

FOLLOW-UP ON CITATION FROM HEALTH DEPARTMENT FOR UNCOVERED RESERVOIRS

As reported in the April newsletter, on March 19th we received a **Compliance Order for Noncompliance** (Order) from the State of California Department of Public Health (CDPH) because of our open-air drinking water storage reservoirs. The basis of the Order is that Rainbow MWD has failed to comply with new regulations regarding open drinking water storage reservoirs, and that continuing to operate our open reservoirs creates a potential contamination hazard for our distribution system.

This month the CDPH has mandated that since we did not meet the April 2009 deadline for compliance we must provide consumers with written notification of the uncovered finished water reservoir violation. That important notice is contained on the reverse side of this newsletter. We are required to mail it to RMWD customers every three months until the reservoirs are in compliance, scheduled for January 2012.

We have provided schedules to the CDPH showing we can accomplish all of the directives of the order and they have agreed to our proposed time line as long as we keep on track. If you would like to read a copy of the Order it can be found on our web site.

JULY STARTS NEW WATER ALLOCATIONS FOR SAWR AND DOMESTIC CUSTOMERS

As a reminder, if you are in the domestic water or Special Agricultural Water Rate (SAWR) user classes the month of July starts your new water allocation cycle. Customers in the Interim Agricultural Water Program (IAWP) are on a January through December cycle.

That means domestic and SAWR customers receive their new water allocation starting with their July water bills. Any unused allocation from the June bill will not roll over into the new water year.

Also, for SAWR customers, if you utilized our “smoothing option” to reallocate your water use that option does not roll forward to the new allocation, so if you want to use the “smoothing option” again this year you will need to contact Customer Service at (760)728-1178.

UPDATE ON DESALINATION PROJECT

In June the nine local water agencies—including Rainbow—collectively known as the *Desal Partners* voted to set aside their respective water purchase agreements with Poseidon Resources if Poseidon and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) can successfully negotiate an agreement allowing the SDCWA to buy water directly from the desal project.

The partners all agree the desal project is a good deal for the region and should move forward, however numerous last minute issues were preventing progress. The Desal Partners and Poseidon recognized the SDCWA had the resources needed to negotiate the best deal for the region, and since the success of the project depended on the use of SDCWA pipelines the staff and Board of the Water Authority agreed.

What does that mean for RMWD customers? Rainbow is geographically situated in an area that wouldn't have received water directly from the plant anyway—we would only have a “paper transfer” of water—so for us there won't be much change. If the SDCWA and Poseidon cannot reach agreement the Desal partners will work directly with Poseidon to finalize the contracts.

2010

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER UNCOVERED FINISHED WATER RESERVOIR VIOLATION FOR RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Our water system recently violated a drinking water requirement. Although this situation is not an emergency, as our customers you have a right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation.

Water systems with uncovered finished water reservoirs are required to cover these reservoirs, treat the water from these reservoirs, or be in compliance with a state-approved schedule to cover these reservoirs or provide treatment by April 1, 2009. We failed to meet this requirement.

What should I do?

- There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. However, if you have specific health concerns you should consult with your doctor.
- If you have a severely compromised immune system, have an infant, are pregnant, or are elderly, you may be at increased risk and should seek advice from your health care provider about continuing to drink this water. General guidelines on ways to lessen the risk of infection by microbes are available from the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been you would have been notified within 24 hours.

Unfinished water reservoirs are a pathway for contaminants to enter the drinking water supply. Therefore, it is necessary to cover the reservoirs or treat the water coming out of the reservoirs. *Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.*

What is being done?

In 2009 we began a comprehensive construction program to address our four uncovered finished water reservoirs. Today one of those reservoirs is covered and a second reservoir cover is nearly completed. That leaves two remaining uncovered reservoirs; the Morro and Beck reservoirs. Plans are nearly complete for Morro reservoir and we anticipate beginning construction on a reservoir cover at Morro by the end of this year. Beck reservoir poses a dilemma because it is a very large reservoir. Accordingly, we plan to construct a new steel water tank to replace Beck at a nearby site. We plan on beginning grading for the new tank later this year, and will begin construction on the tank by April of 2011.

For more information please contact our customer service staff at 760-728-1178.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not receive this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools and other businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being sent to you by the Rainbow Municipal Water District, State Water System ID# 3710016

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