

A REQUEST FOR WATER CONSERVATION

- **Shutdown will start on Wednesday, November 12, 2014 and continue through Friday, November 21, 2014.**

Metropolitan Water District will shut down the # 4 Aqueduct pipe line that serves Rainbow Municipal Water District to perform repairs to the Aqueduct Infrastructure. The Shutdowns will eliminate the District's water source supply for a total ten-day period.

In order to provide water to all areas of the District, temporary pumps will be installed at appropriate locations throughout RMWD. These pumps may be required to run at all hours of the day and noise may be experienced by some customers in the local vicinity.

We are asking customers to assist RMWD by conserving water. If weather conditions are cool and/or wet, the District will have enough water in storage to handle the outage during this period. If you are an agricultural customer or a grove service, the District is asking you to voluntarily refrain from using water from **November 11, 2014 through November 22, 2014** (two extra days will allow our reservoirs adequate storage). In the event weather conditions dictate or the District determines water usage may exceed the water in storage, mandatory restrictions for agricultural water use will be enforced. If you have any questions, please call the RMWD (760) 728-1178 Ext. 152.

The District apologizes in advance for any inconvenience this may cause its customers and appreciates your best efforts to conserve water during this short period of time.

Marc Walker
Water Operations Superintendent

**** IMPORTANT NOTICE ****

**PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER 3:00 P.M.
WILL NOT BE POSTED UNTIL THE NEXT
BUSINESS DAY**

**** POTENTIAL TRAFFIC DELAYS ****

Starting November 10, 2014, RMWD's wastewater crews will start cleaning sewer lines on North River Road. Anyone traveling in this area may experience traffic delays on the following days:

November 10, 2014
November 12, 2014
November 13, 2014
November 17, 2014 through November 20, 2014
November 24, 2014 through November 26, 2014

California Highway Patrol will be on scene to assist with traffic control matters.

Although this project is vital to the RMWD ratepayers, the District apologizes for any inconvenience this project may cause and appreciates everyone's patience and understanding.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact Ramon Zuniga, Wastewater Superintendent, at (760) 728-1178.



RAINBOW
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2014
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MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



As you are all aware, the State of California is in a period of extreme drought. Snowpack levels in Northern California have been among the lowest on record on multiple occasions in recent years. Since all of our water here in Rainbow comes from imported sources, what happens in the Sierras has a direct impact on us in San Diego County.

As Fall approaches it is time for everyone to re-check their irrigation timers. With shorter days and cooler weather, your plants don't need as much water. We encourage you to adjust your irrigation patterns to give your plants enough water to flourish without using more than is needed. The District can arrange for a free Water Audit at your residence if you like – just call the main office and make a request.

All of us who use water in San Diego County have been hit with tremendous increases in costs for our imported water over the last 10 years. At Rainbow MWD we have cut our internal costs deeply and reduced staff in an effort to reduce the impact on our ratepayers, but nearly all of the increases in costs at the retail level are due to increases in wholesale rates. While these rate increases have had significant economic impacts on both the retail agencies and their customers, there is a tangible benefit to some of the investments that we have all been paying for should the drought continue.

I am sure many of you recall, during the drought of 1992 the San Diego Region had to make severe mandatory cutbacks of 30%. This caused significant disruption in the every day lives of residents here as well as significant economic impacts locally. At that time the San Diego County Water Authority, of which Rainbow is a member agency, embarked on a multi decade plan to invest in water reliability. A series of projects were developed and funded with the money coming from all of the water customers in the county. These projects include:

- The Emergency Storage Project – a combination of two large reservoirs, pipelines, and pump stations that will ensure many months' supply of water for the whole County in the event we are cut off completely from supplies from the north.
- The Imperial Irrigation District Canal Lining Project – a project to line canals in the desert and transfer the water that would have seeped into the sand to San Diego County.
- The Carlsbad Desalination Project – a new, drought-proof supply of water from the ocean that will come on line late next year.

Each of these projects had specific costs for which all of us in the County are paying. Yes, these projects have been part of the increase in our water rates, but they have tangible benefits that may be realized next year.

Should this current drought continue, the allocation of water from Northern California will be severely curtailed. In the worst case scenario, we would receive a zero percent allocation of water from the North into Southern California. Should this come to pass, the projections are that Southern California would be forced to enact mandatory 20% cutbacks. In San Diego County, these cutbacks would be much lower based on these investments and would be limited to just 9%. If the desal plant was fully operational already these would be even lower.

Even if we get normal rain and snow this winter there will still be allocations from the North. Since we need to fill up the reservoirs up there first, the expectation is that there will be a 20% allocation from the North. In this more likely scenario, the cutbacks for Southern California will be just under 10% but here in San Diego only 3%. Thankfully, our region is already saving about 6% since the voluntary water use restrictions went into effect, so we are already there!

Long story short, while the investments we have made are painful financially, they have served their purpose and enabled San Diego to have a more reliable water supply – even in the face of extreme drought. We should never have to go back to those massive mandatory cutbacks of the 1990s.