

**GRADING PROJECT COMPLETED AT PALA MESA TANK SITE**

The contractor preparing the site for construction of the new six-million gallon Pala Mesa Tank completed their work at the end of July and the tank contractor is preparing to move in. In all, about 8,500 truckloads of dirt and rock were removed from the job, formerly home to the old Pala Mesa Reservoir, an abandoned reservoir that no longer met health standards.

The Pala Mesa Tank Project is part of the District's ongoing program to bring its open-air drinking water reservoirs up to current health standards. The Pala Mesa Tank will cost approximately \$8.2 million by the time it is completed; the grading portion of the job cost about \$1.8 million. The new tank should be put in service early next year. Some of the construction funds were collected through water rates and some will come from our Reservoir Upgrade Charge. Also, the District has applied for a California State Revolving Fund low interest loan that would allow us to finance the project over twenty years or more.

As shown in the photo below, the site can accommodate two tanks but only one will be constructed at this time. The second tank location (the one in the background) will remain vacant. The grading contractor demolished the old asphalt reservoir liner and ground the material to make road base for future RMWD projects. Then they had to excavate about twelve feet below the old reservoir floor to reach bedrock. From there they brought back some of the dirt they had removed and used it to construct the tank pads.

In the next phase the tank constructor will install all of the underground pipes and other utilities prior to pouring the concrete base for the new tank. After the concrete cures the concrete sides of the tank will be poured in place, then the sides are wrapped with high-strength steel wires, similar to wrapping the tank in a giant spring. It is this steel wire wrap that gives the tank most of its strength. Once the wrapping is finished the tank is shot with gunite to make it weatherproof.



**RAINBOW  
MUNICIPAL  
WATER  
DISTRICT**

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**2011  
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**WORKING BEHIND THE SCENE TO SUPPORT RMWD**

Most of you know that the Rainbow Municipal Water District has an elected Board of Directors who is responsible to establish policy for the District, and a paid staff that is charged with carrying out the work. How many of you are aware that there is a dedicated cast of volunteers who put forth considerable time and effort helping to run the District? These volunteers make up our Budget and Finance, Engineering, and Communications Committees by acting as advisors to the Board of Directors and staff.

The Committee concept was enacted by the Board in 2007 as a means to involve District ratepayers in the decision making processes of RMWD. In general, the Committees meet once a month, but on occasion they meet more frequently to tackle particularly tough issues. The Board appoints members to the various Committees based on recommendations from the Committees themselves. The only eligibility requirement to be considered for appointment is that members must be District ratepayers.

Since the Committees are advisory to the Board of Directors they are bound by the same laws and requirements relating to meetings as regular Board members. Committee meetings are open to the public, and interested individuals may comment on items prior to consideration by the Committee. Once an item is voted on the Committee forwards their recommendation on to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

The Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for the review of District finances and financial recordkeeping. They help prepare the annual operating budget, review water and sewer rates and fees, and scrutinize the District's annual audit. One example of activities of the Budget and Finance Committee is their recent recommendation to implement a sewer usage rate that is tied to how much domestic water a customer uses. That recommendation reduced combined sewer rates by an average of 30 percent.

The Communications Committee assists the Board and General Manager with internal and external public relations campaigns, preparation of the newsletters, community outreach and other public relations programs. One of the Communications Committee's significant projects was the redesign of the District's web site ([www.rainbowmwd.com](http://www.rainbowmwd.com)). Committee members interviewed Board members, staff and ratepayers, and worked with site designers to develop a new, more user-friendly site.

The Engineering Committee works with the District Engineer to review project need, feasibility and design, reviews construction plans and specification, and prioritize the District's Capital Improvement Program. In addition the Engineering Committee helps develop and update the District's long-term need for capital replacement funding. Some recent projects the Committee assisted with include the Reservoir Upgrade Projects and the design and construction of the new Lift Station #2 project.

The Board of Directors and staff sincerely appreciate the time and effort these individuals devote to the support of your water district. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees please contact Dawn Washburn at (760) 728-1178 Ext. 129.