

## **FPUD TAKEOVER OF RAINBOW MWD**

We had notified you in an earlier article that FPUD had filed an application with the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to dissolve Rainbow MWD. Due to FPUD's failure to provide the correct legal notice they were required to hold another meeting, properly noticed, and reconsider their application to LAFCO. On April 28<sup>th</sup> FPUD held their public hearing and then by a 4-1 vote approved the submission of a second application to LAFCO. Representatives of Rainbow MWD were present at the meeting to voice objections to the takeover attempt by FPUD.

FPUD's primary claim is that the annexation of Rainbow and reorganization of FPUD would save money for the ratepayers of both districts. Rainbow contends that we have already proven that we are able to reduce operating costs by significant amounts over the past five years *without* consolidating. Rainbow has reduced its labor force by nine positions since 2010 in response to the significant drop off in agricultural water sales.

We realize that there are complex issues involved with this attempted takeover. If you would like to have a representative of the Rainbow Board and staff meet with your group to better explain the details please contact the Rainbow MWD office at 760-728-1178 and ask for the Customer Service or the Board Secretary to schedule an appointment.

## **THE SDCWA DROUGHT CONDITIONS**

The San Diego County Water Authority unveiled a new regional campaign to encourage additional voluntary water conservation in response to statewide drought conditions.

The campaign's theme – When in Drought: Save every day, every way – will appear in ads, public service announcements, online communications and elsewhere in coming months.

The campaign will be located online at [www.whenindrought.org](http://www.whenindrought.org) as part of the Water Authority's response to the region's current Drought Watch condition that calls for increased voluntary conservation. In addition to promoting more water conservation, it is designed to thank residents and businesses for taking action to save water, provide a one-stop resource for drought-related information in San Diego County, and raise awareness of efforts by the region's water agencies to make San Diego County less vulnerable to supply shortages.

The When in Drought campaign will be coordinated with other local, regional and state initiatives to boost water-saving efforts through media appearances, community events, presentations to civic groups and other outreach initiatives. The Water Authority will support When in Drought with approximately \$300,000 in drought response grant funds from the State Department of Water Resources.

### **\*\*REMINDER\*\***

**HOME DEPOT PLANT FAIR  
5755 MISSION AVE., OCEANSIDE, CA  
MAY 31, 2014  
8:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.**

The Home Depot and their vendors have partnered to offer special deals on select varieties of low water use plants at each of their parking lot events throughout San Diego County.

Please join us at the Oceanside Home Depot Saturday, May 31st conservation event!!

### **Preliminary Water Rates**

Early projections reveal that the wholesale price of water will increase approximately 3% in calendar year 2015. This anticipated increase is slightly less than the 4% increase of the previous year and much less than the 7.5% average annual increases we have experienced over the past five years. Much of the increase in costs is due to the Water Authority's investment in constructing water storage facilities. These investments give our region a protective hedge against prolonged drought conditions. Rainbow MWD imports 100% of its water from the wholesalers.

**RAINBOW  
MUNICIPAL  
WATER  
DISTRICT**

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**2014  
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## ***Rainbow Water Reaps Award for Pivotal Pala Mesa Tank Project***

The receipt of a prestigious award for the design and construction of the Pala Mesa tank caps one of the Rainbow Municipal Water District's most successful projects in recent memory.

On March 14, 2014 at the California Infrastructure Symposium in San Francisco, the District formally received its award of "2013 Outstanding Water Project" from the American Society of Civil Engineers, an organization that was founded in 1852 and represents more than 140,000 engineers worldwide. The District previously received an "Award of Merit" from the local San Diego chapter of ASCE for the same project.



District Engineer Kirsten Plonka (left) accepts the award on behalf of RMWD.

Society officials stated that "the use of innovative planning, design, and construction approaches made this project an unqualified success, and enabled the District to achieve its goals and objectives."

"We are grateful for the recognition of a project that was of crucial importance to our district," said Gene Buckley, Rainbow's General Manager. "This tank was the final solution for the state's mandate, and it has allowed us to focus on other projects as we supply our customers with safe and reliable water."

The pre-stressed concrete tank, which holds six million gallons of water, went into service in January 2013 near Wilt Road. The project was noteworthy for several reasons. The tank replaced an earthen reservoir that had been abandoned for years. The tank also enabled the District to finally emerge from a nearly decade-long state mandate to cover its open reservoirs or treat their contents.

The project, designed by Infrastructure Engineering Corporation and project managed by District engineering staff, created pads for two tanks and construction of the first. The district opted to seek separate bids for earthwork and construction in order to lower costs, which proved to be a savings of approximately \$260,000.

It was initially predicted that it would be many years before the second tank would be needed at the site. It is now likely – due to the need to replace a water tank elsewhere in the district – that the construction of a second Pala Mesa tank could be accelerated.

The completion of the first Pala Mesa tank subsequently allowed Rainbow to halt the use of Beck Reservoir, the district's largest and last uncovered reservoir, while a UV treatment facility is designed and constructed. The earthen Beck Reservoir was built in 1983 and it has a capacity of 204 million gallons. The entire Rainbow water system is currently in compliance with the California Department of Public Health after covering three open reservoirs and the construction of Pala Mesa tank.