

MWD AND WATER AUTHORITY LIFT ALL DROUGHT RESTRICTIONS

The Boards of the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) have officially declared an end to drought conditions. That means that although we continue to encourage consumers to use water wisely, there are no longer any penalties for overuse. This decision by the water importers means different things for different rate groups as explained below:

Domestic Water Users—there are no longer any water allocations or overuse penalties. Users will pay \$2.55 for the first six units of water and \$2.60 for units seven and above; of the \$2.55 and \$2.60 RMWD retains \$0.51 and \$0.56 respectively, and the rest is passed on to MWD and the SDCWA.

Special Agricultural Water Rate Users (SAWR)—although the renewal contract stipulated that users in this class would be held to a minimum 13 percent reduction through the end of the program, the San Diego County Water Authority has waived that requirement as a result of the vast improvement in water supply. Accordingly, there are no longer any water allocations or overuse penalties. Users will pay \$2.43 per unit, of that amount RMWD retains \$0.56 and the rest is passed on to the MWD and SDCWA. The discount is provided by the SDCWA because the users in the SAWR do not receive benefits from emergency water storage projects.

Interim Agricultural Water Program (IAWP)—the MWD has decided not to continue with the restrictions in the IAWP, accordingly, there are no longer any water allocations or overuse penalties. Customers who are IAWP/Domestic (meaning there is a residence on the property) will pay \$2.60 for the first 26 units of water and the IAWP rate of \$2.31 per unit thereafter (the 26 units are assumed to be for household use). Of those amounts RMWD retains \$0.56 and passes the rest on to MWD and SDCWA.

Keep in mind that both the IAWP and SAWR are being phased out and will end in December of 2012 and at that time all former IAWP and SAWR customers will be converted to the Domestic rates unless a new agricultural rate program is established.

RMWD BOARD APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR FOR DIVISION 5

The RMWD Board has appointed Dennis Sanford as the District Representative for Division 5. Mr. Sanford brings considerable experience to the Board and has a long history of public service, including his appointment as the Chair of the Rainbow Planning Group.

The Board of Directors and staff at RMWD welcome Dennis Sanford to the organization!

“FLUSHABLE” PRODUCTS ARE A DRAIN ON MANPOWER

Pardon the pun, but these tremendously popular so-called “flushable” products are the bane of sewer system operators nationwide. Collection system workers must defer preventive maintenance while they unplug sewer lines and pumps blocked with the non-biodegradable products. Homeowners sometimes plug their own sewer laterals with the wipes and must incur the cost of hiring a plumber to clear the blockage, and there is the additional concern of causing sewage to back up into the customer’s home.

Normal toilet paper is designed to break down almost as soon as it hits the water and it has little effect on the sewer transmission or treatment process; flushable wipes do not. They enter the sewer system and combine with other flushable products to create large wads of rags that plug pumps and pipes. If a sewer spill results the District could face significant fines, and ultimately those fines are paid by our ratepayers.

So while the flushable products may leave you feeling “shower fresh” they don’t belong in the sewer system. Ironically, since they won’t break down they cannot be treated at the sewage treatment plant and are removed and hauled to a landfill. Skip the middleman and dispose of these products in your household garbage.

**RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT**

3707 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92029
760-728-1178
www.rainbowmwd.com

**2011
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*Gerald Walson
Division 1*

*Jack Griffiths
Division 2
(760) 940-8935*

*George McManigle
Division 3
(619) 701-7974*

*Bob Lucy
Division 4
(760) 728-8325*

*Dennis Sanford
Division 5
(714) 299-9865*

STAFF

General Manager
Dave Seymour

Operations Manager
Chuck Sneed

Finance Manager
Gene Buckley

Human Resources
René Bush

District Engineer
Brian Lee

**Major Savings on
Wastewater Treatment and
Water Pumping Rates**

At the April meeting the Board of Directors adopted a new Schedule of Rates that changes the way we charge for sewage treatment and water pumping.

Previously, wastewater charges for all sewer users consisted of a flat rate of \$68.54 per month regardless of how much water a customer put into the sewer system. The new rates will vary based on how much water a consumer uses. The highest rate will remain at \$68.54 per month, so no one will see their bills increase, but for those customers who really conserve water their rates could drop to as low as \$25.76 per month. The new variable portion of the rate was established by evaluating each customer's lowest monthly wet-season water use during the 2009/10 fiscal year. Over-all about 92 percent of sewer customers should see a decrease in their sewer charges. Commercial customer rates remain at the flat rate of \$68.54 per equivalent dwelling unit.

For customers that incur pumping charges on their water bill the Board also adopted lower rates that range from a reduction of 4.3 percent to a reduction of 37.5 percent. The reduced rates were possible as a result of enhancements in our system that allows us to take advantage of variable electricity rate structures.

The new rate schedules will go into effect in July.

New Water Pumping Charge

Pump Station	Current Rate	New Rate	\$ Change
1 Rainbow Heights	\$ 0.510	\$ 0.430	\$ -0.080
2 U-1	\$ 0.282	\$ 0.270	\$ -0.012
3 Vallecitos	\$ 0.223	\$ 0.150	\$ -0.073
4 Northside	\$ 0.066	\$ 0.050	\$ -0.016
5 Morro	\$ 0.080	\$ 0.050	\$ -0.030
6 Huntley	\$ 0.338	\$ 0.310	\$ -0.028
7 Magee	\$ 1.522	\$ 1.420	\$ -0.102

**New Residential Wastewater Charge
(Monthly)**

Lowest Wet Season Usage (HCF)	New Rate	Monthly Savings
1 Unit	\$ 25.76	\$ 42.78
2 Units	\$ 31.90	\$ 36.64
3 Units	\$ 38.05	\$ 30.49
4 Units	\$ 44.19	\$ 24.35
5 Units	\$ 50.34	\$ 18.20
6 Units	\$ 56.48	\$ 12.06
7 Units	\$ 56.48	\$ 12.06
8 Units	\$ 56.48	\$ 12.06
9 Units	\$ 56.48	\$ 12.06
10 Units	\$ 56.48	\$ 12.06
11 Units and greater	\$ 68.54	\$ 0.00

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.