

UPCOMING RATE INCREASE ANNOUNCEMENT

Beginning with your February 2021 water bill, the District will pass through SDCWA rate increases to our customers. These increases from SDCWA will likely result in average bill increases of about \$5.53 to \$7.13 per month for single family residential, between \$21.10 to \$61.10 for agriculture for medium usage and high usage respectively.

Every penny of this rate increase will be sent to SDCWA – RMWD will not keep any of these funds locally. Even though we have certain increased costs for supplies, energy, etc., we are doing everything we can to make cuts where possible to keep rates as low as possible.

Had we been buying our water from EMWD this rate increase would not be needed at all. In fact, depending on what sort of conditions LAFCO places on our detachment, if we succeed, we will likely be able to both fund the much-needed replacement of failing pipelines AND provide rate relief.



As detailed in our August Newsletter, we had hoped to bring the detachment matter to you – the ratepayers – for a decision in Fall 2020 election; however, this was not possible.

For that reason, we will be passing through the SDCWA rate increases beginning January 2021. We simply cannot absorb these huge increases and continue to provide the local service you have come to expect.

For calendar year 2020, the Rainbow MWD Board of Directors decided to hold the line on rate increases from SDCWA being pass down to our customers. This created a financial loss of approximately \$950,000 for the District for CY2020.

On average, nearly 70 cents of each dollar in your water bill goes straight to SDCWA for water purchases.

We will be holding a series of public meetings over the next few months to discuss the impact of higher SDCWA water costs and how to move forward.

We encourage you to join in the conversation! See our website at www.rainbowmwd.com for meeting dates and details.

If you have any additional questions regarding the information provided, or the rates applicable to your property, please contact us at 760-728-1178 or visit us on our website at

<https://www.rainbowmwd.com/water-rates>.

NEW SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL RATE PROGRAM

Rainbow's water wholesaler, the San Diego County Water District (SDCWA) has a new **Permanent Special Agriculture Water Rate (PSAWR) Program**, which was developed with input from regional farming leaders.

If you are currently participating in the existing SDCWA Transitional Special Agriculture Water Rate (TSAWR) Program, you will be allowed to take part in the new permanent program on a temporary basis while being screened for eligibility under the new program requirements.

Rainbow has six months (through June 30, 2021) to verify eligibility for existing transitional customers for the new program.

Like the TSAWR Program, farmers and growers who participate in the new permanent program will receive a lower level of water service during water shortages and emergencies. This allows the SDCWA to reallocate those program supplies to municipal and commercial (M&I) customers who pay for full water service and reliability benefits.

In exchange, participating farmers do not pay the supply rate differential between the SDCWA's melded water rate and Metropolitan's Tier 1 water rate, and are exempt from paying fixed water storage and supply reliability charges.

To participate in the new PSAWR Program, customers must grow or raise-for commercial purposes-products of an agriculture, horticulture, or floriculture nature. The owner shall be required to provide the information, consent, certification and acknowledgement required.

Failure to complete all sections and/or provide requested documentation may result in ineligibility for the PSAWR program.



If you are currently classified as an agricultural customer in our billing system you will be receiving an enrollment form and detailed information regarding the new program.

Once Rainbow Municipal Water District receives the completed Enrollment Form, along with proof of the Commercial Agriculture Operation's membership in one of the four lists, we will verify the provided backup is valid.

ONLY ONE REQUIRED:

- Grower's List, Active
- Certified Producer's
- Organic Producers and Regional Board General Agricultural Order Enrollment List

Please be aware, inclusion in one of the four lists above does not automatically guarantee enrollment in the PSAWR Program. The customer's meter and account must be in compliance with all RMWD ordinances, resolutions, rules, and regulations.

If you have questions regarding the new program please feel free to contact us at (760) 728-1178 or by email at billing@rainbowmwd.com