



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND PREPAREDNESS

In February, Rainbow MWD staff responded to a variety of incidents as a result of an atmospheric river which impacted the State of California. Some of those incidents included assisting San Diego County road crews with clearing roads and reducing the effects of fallen trees and heavy branches. They also assisted North County Fire with traffic control and the clearing of mud and debris from the intersection of Little Gopher Canyon and Old River which was vital to ensure our Wastewater Lift Station at that location was not flooded. There was also a water main break on Stewart Canyon which district crews worked diligently to isolate and repair.

Significant amounts of rainfall in a short period of time like what we experienced last month brings an imminent threat in this region of flooding and mudslides. District staff proactively took steps to minimize rainwater intrusion into the wastewater collections system prior to the rainy season which proved to be very effective in eliminating any wastewater spills. Additionally, tanker trucks were called in to haul wastewater from one part of the system to another that was less impacted by the rains.



Rainbow staff collaborating with the North County Fire Department on emergency response.

District staff closely monitored Rainbow water and wastewater systems which included site visits to lift stations, pump stations, reservoirs and tanks to ensure continuity of operations during this hazardous event.

With these processes in place, the District is able to guarantee its operations are performed efficiently with minimal disruption to services especially during an emergency.

## Easement Corner

It has been a busy and productive winter season with the District Right-of-Way Program. Thanks to collaboration with our cooperative and understanding customers we have cleared numerous easements of dead and overgrown trees and weeds. In addition, we have worked with numerous customers to remove fences, trees and bushes inadvertently installed in our easements and causing interference with the maintenance of our sewer infrastructure and water pipelines.

Spring is just around the corner and with it comes home and garden improvement projects. Please remember to contact DigAlert through their website at <https://www.digalert.org/> or by simply dialing 811 any time you are digging. Whether you are undertaking a large or small project from planting trees and bushes to installing fencing or a swimming pool, the law states anyone doing any type of digging, with power driven equipment or when a permit is required must contact DigAlert prior to excavation.

Once DigAlert has been informed we will automatically be notified and come out to mark out our pipelines and easements avoiding costly mistakes. We also suggest you become familiar with your property title report which will point out any District easements that might be on your property. Lastly, feel free to call the District's Right-of-Way and Facilities Coordinator, Kim Brown by phone (760) 728-1178 ext. 108 or by email at [kbrown@rainbowmwnd.com](mailto:kbrown@rainbowmwnd.com) if you have any questions about easements, right-of-ways or digging she will be happy to come by and confirm any RMWD infrastructure or easements that may be located on your property.

Again, many thanks to all of you who called the District when you noticed a potential easement encroachment and to those who also informed DigAlert of any planned digging.

As you know we are back on Daylight Savings Time and chances are you have probably already adjusted the clocks in your kitchen, bedroom, car etc. But did you remember to check your irrigation timers to make sure you continue to water at your normally scheduled times?

This seasonal event is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and change filters in your heating and air conditioning system to ensure all of your systems are working efficiently.

