

**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.

Uncovered 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. A contract has been awarded for Morro reservoir and construction began earlier this year. That leaves Beck reservoir. Beck 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 have already started grading for the new tank 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#
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**RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT**

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**2011
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**RMWD INVITED TO APPLY
FOR LOW INTEREST
CONSTRUCTION LOANS**

In May the District received invitations to apply for California Safe Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans for our reservoir projects. One invitation was for \$15.5 million in funding; the second for \$7.8 million in funding. SRF loans provide a low-cost source of funding for long-term capital improvement projects. The loans are financed through the state and generally provide interest rates at one-half of the current market rate.

The process established to receive SRF funding is convoluted. First, an agency must be invited to apply. Following the invitation the agency submits a Statement of Intent (SOI) and then the Application for Funding. Applications are reviewed and ranked by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH). Once the final rankings are established agencies who fall within the funding range will be notified by the CDPH they are eligible for the SRF loan. Once that process is completed the agencies and the SRF office will sign the actual loan documents. This whole process takes nine months to a year to complete. For RMWD the time frame might be extended due to our requirements to obtain voter approval.

At the May meeting of the Board of Directors, the RMWD Board supported the concept of submitting the SOI for the two SRF loans, and taking the necessary steps necessary to move along the process of obtaining low-cost construction loans for our reservoir projects.

NEW CHARGE WILL FUND IMPROVEMENTS

A new Monthly Reservoir Upgrade Meter Charge will go into effect with the July billing cycle to help offset the high cost of bringing our reservoirs into compliance with drinking water standards. All meters in the District will be assessed the new monthly charge according to the table below:

| Meter Size | Monthly Charge |
|------------|----------------|
| 5/8" | \$ 9.10 |
| 3/4" | \$ 11.37 |
| 1" | \$ 14.79 |
| 1 1/2" | \$ 14.79 |
| 2" | \$ 14.79 |
| 3" | \$ 14.79 |
| 4" | \$ 14.79 |
| 6" | \$ 14.79 |

The cost estimate for completing the upgrades is more than \$25 million. RMWD currently has a combination of cash, grants and loans to fund most of the work but needs this new charge to fund the balance. All funds collected through this Reservoir Upgrade Meter Charge can only be used to pay for the planning, design, construction and related costs for the North, Northside, and Morro reservoirs and the Pala Mesa tank projects. Once those projects are completed and paid for the Reservoir Upgrade Meter Charge will cease. We estimate it will take approximately 5.5 years to collect the necessary revenue. If RMWD is successful in obtaining loans or bonds to fund this work the monthly charge will be substantially reduced.

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.

If you would like to be considered for an appointment to the Communications Committee please contact the District at 760-728-1178.