covered?

Farmers and nurserymen who irrigate their crops and who gross at least \$1,000 per year **or can anticipate** grossing \$1,000 per year (during the waiver) based on the expected future value of a crop have to enroll.

What is a monitoring group?

The function of the monitoring group is to perform the required water quality monitoring and report the results to the San Diego Water Board. Monitoring groups will be allowed to divide the costs associated with the water quality monitoring and reporting requirements

among its members. Farmers or nurserymen may do the work on their own if they choose, but the costs to comply should be much higher.

If I join, what do I have to do?

- Implement management measures (MMs) and/or best management practices (BMPs) to minimize or eliminate the discharge of pollutants
- Perform a self assessment to identify the pollutants present on the site and assess the potential for runoff and/or infiltration
- Complete at least 2 hours of water quality management related training annually
- Maintain records pertaining to the water quality management efforts

If I don't join, what do I have to do?

The same things, but you will also be required to perform all of the water quality monitoring and reporting requirements on your own, which would be quite expensive.

When is the deadline to join a monitoring group?

The waiver requires you form or join a monitoring group by December 31, 2010, however; in order to allow us to process the applications and prepare our reports and meet our submittal date of January 1, 2011, you must join our monitoring group no later than September 30, 2010, if you want to be included in our initial group submittal to the Regional Board.

Where can I get more information on Conditional Waiver #4?

At the Regional Board's web site located at:

http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9/board_decisions/waivers/docs/Conditional_Waiver_4_Final.pdf

**RAINBOW
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DISTRICT**

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**2010
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**RAINBOW INVITED TO APPLY
FOR LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR
RESERVOIR PROJECTS**

In late November the District received invitations from the state to submit funding applications for our Beck and Morro reservoir projects for a total of \$26.2 million. The money would come out of the Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Loan Program (SRF). Since neither of those projects are ready for construction we do not qualify for funding this year, but we submitted a request to be reconsidered for funding next year. We did, however, submit a request for an application for \$1.2 million in SRF funding to study options and alternatives and complete the design to bring Beck Reservoir into compliance with the Safe Drinking Water standards. The state agreed to allow us to apply, and in December provided us with an application package.

The District's Board will decide whether or not to pursue the low-cost funding, which typically consists of a 20-year fixed rate loan at one-half of the prevailing interest rate. Since the district is already committed to debt in excess of \$1 million, voters will be asked to give their nod of approval should we decide to move forward. If the loan is not approved the money for the study and design will have to come out of our water rates.

**Rainbow Water District Pipeline Repair
Could Be Costly**

A major water main that runs under the San Luis Rey River ruptured in the early morning hours of December 8 after a heavy rain. The 22-inch steel line was built in 1995 and delivers water to the district's service area south of SR 76; a single pipe now provides that service.

The pipe is buried almost 30 feet below the river; therefore, excavation would require special techniques to remove water and prevent cave-ins. The location is in an environmentally sensitive area so extra precautions are needed to protect the environment.

The District hired a consultant from San Diego to evaluate options for fixing or replacing the pipeline. The report evaluates several options with costs ranging from around \$700,000 to more than \$4 million. The next step will be to conduct an inspection of the inside of the damaged pipeline using a robotic camera so we can narrow down our options. Once we know the extent of the damage we can determine which method of repair will be the most cost effective.

**DROUGHT STATUS AND MANDATORY
CONSERVATION
FOR JANUARY 2010**

<u>CUSTOMER CLASS</u>	<u>CONSERVATION LEVEL</u>
Domestic	8%
SAWR	13%
IAWP	25%