

AUGUST 2022 RATE INCREASE

The District currently purchases all of its water from the San Diego County Water Authority (“SDCWA”). On Average, nearly 70 cents of each dollar in your water bill goes straight to SDCWA for water purchases. With almost 350 miles of now very old, high-pressure pipelines, the rest of your bill goes to the work our staff does to operate and maintain these systems and keep the water flowing to your homes, businesses, and groves. Since there are no viable local supplies in our area, we are 100% dependent on imported water to serve our customers and have been obtaining this water through the SDCWA since 1954.

The increased cost of water has had a particularly negative impact on the area’s agriculture-based economy. Faced with the prospect of continued cost escalation we evaluated other options to obtain water to serve you.



To this end, District filed an application in 2019 with the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to change our wholesale water supplier to the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD).

The detachment/annexation is intended not to just save money for Districts’ ratepayers but is necessary to help preserve the foundation of the Districts’ local economy and the character of their communities. An independent analysis concluded that EMWD can deliver us the same water, through the same pipelines, with equivalent quality and reliability as SDCWA, but at a significantly lower cost.

HOW THE WATER RATES ARE CALCULATED:

The District’s rate structure for monthly water service fees is comprised of four components:

1. The SDCWA Fixed Charge (“SDCWA Fixed”), is a fixed monthly charge established by SDCWA on the basis of the meter size and the size of the parcel of property receiving water service.
2. The Rainbow Municipal Water District Operations and Maintenance Charge (“RMWD O&M Charge”), is also a fixed monthly charge established on the basis of the meter size required for the parcel of property receiving water service.

Rate Increase Continued

3. Your Water Consumption charge is determined by the amount of water served to a parcel of property in units of water (one unit of water is equivalent to 748 gallons of water). For the purpose of rate calculations, the meter counts are updated to reflect the most recent connections.

4. The Pumping charge consists of both a fixed monthly charge and variable charges based on the pump zone of the property (when applicable). The variable charge is for the electricity needed to pump the water to high elevations.

The rates for all four components of the District's water service fees are structured in such a way as to proportionately allocate costs of providing water to each customer class and manage the District's water resources. This allocation process is documented in a Cost-of-Service study that can be found on our website. Even though we have certain increased costs for supplies, energy, etc., Rainbow MWD operates as efficiently as possible in order to keep rates as low as possible.

The District mailed out rate notices to its customers regarding the August 1, 2022 increases on July 1, 2022. If you have not received your notice, please contact our customer service department at 760-728-1178 or via email at billing@rainbowmwd.com to confirm we have your correct mailing address. If you have any questions regarding the information provided in this notice, please contact Rainbow Municipal Water District at 760-728-1178 or visit www.rainbowmwd.com/water-rates.

Engagement Opportunity

Are you interested in learning more about water issues and having a say in how the District operates? Every month we hold committee meetings allowing customers an opportunity to engage with the management staff, provide input on our day-to-day operations, offer the Board of Directors insight on ways to enhance processes and find out more about District procedures.

This is a valuable part of our decision-making process, and we invite you to come to our meeting and get involved. For more information about the meeting schedule or how to become a member of one of our three committees, please contact Dawn Washburn at 760-728-1178 Ext. 129 or go to our website at www.rainbowmwd.com/meetings. You are always welcome to just drop in or join us via Zoom.