

PASS-THROUGH WATER RATE INCREASES APPROVED

At the October meeting the Rainbow Board of Directors voted to approve water rate increases to offset increased wholesale water costs from our suppliers, the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). RMWD does not keep any of the increased amount—our cost per unit of water remains at \$0.56 per unit. All of the increased rates will go to pay MWD and SDCWA. In addition, monthly infrastructure access charges are increasing to offset MWD and SDCWA connection and maintenance fees.

Both Rainbow and the SDCWA have made significant efforts to hold down water costs. Both agencies have reduced staffing levels, renegotiated labor contracts and deferred spending on some capital improvement projects. According to the SDCWA their higher rates are driven by increased prices from MWD and debt service on existing infrastructure. MWD cites a reduction in water sales and increased costs to operate the State Water Project as their reason for increasing rates.

The SDCWA is currently involved in litigation against MWD, claiming their rate structure is illegal and unconstitutional and that MWD is using retaliatory business practices that unfairly target ratepayers in San Diego. These overcharges could cost San Diego County ratepayers as much as **\$230 million per year** by 2021. That equates to about \$75 dollars in excess charges per year for every person in the county!

Our new rates and fees to cover these pass-through costs will go into effect with the January 2012 water bills. Rates and fees for sewer service remain unchanged.

Please see the tables on the reverse of the newsletter for our new rates and charges.

RMWD PRESSURE REGULATORS

Rainbow's service area ranges from around 200 feet above sea level to about 2,200 feet above sea level. Elevation affects water pressure, and that 2,000-foot span results in some very high pressure in some portions of the District. It is not unusual for our system to exceed the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) maximum of 80 pounds per square inch (psi), and in some areas system pressures approach 400 psi.

The Uniform Plumbing Code requires a pressure reducing valve on all plumbing systems where pressure exceeds 80 psi. If your static water pressure exceeds 80 psi it is your responsibility to make sure your plumbing system is protected by a regulator.

RMWD installs pressure regulators in our system to protect our water meters from the high pressure. Those valves may provide some residual benefit to protect your system but they are prone to failure, and if they fail your system could be overpressurized and damaged. RMWD is not responsible for damage resulting from the failure of our in-line regulators, as they are there solely to protect our facilities. If you live in an area with high pressure you should have your own pressure regulator to protect your plumbing. Keep in mind not all pressure regulators are alike. Pressure regulators are rated by the maximum allowable inlet pressure, and most hardware stores stock regulators rated for around 150 psi. Make sure to check the metal tag on your regulator to assure you have adequate protection against high pressure.

If you don't know what your pressure is you can call our customer service department at 760-728-1178 for assistance.

**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

STAFF

General Manager
Dave Seymour

Operations Manager
Chuck Sneed

Finance Manager
Gene Buckley

Human Resources
René Bush

District Engineer
Brian Lee

THE NEW WATER RATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(Note: HCF = Hundred Cubic Feet or 748 gallons)

Service Component	Current Rate per Unit HCF	Proposed Rate per Unit HCF	Rate Increase per Unit HCF	Percent Increase
MWD	\$ 1.58	\$ 1.76	\$.18	11.4%
SDCWA	\$.17	\$.20	\$.03	17.6%
RMWD	\$.56	\$.56	\$.00	0.0%
Total	\$ 2.31	\$ 2.52	\$.21	9.1%

IAWP Commodity Rate

SAWR Commodity Rate – 520 meters

Service Component	Current Rate per Unit HCF	Proposed Rate per Unit HCF	Rate Increase per Unit HCF	Percent Increase
MWD	\$ 1.71	\$ 1.82	\$.11	6.4%
SDCWA	\$.17	\$.20	\$.03	17.6%
RMWD	\$.56	\$.56	\$.00	0.0%
Total	\$ 2.44	\$ 2.58	\$.14	5.7%

Domestic Commodity Rate – 6,760 meters

Service Component	Current Rate per Unit HCF	Proposed Rate per Unit HCF	Rate Increase per Unit HCF	Percent Increase
MWD	\$ 1.71	\$ 1.82	\$.11	6.4%
SDCWA	\$.33	\$.37	\$.04	12.1%
RMWD	\$.56	\$.56	\$.00	0.0%
Total	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.75	\$.15	5.8%

THE INFRASTRUCTURE ACCESS CHARGES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NEW Infrastructure Access Charge – all meters

Meter Size	Monthly Domestic User Charge	Monthly Agric. User Charge (AC, SC)	Monthly Agric/Domestic User Charge (AD,SD)
5/8"	\$ 23.14	\$ 14.60	\$ 23.14
3/4"	\$ 23.14	\$ 14.60	\$ 23.14
1"	\$ 37.02	\$ 23.37	\$ 37.02
1 1/2"	\$ 69.41	\$ 43.81	\$ 69.41
2"	\$ 120.31	\$ 75.94	\$ 69.41
3"	\$ 208.24	\$ 131.44	\$ 69.41
4"	\$ 370.20	\$ 233.67	\$ 69.41
6"	\$ 832.94	\$ 525.76	\$ 69.41

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

RMWD is currently seeking new community volunteers to fill a couple of vacancies on its Communications and Budget and Finance Committees, respectively.

The Communications Committee is responsible for matters of internal and external communications including: positive public image; positive staff relationships; community outreach; media relations; water conservation programs; intergovernmental relations; and other public relations programs. The Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for the review of District finances and financial recordkeeping by helping prepare the annual operating budget, review water and sewer rates and fees, and scrutinize the District's annual audit.

If you are interested in volunteering to serve on a RMWD committee, please contact Dawn Washburn at

FACES IN RAINBOW
(760) 728-1178 Ext. 129.

FIRST THINGS FIRST