

## What to Expect if Measure B Passes

North County residents of Rainbow Municipal Water District (RMWD/District) took to the polls on November 7 to vote on Measure B for RMWD to detach from the San Diego Water Authority (SDCWA) and annex to Eastern Municipal Water District in Southwest Riverside County. The certified election results should be announced in December.

RMWD began the detachment journey in 2019, and in July 2023, the Local Agency Formation Commission voted to approve the detachment of RMWD and Fallbrook Public Utility District (FPUD). Measure B was placed on the ballot to allow voters in the District to decide whether to detach or remain with the SDCWA.

### The purpose of Measure B was to secure a lower cost of imported wholesale water to:

1. Provide long-term cost-savings to the District's ratepayers by reducing the anticipated wholesale rate increases in future years.
2. Support capital project needs to address aging infrastructure, including pipeline replacements.
3. Provide financial stability to the District by restoring healthy cash reserve levels that were impacted when the District absorbed cost increases without increasing customer rates in 2019 and 2020.

Voter approval of the measure is one requirement of detachment, but this does not complete the process. The District must meet a series of conditions, including paying an "exit fee" to SDCWA, a total of \$15.7 million over five years, which includes an initial payment of \$3.14 million within 30 days of certification of the election results. If Measure B is approved, the long-term water cost savings from the detachment is expected to far outweigh the exit fee costs, but the exit fee delays the full realization of the cost savings.

[Learn About SDCWA Rate Increase on Page 2](#)



## Save Your Pipes this Holiday Season

### Safe ways to dispose of cooking waste

The District experiences an increase in grease build-up from November through January due to holiday cooking. Help prevent wastewater from backing up by properly disposing of fats, oils, and grease, also known as FOGs.

Drains, garbage disposals, sinks, and toilets are off-limits for disposing of thick oils and animal fats that can destroy plumbing systems. Take a moment before dumping liquids down the drain, and follow these tips for proper disposal:



Let your liquids cool and place in a glass jar to reuse for cooking.



Scrape plates and pans with grease into a can or lined container to seal and dispose.



Trash it by mixing FOGs with solid waste such as flour, cat litter, sawdust, or sand. After mixing it into a solid, throw it away in a bag with household trash.

Dispose of grease and oils by cooking, canning, or trashing. Avoid tossing FOGs outside or putting high-heat liquids down the drain or in the trash, as this can harm sewage and plumbing systems.

Everything that flushes or runs down the drain ends up at Lift Stations throughout the District. The most common items include oil, hair, feminine products, baby and flushable wipes, and construction debris. Be a good neighbor, and remember to clean out your drain to prevent blockages.

# San Diego County Water Authority Rate Increase: How will this affect monthly water bills?

Understanding your water bill and rates can be challenging. Most customers wonder how soon they will see the benefit of detachment on their monthly bills. Even if Measure B passes, detachment is not immediate. The reason for the delay is primarily two-fold:

1. SDCWA has initiated litigation against LAFCO, RMWD, and others as a challenge to the July 2023 LAFCO approval of the detachment. A hearing is scheduled for mid-December to delay the completion of the LAFCO action during the litigation process.
2. Details of the detachment, including transfer of certain water delivery facilities, water service, and billing arrangements, etc., need to be coordinated between the agencies. This process is ongoing.

**What does this mean for ratepayers?** The District will still need to purchase water from the SDCWA for several months, and the SDCWA is increasing its rates effective January 1, 2024. The District is directly passing through increased purchased water costs to all Rainbow customers, effective January 1, 2024. None of these costs go to the District, as they are purely pass-through costs from the increase that SDCWA is levying against Rainbow Water and all its member agencies. The increases are shown in the fixed rate tables at right and variable rate table below. The January 1, 2024 rate increases for treated water purchases by SDCWA member agencies are much higher than those of Metropolitan Water District which furthers the case for detachment and increases the potential cost savings.

## Variable Rates

| Category                | Current Rate | Pass-through Increase | January 1, 2024 |
|-------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| Single Family           | \$5.53       | \$0.43                | \$5.96          |
| Multi-Family            | \$5.53       | \$0.43                | \$5.96          |
| Commercial              | \$5.53       | \$0.43                | \$5.96          |
| Institutional           | \$4.53       | \$0.43                | \$5.96          |
| Agriculture w/ Res      | \$4.53       | \$0.43                | \$4.96          |
| Agriculture             | \$4.53       | \$0.43                | \$4.96          |
| PSAWR Domestic - Tier 1 | \$4.53       | \$0.43                | \$4.96          |
| PSAWR Domestic - Tier 2 | \$4.00       | \$0.27                | \$4.27          |
| PSAWR Commercial        | \$4.00       | \$0.27                | \$4.27          |

Rates will be re-evaluated in mid-2024, and the District anticipates that if Measure B is approved, the detachment from SDCWA may be complete by then. The associated savings on wholesale water costs would be factored into any necessary rate adjustments at that time.

**How can ratepayers get involved?** The District will host a Budget and Finance Committee workshop in January 2024, where ratepayers can ask questions and provide feedback. More workshop information will be announced in December.

## Fixed Rates

### SINGLE FAMILY, MULTI-FAMILY, COMMERCIAL, & INSTITUTIONAL

| Meter Size | Current Rate | Pass-through Increase | January 1, 2024 |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 5/8"       | \$89.59      | \$3.00                | \$92.59         |
| 3/4"       | \$89.59      | \$3.00                | \$92.59         |
| 1"         | \$145.43     | \$5.00                | \$150.43        |
| 1 1/2"     | \$285.01     | \$9.98                | \$294.99        |
| 2"         | \$452.51     | \$15.97               | \$468.48        |
| 3"         | \$982.93     | \$34.91               | \$1,017.84      |
| 4"         | \$1,764.59   | \$62.84               | \$1,827.43      |
| 6"         | \$3,635.01   | \$129.65              | \$3,764.66      |

### AGRICULTURAL, AG WITH RESIDENCE

| Meter Size | Current Rate | Pass-through Increase | January 1, 2024 |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 5/8"       | \$142.17     | \$3.00                | \$145.17        |
| 3/4"       | \$142.17     | \$3.00                | \$145.17        |
| 1"         | \$233.06     | \$5.00                | \$238.06        |
| 1 1/2"     | \$460.28     | \$9.98                | \$470.26        |
| 2"         | \$732.94     | \$15.97               | \$748.91        |
| 3"         | \$1,596.36   | \$34.91               | \$1,631.27      |
| 4"         | \$2,868.77   | \$62.84               | \$2,931.61      |
| 6"         | \$5,913.48   | \$129.65              | \$6,043.13      |

### PERMANENT SPECIAL AGRICULTURAL WATER RATE (PSAWR)

| Meter Size | Current Rate | Pass-through Increase | January 1, 2024 |
|------------|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 5/8"       | \$127.47     | \$1.12                | \$128.59        |
| 3/4"       | \$127.47     | \$1.12                | \$128.59        |
| 1"         | \$208.56     | \$1.87                | \$210.43        |
| 1 1/2"     | \$411.28     | \$3.73                | \$415.01        |
| 2"         | \$654.54     | \$5.97                | \$660.51        |
| 3"         | \$1,424.86   | \$13.04               | \$1,437.90      |
| 4"         | \$2,560.07   | \$23.48               | \$2,583.55      |
| 6"         | \$5,276.48   | \$48.44               | \$5,324.92      |

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