

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK

As a result of a very wet winter in the State Water Project drainage basin, reservoirs throughout the state are at or very near capacity. In some cases water is being released in anticipation of the spring melting of the snowpack. Although the Colorado River Basin isn't fairing nearly as well, there is some improvement in storage on that system.

As a result, on April 12th the Metropolitan Water District Board of Directors will consider whether or not to rescind the drought declaration and end water rationing. The staff of MWD has recommended the Board end the drought, and the preliminary indications are that the Board will accept that recommendation. Look for an update on this important item in the May newsletter.

WORK BEGINS TO COVER MORRO RESERVOIR

On April 4th the Morro Reservoir was removed from service to begin a year-long rehabilitation and upgrade project. The uncovered drinking water reservoir no longer complied with drinking water standards that require all finished water storage reservoirs either be covered or must have the water retreated before being distributed to consumers. Morro Reservoir has a capacity of 151 million gallons of water and is located in the western-most portion of our district.

The \$8.4 million project will add new piping to improve circulation and water quality in the reservoir. A new impermeable liner will prevent seepage through the reservoir floor, and the new cover will keep out dust and other wind-blown contaminants.

PALA MESA TANK GRADING MAKES PROGRESS

If you have driven by our office lately and wondered where the giant pile of dirt is from it is the result of the grading project for the Pala Mesa Tank. This new tank will temporarily replace Beck Reservoir, which is an uncovered reservoir and no longer meets drinking water standards.

The dirt is excavated at the tank site and hauled by truck to our maintenance yard where the contractor separates the rocks from the dirt leaving good clean fill material. Once the tank pads are ready to be constructed the contractor will haul the clean dirt back, spread it in place and recompact the fill to support the new water tank.

The grading contractor grinds up the leftover rocks and asphalt for use in construction of roads and other projects.

COMMUNICATION COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS

The district has three committees comprised of volunteer district ratepayers who offer their time and effort towards assisting staff and the Board in running the district. The Communication Committee is looking for volunteers who have an interest in helping form the district's outreach and communication programs. Experience with public outreach programs is desirable, but not mandatory. Meetings are typically the first Monday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

Our other two committees--Budget and Finance, and Engineering—currently have full complements. If you would like to be considered for an appointment to the Communications Committee please contact the District at 760-728-1178.

**RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT**

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**2011
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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 two of those reservoirs are covered, and a third is out of service to have the cover installed. That leaves one remaining uncovered reservoir—Beck Reservoir. Beck reservoir poses a dilemma because it is a very large reservoir and is costly to bring up to standards. Accordingly, we plan to construct a new smaller water tank to replace Beck at a nearby site. We have already started grading and will begin construction on the tank itself very soon.

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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