



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024 . ISSUE 232

CropSWAP Program Coming to North County Region

Rainbow Water has partnered with Rancho Water to introduce CropSWAP or Sustainable Water for Agricultural Production, a regional program focused on reviving the agricultural community through crop conversion projects.

CropSWAP is a \$5 million grant-funded state program that is designed to replace high-water use crops with lower use crops through a crop conversion. Rainbow Water agriculture and agriculture residence ratepayers are eligible for the program to convert citrus, cut flowers, olives, wine grapes and other crops that result in water savings. In addition, the program provides avocado rootstock upgrades which include the removal of mature high-water avocado trees and replaced with juvenile trees containing the latest salt tolerant and disease resistant rootstocks.

"The innovative program will allow Rainbow Water to reinvest in our agricultural growers, one of the fabrics of our community," said Jake Wiley, Rainbow Water General Manager. "This is an exciting opportunity and we are pleased to bring a new long term program focused on increasing water use efficiency and assisting with sustainable water rates for all our customers."

The regional CropSWAP program is modeled after the success of Rancho Water's program that began in 2021. The new regional program is comprised of five agencies: City of Oceanside, Fallbrook Public Utility District, Rainbow Water, Rancho Water, and Valley Center.

Be the first to receive CropSWAP program launch details when you sign up for the information list.

Please note, the information list is the same as the CropSWAP interest list, and previous subscribers do not need to resubmit contact information.



Scan to Join the Information List.

Detachment Update Operations and Improvements in Progress for Detachment

The four-year process for Rainbow Water to detach from San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and purchase wholesale water from Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD), was overwhelmingly approved by voters under Measure B on the November 7, 2023 election.


The SDCWA filed litigation to challenge LAFCO's approval of detachment in August 2023. The SDCWA reached an agreement for detachment with Fallbrook Public Utility District and Rainbow Water in December 2023. The settlement agreement stipulated the development of an operations plan between Rainbow Water and SDCWA to define details on transferring facilities as well as operational related coordination and communication protocols post-detachment. In addition, Rainbow Water needs to complete a distribution system improvement project to allow for water service solely from the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) connections located in the central and northern areas of the District's service area. The operations plan and system improvement are in progress and planned for completion in late 2024, at which time detachment will be complete.

Rainbow Water will focus on the financial implications of the detachment as part of the budget preparation with the Board of Directors in a series of workshops starting in March. The process will analyze the wholesale water switch, exit fee payments, and on-going capital and operational needs of the District.

Detachment Update - continued on page 2

Understanding Your Water Bill

Rainbow Water is a government agency established in 1953 with a mission to deliver safe and reliable water to the community. Rainbow Water is only allowed to charge for the cost to provide service without markup or profit. Any unused funds are held in reserve to help cover costs in future years and keep rates lower. The majority of the bill accounts for the purchase of imported water sourced over 500 miles away from the Northern California Sierra Nevada mountains, and the Rocky Mountains through the Colorado River. Rainbow Water purchases water from the water wholesale supplier, it is transported, stored, and distributed across the 320 miles of pipeline throughout the service area.



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Website: www.rainbowmwd.ca.gov

NAME
1234 STREET
FALLBROOK, CA 92028

Invoice

ACCOUNT INFORMATION

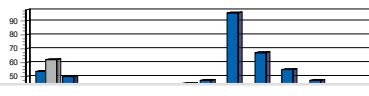
ACCOUNT NUMBER: 000000-000
SERVICE ADDRESS: 1234 STREET
SERVICE PERIOD: 03/11/2024-04/10/2024
BILLING DATE: 04/10/2024
TO AVOID POSSIBLE PENALTIES PAY BY: 05/07/2024

METER & USAGE INFORMATION

METER NUMBER: 555555555
METER SIZE: 1
CLASS CODE: PD
PREVIOUS READ: 02/01/2024 1371
CURRENT READ: 03/01/2024 1398
USAGE: 27
(EACH UNIT = 748 GALLONS or 100 CUBIC FEET)

ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
\$ 396.42	PREVIOUS BALANCE
\$ (0.00)	PAYMENTS RECEIVED
\$ 396.42	BALANCE FORWARD
CURRENT ACTIVITY	
\$ 21.98	PENALTY/ADJUSTMENTS
\$ 185.89	O&M RMWD
\$ 131.16	WATER CONSUMPTION
\$ 24.54	O&M SDCWA
\$ 8.39	PUMPED FIXED
\$ 70.20	PUMPED USAGE
\$ 4.81	BACKFLOW TEST FEE



A Guide to Terms and Charges

To help better understand the fees, below is a list of the most common terms and charges from the monthly invoice.

- 1 Meter Size:** Water meters vary in size from 5/8" up to 6".
- 2 Class Code:** The meter class code identifies the water capacity class for water fixed charges. Class codes have an A-H scale in three classifications: agriculture (AG), agriculture with residence (AD); permanent special agricultural water rate - PSAWR domestic (PD) & PSAWR commercial (PC); and single-family (SFR), multi-family (MF), commercial (CM), and institutional (INS).
- 3 Penalty & Adjustments:** Revisions to previous billing are applied and may include adjustments due to a leak or inaccuracies in billing.
- 4 O&M RMWD:** Operations and Maintenance (O&M) refers to monthly fixed fees based on meter size to recover the fixed costs the District incurs to operate and maintain the water storage and delivery system. Fees include the costs to maintain and replace mainlines, meters, valves, and storage reservoirs.
- 5 Water Consumption:** The variable charges include any amount of water consumed by the ratepayer. The amount billed include costs related to water usage, purchased, pumping, and treatment. These include pass-through costs for imported water and District costs for system maintenance.
- 6 O&M SDCWA:** The O&M pass-through charges recover fixed fees imposed on the District by the San Diego County Water Authority to operate and maintain the system to receive imported water to the District's service area.
- 7 Backflow Test Fee:** The charges refers to costs associated from the backflow program for ratepayers requiring backflow devices to help regulate water flow.
- 8 Pump Fixed:** The fixed fees recover the cost to maintain pump stations that move water to service areas located at higher elevations.
- 9 Pump Usage:** The usage variable charge recovers energy costs to customers who reside in higher elevation pump zones that require water to be pumped in order to receive water service.

Detachment Update - continued

The workshop series will update Rainbow Water's comprehensive financial plan and rates going forward. Schedules and agendas for the public workshops are available on the website: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/meetings

Update Your Contact Information

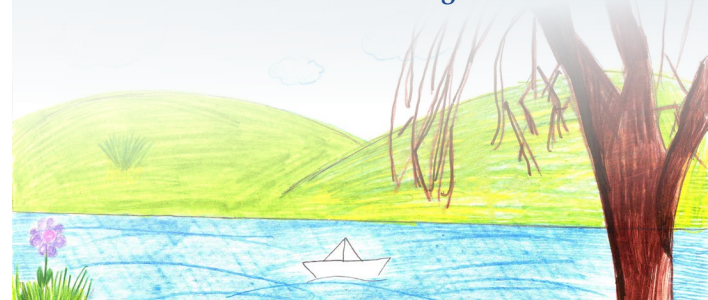
Have you recently moved or changed your phone number? The Customer Service team is available to update your contact information to ensure you receive monthly invoices, newsletters, and service updates. Learn more about payment plans, bill payments, and rate options by calling (760) 728-1178.

Tree Rebate Program

Thinking about starting a turf replacement project? You can now receive a \$100 rebate per tree for up to five trees planted while you replace your grass with a beautiful California friendly landscape. For more details on the tree rebate program visit: socalwatersmart.com/en/tree-rebate

Water Awareness Poster Contest Entries Due April 1

Rainbow Water is accepting entries from fourth grade students for the 2024 North County Water Agencies "Love Water, Save Water" poster contest. Contest entry forms are available for pick up and drop off at the Rainbow Water office. More info at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov



Stay Connected

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