



RAINBOW WATER HISTORY

The establishment of Rainbow Municipal Water District is rich with history and fascinating stories of the challenges faced in its foundational years, the commitment and involvement of the community and their numerous accomplishments. Bill Hitt, who was about 6 years old when his parents purchased land in Rainbow, is one of the community members who shared his stories with us in an interview with our Executive Secretary back on June 29, 2010. We have printed excerpts of this in the past but we wanted to share it again.

In this interview Mr. Hitt recalled how severely a drought had impacted San Diego County and his community in the early 1940's and how in 1944 the Federal Government authorized building a pipeline to get Colorado River water to San Diego via the Metropolitan Water District. In light of the wartime needs of the military, pipelines were being designed by the Bureau of Reclamation and constructed by the United States Navy.

Later in life Bill joined the United States Navy and also became a member of the Rainbow Grange. Bill recalls that it was at the regular Grange meetings where discussions took place regarding the water situation. These discussions included finding an alternate means of getting water since the Temecula Creek and San Luis Rey River were out of the question. The aqueduct currently under construction being built right through Rainbow was the only option; however, one of the Grange members as he recalled was very opposed to utilizing this water source due to the high salt content claiming it may ruin the soil. Most other members were focused on simply having enough water available to the local community.

During this time San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), formed on June 9, 1944 and now a 24-member agency, was just forming with 9 member agencies being served throughout the county. Mr. Hitt's commander in the United States Navy, Frank Hines introduced him to Robert Deimer, Chief Engineer and future General Manager of MWD and this conversation later grew into a partnership with Rainbow but there was still much work to do.

It was at this point a small group formed the Rainbow Public Utility District that included a retired publisher of an Orange County newspaper, Ben Martin. Mr. Martin quickly became one of the original directors to effectively get the District organized. Bob Deimer of MWD encouraged the Rainbow community to get organized as they would be receiving emergency water as soon as water became available. And the rest is history.

This is just one of many stories about the history of Rainbow Water District, the local community and its steadfast leaders and we would really like to hear yours. If you would like to share some of your experiences, recollection of a historical moment or event in the history of Rainbow Municipal Water District please contact Cynthia Gray, Administrative Analyst at 760-728-1178.

**RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT**

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District Office Hours

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FEATURE SPOTLIGHT

Important news for all our customers currently using the online bill payment system at <https://rainbowmwd.dpnetbill.com>.

Effective November 28, 2016 this website will no longer be available for making Rainbow MWD payments. We will be transitioning to a new online payment system, still offering all the great features with the added benefit of real time information.

If you are currently enrolled online with automatic recurring payments, this feature will end with the discontinuation of the current online bill payment website. If you want to continue paying automatically online, you must re-register on the new bill payment website at <https://rainbowmwd.merchantransact.com>. New system will be available to you starting November 28th.

Please note, all recurring payments scheduled for the month of November in the current system will still be processed with effective dates of November 2nd, 9th, and 16th for billing cycles 1, 2, and 3 respectively. One time payments will still be allowed up until November 27th on the current payment system.

Starting November 28th, online payments will be processed through new website. See online bill payment insert for more information, or feel free to contact customer service at 760-728-1178 with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this change.

GREASE DISPOSAL BEST PRACTICES

It's hard to believe the holiday season is just around the corner but with all the holiday gatherings, out-of-town guests arriving, lots of baking and cooking, and garbage disposals working overtime this is also the most demanding time of year for plumbers. During this busy time, RMWD is asking its customers to remember to use best management practices when disposing of grease.

Common Problem:

Approximately 60% of all sewer blockages are caused by grease in the system. Oil and grease will solidify as soon as they hit cold water in the sewage pipes and can cause a blockage. These blockages can result in raw sewage spilling into our waterways and ocean. Even mixing grease with warm soapy water does not prevent clogs.

Easy Solution:

Rainbow MWD has adopted Administrative Code Section 9.12 regulating commercial kitchen grease disposal; however, a review of those areas that do experience blockage problems reveals that many of them are in residential areas. Residents should also use proper grease disposal techniques as follows:

- Never put any type of grease or oil, whether it's frying oil, salad oil, or cooking grease, into the sewage system by dumping it down the sink.
- Put excess cooking oil or grease into a container and throw it in the trash.
- Wipe out greasy pots and pans with a paper towel before washing them.
- Do not use the garbage disposal to grind fat trimmings instead wrap them up and put them in the trash.