



## Multi-Agency Response to Mission Fires in Bonsall and Rainbow

Rainbow Water District assisted the North County Fire Protection District and CAL FIRE with mutual aid response to multiple vegetation fires, known as the Mission fires, burning along State Route 76 and northbound I-15 Freeway on Saturday, May 2.

Rainbow Water crews responded swiftly with a water tender to supply fire trucks with water for fires located along State Route 76. Fire protection agencies utilized the Rainbow Water District's Rapid Aerial Water Supply (RAWS) tank with over 20 water drops to aid in suppressing 26 separate fires that burned across 12 miles from Bonsall to Rainbow. The North County Fire Protection District, CAL FIRE, and several assisting agencies stopped the fire's spread at 20 acres, with no structures destroyed.

"The outcome is a direct reflection of the strength of our mutual and automatic aid system, as well as the dedication of the men and women who serve our communities," said John Choi, Captain for North County Fire Protection District.

The RAWS tank was installed as a proactive measure following the devastating Lilac Fire in 2017, underscoring the need for an efficient, high-volume, aerial accessible water source in San Diego's fire-prone areas. This was the second fire incident when RAWS was used by fire agencies, following the Garden Fire in November 2024.

Rainbow Water mitigates the risk of fire ignition around all facilities through regular brush clearance to maintain defensible space and rooftop sprinklers to create a moisture barrier during a wildfire event. These proactive fire prevention measures assisted with protecting a critical piece of Rainbow Water infrastructure after a spot fire ignited adjacent to a pump station.

"Our emergency response training and internal notification systems moved our team into action quickly" said Jake Wiley, Rainbow Water General Manager. "We were proud to bring critical water supply to assist the dozen fire agencies who battled the various fires in our service area."

This rapid, highly effective response and preparedness highlight the success of joint efforts between public agencies and the vital role of advanced firefighting tools like the RAWS. Through proactive planning and interagency partnerships, Rainbow Water District, North County Fire Protection District, and CAL FIRE remain committed to safeguarding the communities they serve.



## Around the District Highlights from the General Manager: Infrastructure Week and La Canada Pipeline Replacement

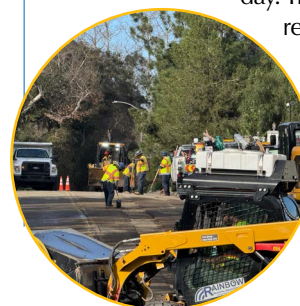
National Infrastructure Week takes place May 18-22, to highlight the importance of infrastructure across the nation. Rainbow Water is proud to celebrate Infrastructure Week along with freight, transportation, and water agencies. The annual week of advocacy highlights the importance of continued investment in roads, water systems, broadband, and other essential infrastructure.

### La Canada Pipeline Replacement

Rainbow Water began 2026 with the modernization and installation of new pipelines and pressure-reducing valves to the neighborhood on La Canada Road near Hillrise and Via Monserate. The project involved Rainbow Water staff performing design, construction management, project management, installation, water testing, and connection to water systems to residences.

The 3-month project included replacing 4,000 feet of 8-inch pipeline upgrading aging infrastructure to ensure reliable delivery of water to the community. Rainbow Water's in-house construction crew performed the project from start to finish, averaging approximately 200 feet of installed pipeline per day. The street will undergo paving

repair and restoration and is anticipated to be complete by late June. The new pipeline addresses a history of pipeline failures in the area and avoids future costly operations and water outages to residents in the community.



**Stay Informed, Stay Safe.** Sign up for Rainbow Water emergency alerts to get the latest on outages and important water updates. Remember to include a current email address and cell phone number. Subscribe to emergency alerts at: [rainbowmwd.ca.gov/update-your-info](https://rainbowmwd.ca.gov/update-your-info)





## 2026 Farm Tour Day Hosted by San Diego County Farm Bureau

San Diego Farm Bureau invites you to join the 2026 Farm Tour Day in Oceanside. Event attendees will enjoy guided walking tours led by farmers who will share an inside look at how they farm tomatoes, cut flowers, wine grapes, and operate a farm stand.

### Behind the Scenes: Farm Edition

**Date:** Saturday, May 30, 2026

**Time:** 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Location:** Tour a select group of farms in Oceanside

**Tickets:** Adults \$35, children ages 6-17 \$15, children 5 and under free

Tickets for the Farm Day Tour are available online through May 22. Learn more details and buy tickets at: [sdfarmbureau.org/farm-tour-day](https://sdfarmbureau.org/farm-tour-day)

## Ballot Drop Off at Rainbow Water Official Ballot Drop Off Site for San Diego County Voters

The County of San Diego Registrar of Voters office sent mail-in ballots for the Statewide Special Election to registered voters the first week in May. County of San Diego voters can vote in person, by mail, or return their ballots to a secure ballot drop box location. Local ballot drop boxes are conveniently located at the Fallbrook Branch Library, Fallbrook Regional Health District, and Rainbow Water Headquarters. Remember to seal your envelope and sign the exterior before dropping it into the ballot box.

### Rainbow Water Headquarters Official Ballot Drop Box

**Dates Open:** April 9 - June 2, 2026

**Time:** Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**Election Day:** June 2, 2026, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

**Location:** Rainbow Water Headquarters  
3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028

For additional polling locations and voter information, scan the code or visit: [sdvote.com](https://sdvote.com)



## Spring Planting Rebates

Thinking about replacing your grass with California native or drought-tolerant plants? Spring is when many California native plants bloom across our region. The San Diego County Waterscape Rebate Program helps homeowners install water-wise landscaping that can conserve water, save money, and beautify their homes. Earn an extra \$1 per square foot when you install native plants on all or part of your landscape! California native plants do more than enhance your yard, they:

- Help conserve water
- Support local pollinators and biodiversity
- Improve soil health
- Reduce long-term maintenance and costs



By choosing California native plants, you can create a more sustainable landscape while connecting your home to the natural environment—and earn a rebate at the same time. Learn more and apply online:

<https://tinyurl.com/yw2d263a>

## Rainbow Water Rundown April Board Meeting Highlights

**Annual Vacancy Rates & Staffing Analysis:** A review of vacancy rates and recruiting methods was presented in accordance with AB 2561. Staffing analysis included staffing trends, retention rates, and a three-year staffing plan for projected growth. The board will review additional staff positions in the May budget review process.

**La Canada Pipeline Replacement Project:** Highlights of the infrastructure project were presented with a construction timeline on the 3-month project completed by Rainbow Water's in-house construction team. The Board approved a paving contract for street restoration along La Canada between Hillside and Via Monserate.

**Consent Calendar Approvals:** Board approved notices of completion and acceptance of minor facilities constructed by customers; 6-year Sewer System Management Plan (SSMP); sewer system agreement with Neighborhood's Verdeaux at The Havens; and joint agreements for the Ocean Breeze development.

**5-Year Capital Improvement Plan:** The water and wastewater CIP plan was approved by the Board. The plan includes approximately \$8 million per year for the next five years, with 85% of the funding allocated for rehabilitation of pump stations and reservoirs and replacement of pipelines and valves.

**District Vehicle Policies:** A consolidation and update of District vehicle policies was incorporated into Chapter 5.09 of the Administrative Code.



### Joint Powers Financing Authority

**Update:** A memorandum of understanding and joint community facilities agreement were approved, and two board members were appointed to the recently formed JPA between Rainbow Water and Bonsall Unified School District.

### Join Our Public Meetings

Meetings are held in the Rainbow Water board room and via zoom on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. Agenda & online meeting information: [rainbowmwd.ca.gov/meetings](https://rainbowmwd.ca.gov/meetings)

**Board of Directors Meeting:** May 26, June 23

### Committee Meetings

- Engineering & Operations: June 2, July 7
- Budget & Finance: June 9, July 14
- Communications & Customer Service: July 21



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