

DISTRICT TO EVALUATE CAMPUS PARK WEST DEVELOPMENT

The Campus Park West Project is a proposed 107-acre development with a mixture of residential and commercial properties located in Eastern Fallbrook near SR76 and I15. At present the development is not within the District's service boundaries, but it is completely surrounded by RMWD; we commonly refer to it as "the doughnut hole".

In December the District's Board of Directors listened to a presentation by the developer, Pappas Investments, regarding the possibility of annexing the area into RMWD to provide water and sewer service to the development. The Board took no action on the matter because they felt they didn't have sufficient information to make an informed decision since the ultimate scope of the project has not been defined. They asked staff to continue to work with the developer and the county to develop more specific requirements regarding water and sewer service and to bring the information back to the Board for consideration.

If the ultimate decision is made to annex the development the full cost associated with the annexation process and providing water and sewer service would be borne by the developer. In addition, the Metropolitan Water District takes new water service connections into consideration when they develop water shortage allocations, so if there is another drought the water supplied to new homes and businesses does not detract from the water allocations for existing customers. Also, the District could require the developer to offset their entire water demand, either by providing an alternative water supply, or by providing offsets to reduce demands elsewhere in our system.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RMWD SEWER CUSTOMERS

Not all of our customers receive sewer service from Rainbow, but for those that do, the monthly sewer charge for domestic customers is based on your lowest winter water usage for the billing months December through April. This method of calculating sewer rates assumes that during a rainy month virtually all of your water usage is indoors and enters the sewer system. January and February are typically our highest rainfall periods, so to minimize your monthly sewer charge during the next fiscal year (July 2012 through June 2013) you may want to irrigate as little as practical during these winter months.

So far this rain season has been particularly dry. Not to worry though, if the trend continues we have the option of using your water consumption from the prior year as the basis for your sewer charges.

WATER SUPPLY OUTLOOK FOR 2012

So far this New Year doesn't bode well for California's water supply. In early January the snow pack water content in the Sierra Mountains was about what it was last July! That doesn't necessarily mean water shortages will occur this summer though, as reservoirs throughout the state were recharged by last winter's heavy snowfall and ensuing runoff. Also, as we have seen in other years Mother Nature can be full of surprises, such as the Miracle March in 1991 when late-season storms helped refill reservoirs across the state.

We will continue to update you on the status of our water supply, so look for follow-up articles in future newsletters

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Work Progresses on New Pala Mesa Tank

The Pala Mesa Tank is one of the projects that will bring all of the District's reservoirs into compliance with current state and federal regulations regarding safe drinking water. The new concrete floor has cured and as of the first week in January several concrete wall panels have been poured in place. Once all of the panels are poured the tank will be wrapped with high-tension steel wires, according to our District Engineer, Brian Lee, who, along with his team have spearheaded this long-awaited project. Brian says if all goes well the tank should be in service by summer.



A crane steadies one of the new wall panels at the Pala Mesa Tank