



****MEDIA ADVISORY****

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rainbow MWD Board Declares Level 2 Drought

On Tuesday, April 28, the Board of Directors of the Rainbow Municipal Water District declared a Level 2 "Drought Alert" and directed staff to implement conservation measures. The declaration followed a similar action last week by the wholesale agency, the San Diego County Water Authority.

According to Dave Seymour, General Manager of the Rainbow District, the Drought Alert means all customers need to practice water conservation. "For the past sixteen months our agricultural users have been under mandatory water use restrictions, now the residential and commercial consumers will have similar rules, although the amount they have to cut back will be much less."

According to the District's Drought Response Conservation Plan, the Level 2 designation places restrictions on practices such as washing down paved surfaces, limits watering hours for residential and commercial landscaping, and asks restaurants to only provide water upon request.

Seymour said the most significant impact of the Drought Alert is a prohibition against adding any new water services as long as the condition exists. "As of yesterday's vote we won't be installing any more meters or signing water availability letters. That will have a tremendous impact on people trying to build, but there is no water to serve them. If we give water to new customers we have to take it away from existing customers." Seymour added there are specific exceptions, such as those for public health and safety.

The District expects that domestic and commercial customers need to reduce water use by about eight percent. Existing agricultural customers will remain at the current 30 percent reduction, and customers in the new Special Agricultural Water Rate will see cuts of 13 percent.

The Rainbow Municipal Water District serves water through over 7,200 meters and provides sewer service to 3,629 connections in the unincorporated communities of Rainbow, Bonsall, and a portion of Fallbrook covering approximately 49,800 acres.

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