

IT'S OVER – LAFCO REJECTS FPUD APPLICATION

After nearly 18 long months, the saga that was the Fallbrook Public Utility District (FPUD) attempt to force a merger with Rainbow MWD is over. On September 14th the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) voted 5-3 to side with the ratepayers of RMWD and reject the application from FPUD to dissolve RMWD. Well over 100 ratepayers made the trip down to the County building and many spoke passionately to the Commissioners about their desire to remain independent. The clear message from the ratepayers was that they did not want a forced merger and if the Commission was dead set to approve it they should at least allow the voters to have a say. LAFCO staff incorrectly claimed an election was not allowed under State law so the Commissioners voted to reject the merger.



I personally want to thank all of you that took time out of your busy lives to write to LAFCO and let them know your thoughts. Over 1000 individuals made their voice known to LAFCO through letters and emails and dozens more spoke at the hearings. This community support was a deciding factor in the process and all of us at RMWD are honored to serve our unique and awesome community.

Now we can get back to focusing on our real jobs – serving YOU!

Thanks again!

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***DROUGHT UPDATE***

As you may be aware, the District has been issued a Conservation Order from the State of California because we did not meet their conservation standards. Details about the Order and our responses are on our website. On September 30<sup>th</sup> we sent a Petition for Reconsideration to the State Water Resources Control Board in which we highlight some of the defects in the Conservation Order and how it is being applied here in RMWD. This is also on our website.

With that said, we met our conservation standard in August – conserving 38% compared to 2013! Well done! It is clear that our customers are doing what they can to eliminate water waste. Outdoor irrigation is the largest part of our water use in this area so this is where you can make a big difference. In most cases there is no need to rip out lawns and landscaping to save water. If you focus on making your irrigation system more efficient you can save water and your landscape. A common source of water waste is running your sprinklers for too long at one time. Most soil types in this area can handle water only for 5 minutes at a time or so – watering longer than that causes the water to run off rather than sink in. Take the time to watch your irrigation to make sure that the water is getting to the plants, not running off.

Attached is a flyer for a free water audit where a professional will come out and do this sort of thing for you. I encourage you to sign up today!

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DISTRICT**

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