



## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2024 . ISSUE 230

### Rainbow Water Celebrates Seven Decades of Service

Rainbow Water celebrates 70 years of service to the community with transition of leadership, historic detachment vote, and introduction of a new brand. Recent years have been marked by progress for the local water district with improvement to infrastructure, grant awards, and industry accolades.

Since its founding by a group of community members as a special district in December 1953, Rainbow Water has been delivering safe and reliable water to the unincorporated communities of Rainbow, Bonsall, and portions of Fallbrook.

#### An Agency Founded by the Community

Members of the Rainbow community, including retired United States Coast Guard Reservist and 75-year member of the Rainbow Grange, Bill Hitt, and retired Orange County newspaper publisher, Ben Martin, worked diligently in the 1940s to find alternative water resources in response to the California drought, which severely impacted farmers in the area.

In 1944, the Federal Government authorized the build of the First Aqueduct consisting of Pipeline 1 branch from the San Jacinto tunnel of the Colorado River to the San Vicente Reservoir in San Diego via the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) pipelines designed by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. The San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) was formed in 1944 with nine member agencies to deliver reliable water to the surrounding communities. Hitt learned of the formation from the Navy and coordinated efforts with SDCWA to ensure the community of Rainbow would have access to the water pipeline. The Water Authority and Bob Deimer from MWD, notified Martin and other communities of the need to assemble and organize as a water agency to fulfill requirements of building pipeline to connect to service. Thereafter five local water agencies were formed throughout what is now the Rainbow Water service area.

**Founded by the Community** - continued on page 2

### Flood Readiness for the Winter Season

California rains are expected for the winter months, but not everyone will experience flooding. Make sure your home is ready for rain and the possibility of flooding by following these tips.

- 1 Be aware of your area, clear exterior drains and gutters, and your homes risk for flooding. Remember to stay up to date on the weather forecast and heed warnings from local authorities.
- 2 Assemble a plan for safety to include an evacuation plan for family and pets, and an emergency kit with food, medications, and important documents.
- 3 Immediately evacuate when a notice is sent from San Diego County authorities and mobile alerts.

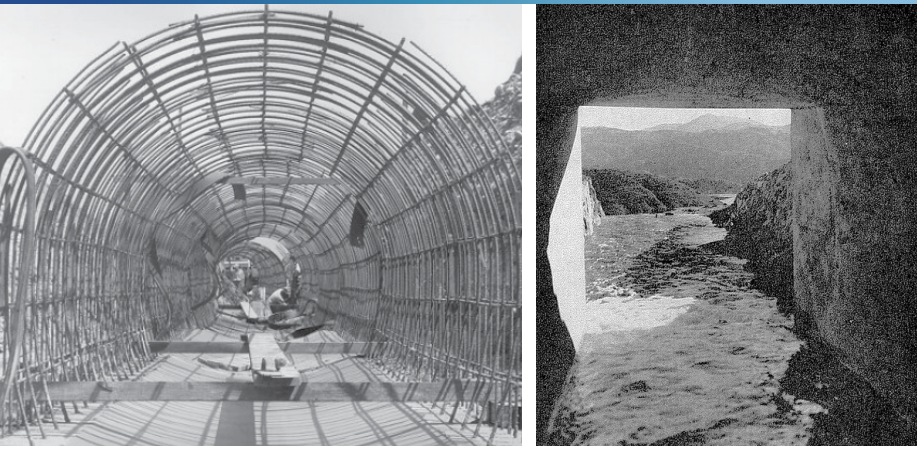
To sign up for alerts and for more information on emergency preparedness visit: [alertsandiego.org](https://alertsandiego.org)

### Share Your Feedback

Let us know how we are doing when you take the Customer Service Survey. Your opinion will help provide insight in planning and improving District operations.

Scan to take the survey or use the link below:  
<https://tinyurl.com/cwf6ja24>





Pictured at left: The tunnel construction by U.S. Navy for Pipeline 1 of the San Diego Aqueduct from Colorado River to San Diego. Pictured at right: First flow of San Diego Aqueduct, view from South portal of San Vicente Tunnel into San Vicente Reservoir. Source: SDCWA Photo Archives.

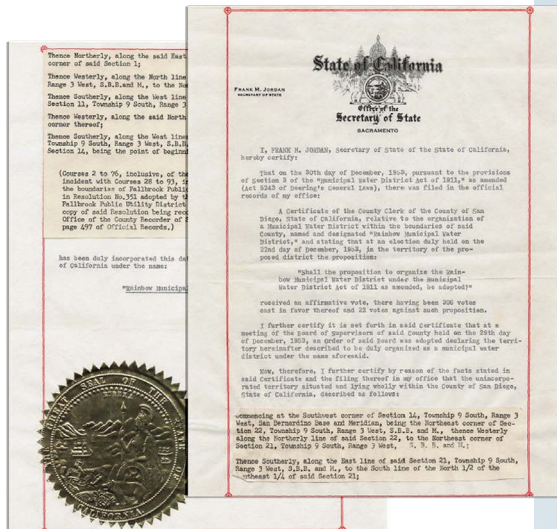
**Founded by the Community - continued**

The U.S. Navy constructed the San Diego Aqueduct, carrying water from the Colorado River to San Diego County. The Pipeline 1 Aqueduct project was completed in 1947 to extend water access across Southern California through Rainbow to San Diego. Thereafter, a small group of community members, including Martin, founded the Rainbow Public Utility District, and after formation, the SDCWA informed Hitt that the community would have access to the imported water supply.

The California Secretary of the State, Frank Jordan, certified the incorporation of the Rainbow Municipal Water District within the boundaries of San Diego County.

Rainbow Water was managed by Bill Hollingsworth, and the service area was organized into five divisions: Division 1, portions of Bonsall and San Luis Rey; Division 2, portions of Fallbrook and Bonsall; Division 3, portions of Fallbrook and Vallecitos; Division 4, portion of Vallecitos; and Division 5, portions of Pala and Vallecitos.

Rainbow Water will continue to maintain and improve service for ratepayers and looks forward to building upon the legacy that began 70 years ago.



Pictured above: The State of California Proclamation of Rainbow Municipal Water District on December 30, 1953. Pictured below: Morro Reservoir in Division 3. Source: Rainbow Water Archives



**Water Awareness Poster Contest**  
**Calling All Fourth Grade Artists**

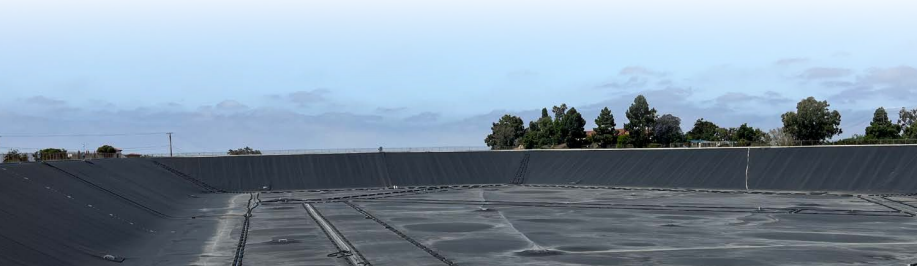
As a North County Water Agencies (NCWA) member, Rainbow Water is proud to present the 2024 Water Awareness Poster Contest. The poster contest is exclusive to fourth grade students in North County, and entry forms will be distributed in 2024 to local fourth grade classes.

Students are encouraged to participate in the water awareness activity by designing an original poster depicting the theme, "Love Water, Save Water." The posters are voted on by water agencies, and winners are printed in the 2025 NCWA calendar.

**Requirements for Entry**

- ➡ The artist must be a resident in the Rainbow Water service area.
- ➡ Entries accepted from fourth graders enrolled in public, private, homeschool, and charter schools.
- ➡ The poster must be an original work created with marking pens, colored pencils, acrylic poster paint, watercolors, crayons, or torn/cut paper or fabric.
- ➡ All entries are due to Rainbow Water by April 1, 2024.

To request a contest entry form, 2024 NCWA calendar, and for more information visit: [rainbowmwd.ca.gov](http://rainbowmwd.ca.gov)



**Stay Connected**

3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028  
Customer Care & After Hours: 760.728.1178  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
[RAINBOWMWD.CA.GOV](http://RAINBOWMWD.CA.GOV)