

LAFCO UPDATE – FPUD TRUE INTENTIONS REVEALED

Over the last several weeks, Rainbow’s Board President and GM have held a series of meeting with FPUD and LAFCO to see if we could resolve this issue amicably and get back to the business of serving our ratepayers. During these meetings RMWD reiterated our objection to the unfair and illegal at-large voting system proposed by FPUD and offered that we would accept a merger if we could simply let our ratepayers use a fair and legal method of selecting their representatives by divisions. We also offered to restart the JPA so we could start saving your money while we worked out the details. We reminded LAFCO and FPUD that the RMWD delegation to the former NCJPA voted to extend the JPA to save you money but FPUD voted that motion down.



FPUD refused to compromise and told LAFCO that they want to continue this wasteful hostile takeover attempt.

All along, RMWD has been focused on serving the water and wastewater needs of our area, either alone or in partnership with our neighbors at FPUD. When we asked FPUD why they wanted to retain the Public Utility District (PUD) form of governance, the topic turned to the relative latent powers of the two agencies. Municipal Water Districts (MWD) focus on water and wastewater issues but also can manage parks and do a few other things, but water and wastewater is the focus. PUDs on the other hand can handle electricity, heat, golf courses, public facilities, roads, telephone, and many more. When we asked why they needed to retain those powers in order to serve water and wastewater the answer was astonishing: ***The FPUD Board President stated that they wanted to retain these powers because at some point in the future they may want to expand the scope of governmental services and that the RMWD service area should contribute taxes to that effort!*** He specifically stated that they wanted to do road improvements in the Fallbrook core and that Rainbow taxpayers should help pay!

This statement was made at both meetings as we wanted to clarify what we heard at the first meeting. We have wondered all along why we were having so much difficulty in finding common ground, but these revelations are telling. As it turns out Rainbow has been trying all along to *reduce* the size and cost of government while ***FPUD is working to expand its powers and increase its taxing authority!*** RMWD objects to this expansion of FPUD and we want you to express your opinion about this effort by FPUD to expand government power in our area.

I wish I had better news. I realize that we have asked you to voice your support many times in the past, but the primary way that we will defeat this is for the people to make their opinions known to LAFCO.

Standard Mail*

San Diego LAFCO
Att: Mike Ott
9335 Hazard Way, Suite 200
San Diego, CA 92123

Email Address*

mike.ott@sdcounty.ca.gov

**** Please CC Rainbow at support@rainbowmwd.com and visit our new site at www.saynotofpud.org***

In Memoriam

Karl G. Fekete was the first ratepayer to sign up to voluntarily serve on the RMWD Engineering Committee in April 2007. Mr. Fekete’s service was very instrumental in a variety of ways during his long tenure on the committee and he was truly an asset to both RMWD staff and Board of Directors. Mr. Fekete passed on January 1, 2015. He will be missed by all of us here at RMWD; we send his family our sincere condolences.

RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT

3707 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92029
760-728-1178
www.rainbowmwd.com

2015
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Division 1
Helene Brazier
(760) 723-0465

Jack Griffiths
Division 2
(760) 940-8935

Tory Walker
Division 3

Bob Lucy
Division 4
(760) 728-8325

Dennis Sanford
Division 5

STAFF

General Manager
Tom Kennedy

Finance Manager
Midge Thomas

Acting District Engineer
Sherry Rebueno

**Human Resources/
Safety Mgr.**
René Bush

Operations Mgr.
Juan Atilano

RMWD NEEDS ITS RATEPAYERS' HELP

Most of you know that the Rainbow Municipal Water District has an elected Board of Directors who is responsible to establish policy for the District, and a paid staff that is charged with carrying out the work. How many of you are aware that there is a dedicated cast of volunteers who put forth time and effort helping to run the District? These volunteers make up our Budget and Finance, Engineering, and Communications Committees by acting as advisors to the Board of Directors and staff.

The Committee concept was enacted by the Board in 2007 as a means to involve District ratepayers in the decision making processes of RMWD. The Committees meet once a month and the only eligibility requirement to be considered for appointment is that members must be District ratepayers.

Committee meetings are open to the public, and interested individuals may comment on items prior to consideration by the Committee. Once an item is voted on the Committee forwards their recommendation on to the full Board of Directors for consideration.

The Budget and Finance Committee is responsible for the review of District finances and financial recordkeeping. They help prepare the annual operating budget, review water and sewer rates and fees, and scrutinize the District's annual audit.

The Communications Committee assists the Board and General Manager with internal and external public relations campaigns, preparation of the newsletters, community outreach and other public relations programs.

The Engineering Committee works with the District Engineer to review project need, feasibility and design, reviews construction plans and specification and prioritize the District's Capital Improvement Program.

The Board of Directors and staff sincerely appreciate the time and effort these individuals devote to the support of your water district and are seeking additional volunteers. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees please contact Dawn Washburn at (760) 728-1178 Ext. 129.

~~~~~  
**YOU ARE OUR EYES**



RMWD strives to supply good safe drinking water. To ensure this reliable resource we do not allow anyone to illegally hook up to the water system as it could damage the distribution system and potentially cause a disruption of your service for costly unnecessary repairs. Illegal connections can also be a source of water contamination. The District allows authorized contractors to connect to hydrants with a construction meter, like the one shown in the photo. If

a contractor is connected to a hydrant without this device, it is likely they are stealing water. If you happen to witness anyone you think is stealing water, please call the District and we will respond to the problem. If caught stealing water through an illicit connection, contractors will be fined by the District. Your assistance in this important effort is appreciated.

~~~~~  
HIGH PRESSURE AREAS

Due to the hilly topography of the District, many portions of our service area are subject to high water pressure. So what can consumers do to protect their water system?

The California Plumbing Code requires pressure regulators on water supply inlets to homes and buildings wherever local static water pressure is in excess of eighty (80) pounds per square inch. Your house may already have a pressure regulator to protect against high pressure, but they are usually located where your pipe enters the building.

What about the water line from the meter to your home? Usually the line from the meter to the house remains unprotected. Some areas have District-installed and owned pressure regulators that are in front of the meter. **Those devices are only installed to protect the District's meter from high pressure, not your water line.** If you want to protect your line from high pressure coming into your property we highly recommend that you install a pressure regulator right after the meter.

If you have any questions about pressure please contact Customer Service at 728-1178.