

**RAINBOW**  
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

**COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER**  
**MARCH 2025 . ISSUE 243**



## Fix a Leak Week 2025: How to Identify Leaks in Your Home

Whether small or large, leaks have the potential for a dramatic impact on indoor and outdoor water use. Fix a Leak Week is a national campaign presented by the Environmental Protection Agency from March 17-25 and serves to remind customers that water leaks can occur anywhere in the home, from the laundry room to the bathrooms. Simple checks for water leaks can avoid a domino effect of costly repairs and bills. Did you know a dripping faucet can account for 3,000 gallons of water wasted annually? Proactively checking for leaks can save customers 10 percent or more on a water bill. You can search the home for potential leaks and water waste in just a few minutes. Everything from dripping faucets, sprinklers facing the wrong direction, and worn-out garden hoses are areas where you can quickly identify water inefficiencies and help reduce water waste in our community. Explore the three steps below to get a jump start on finding leaks in your home.

### Review Your Water Bill

Compare your water usage during months when water is least used. Generally, January and February are ideal for comparing water use. If you have a spike in usage reflected on a bill, then a leak may be the reason for the increase. View the How to Read My Bill page on the Rainbow Water website for details on understanding your billing statement.

### Read Your Water Meter

Check your water usage by looking at your water meter over a two-hour period. Make sure no water is in use during the two-hour window, and if the meter read changes, there may be a leak. Rainbow Water's YouTube page has a helpful video series on how to locate your meter.



### Surface Leaks

Leaks can be found all around the home, and a quick review of the interior and exterior will help identify potential water waste. Take a closer look at faucet gaskets, drips at the shower head, listen for running water at the toilet, and look for pools of water at pipe fittings under the cabinet or around the washing machine to determine if water is leaking. Check for leaks at the home's exterior where a garden hose connects to the spigot, and turn on the sprinklers to test for broken sprinklers or nozzles over spraying. Review the interior of your home and garage for visible mold or moisture on baseboards, ceiling and walls. Locate leaks with Flume, a smart flow monitor device available for \$49 after instant rebate.

Find more information and tips at: [rainbowmwd.ca.gov/fix-a-leak-week](https://rainbowmwd.ca.gov/fix-a-leak-week)

## Water Wise for Life: Spring Irrigation and Planting

March, April, and May are the most active months for plant growth in Southern California. Take advantage of the spring season when the soil starts to warm and make small adjustments like those below to allow your garden to bloom.

### Irrigation Schedule:

Testing irrigation systems and changing run times can reduce overwatering and evaporation during warm days. Coming out of the winter season, plants and greenery need an updated watering schedule to maximize growth. Increase your water efficiency by creating a customized water schedule based on your watering system and zip code on the Be Water Wise website:



<https://tinyurl.com/35hvwuuk>

**Mulch:** Installing mulch around plants, trees, and flowers can save hundreds of gallons annually by reducing evaporation and decreasing weed growth. The best application for trees is to place mulch in a donut shape several inches away from the trunk to avoid excess watering.

**Plant:** Give your garden some much needed color when you create a sustainable landscape with drought-tolerant plants, shrubs and trees. Explore the many varieties of native plants, pollinators and more available in San Diego County on the Be Water Wise website: <https://tinyurl.com/4kfzb9kv>

### Turf Rebates from Be Water Wise

You can get \$4 per square foot of lawn replaced with beautiful, water-saving California Friendly® and native plants. Scan for more info and to apply online.



Introducing the Rainbow Water How to Video Series on YouTube. Watch videos on how to locate, turn off and read your meter for leaks at: [rainbowmwd.ca.gov/how-to-videos](https://rainbowmwd.ca.gov/how-to-videos)







## Four Local Water Agencies Agree to Collaborate to Boost Efficiency

Rainbow Water has joined three local water agencies to take action to share resources during emergencies and day-to-day operations. In a move intended to save money and control operational costs, Fallbrook Public Utility District, Rainbow Water, Valley Center Municipal Water District, and Yuima Municipal Water District have communicated for months about the potential for achieving operational efficiencies and cost reductions by partnering together.

The idea is that the four agencies, which are similarly situated geographically and by customer demographics, might more easily accomplish certain goals and tasks together, such as dealing more effectively with the ever-increasing and costly regulatory mandates.

“We are all sometimes in need of services that can be provided more efficiently and for less money when we work collaboratively,” said Jack Bebee, general manager of Fallbrook Public Utility District.

The four agencies drafted a mutual services agreement that includes mutual aid during emergencies or joint use of specialized equipment such as a Vactor truck—a specialty truck with a powerful vacuum for cleaning sewers, storm drains, or industrial cleanup. Other shared services could include exchanging staff to meet interim needs, working together to navigate regulatory compliance, and joint federal and state lobbying. This is not a complete list, and any district can opt out of the agreement with 30 days’ written notice. Each agency will keep its own records and documents pertaining to costs incurred.

“We have very similar agencies -- ones that were mostly agriculture for many years,” said Gary Arant, general manager of Valley Center. “We have very similar regulatory, financial, and operational challenges, and by working together can help each other.”

This agreement gives the four agencies the formal framework to explore the benefits of cooperative joint efforts to control ratepayers’ costs. The next steps involve creating a more detailed implementation agreement outlining how specific efforts will be conducted.

“Our team is eager to share knowledge and resources with our neighboring agencies,” said Jake Wiley, general manager of Rainbow Water. “The mutual agreement sets the stage for us to work collaboratively to enhance our efforts solely for the benefit of those we serve.”



## Fallbrook Avocado Festival

Rainbow Water has been helping the community grow for over seventy years. Join us as we celebrate our agricultural community at the 34th Annual Fallbrook Avocado Festival. Meet the Rainbow Water team in person at our booth on Main Street, and take the customer survey to receive a complementary promotional gift just for our customers. Volunteer opportunities are available for high school students; read more at right.



**Sunday, April 13, 2024 . 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

**Visit the Rainbow Water booth on Main Street and College Street in Downtown Fallbrook to receive a free travel dog bowl or reusable water bottle.**



## Student Programs

### Volunteer Opportunity for Local High School Students

Do you know a high school student looking for volunteer hours? Rainbow Water invites high students to volunteer and give back to our community at the Fallbrook Avocado Festival on Sunday, April 13. Student volunteers will assist staff with distributing water awareness materials and promotional items at the Rainbow Water booth. Volunteer shifts are available in three-hour time frames between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.



**Volunteer space is limited. For more info and to sign up visit: [rainbowmwd.ca.gov/volunteer-program](https://rainbowmwd.ca.gov/volunteer-program)**

### 2025 Water Awareness Student Poster Contest

Calling all fourth-grade artists! Rainbow Water is proud to announce the 2024 Water Awareness Poster Contest for 4th-grade students who live or attend charter, homeschool, public, or private schools in our service area. The theme for the 2025 contest is “Love Water, Save Water,” and students are encouraged to create original artwork that exemplifies the importance of water in our communities.

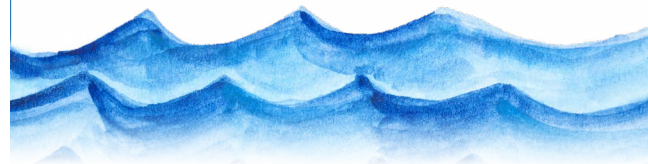
The top three poster contest winners will be recognized with an award and art kit at the Communications and Customer Service Committee meeting in the Summer of 2025. The winning entries will then move on to the 33rd annual regional art contest hosted by the North County Water Agencies (NCWA) and featured in the 2026 NCWA calendar.

Entry forms are available at the Rainbow Water office. Completed contest entries can be returned to the Rainbow Water office, Bonsall and Vallecitos Elementary Schools by Friday, April 11. Read more about the 2025 poster contest and view our past winners at:

**[rainbowmwd.ca.gov/water-poster-contest](https://rainbowmwd.ca.gov/water-poster-contest)**



**SCAN FOR CONTEST INFO**



**3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028  
Customer Care & After Hours: 760.728.1178  
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
[RAINBOWMWD.CA.GOV](https://rainbowmwd.ca.gov)**