

SAVE THE DATE!!

The engineering staffs at both Rainbow and Fallbrook Public Utility District have been working hard at getting the Ultra Violet (UV) Disinfection Facility at Beck Reservoir ready for design. Although we are only in the beginning stages of the project, we would like to invite the community to be part of the discussion at the Rainbow Engineering Committee meeting on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 at 3:00 p.m. We will be discussing UV equipment and preliminary architectural attributes. Look for more information in our next newsletter.

CUSTOMER SERVICE IS MOVING

Rainbow MWD Customer Services Department began the transition process of moving to Fallbrook Public Utility District on Thursday, December 19, 2013.

The Fallbrook Public Utility District location will provide full customer services during the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Rainbow MWD Customer Service will be accepting payments from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and could be reached at (760) 728-1125 Extensions 1101 and 1133.

Rainbow MWD will also continue to provide customer services at the Highway 395 location for a transitional period of time.

Fallbrook Public Utility District offices are located at 990 East Mission Road, Fallbrook, California.

WINTER HOURS FOR RAINBOW OFFICE

**November - December
Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:30 pm**

RAINBOW MWD STAFF AVAILABLE TO SPEAK TO COMMUNITY GROUPS

The District's cooperative efforts with the Fallbrook PUD, the service to new residential developments, water and sewer system upgrades, and more are all included in a new briefing presentation available to community organizations. To schedule a presentation, call Dawn Washburn at (760) 728-1178 Ext. 129.

RMWD'S EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR!!

Justin Demary was chosen by his peers as the 2013 Employee of the Year. Justin is a hard worker who started his career at Rainbow MWD in 2006 as a Utility Worker I who has since been promoted to Utility Work III in Water Services. Justin possesses a Class A, Distribution 2 Certification, D-1.1 Welding Certificate, and operates the backhoes efficiently.

Congratulations, Justin!

LANDMARK TRIAL OVER MWD'S RATES CONCLUDES IN SUPERIOR COURT

RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

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Billions of dollars hang in the balance; decision expected in 2014

Lawyers for the San Diego County Water Authority on Monday, December 23, wrapped up their case against the Los Angeles-based Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, concluding a five-day trial with more than \$2 billion at stake for county residents. Judge Curtis E. A. Karnow requested post-trial briefs from both parties by Jan. 17, with a hearing on those briefs scheduled for Jan. 23. Following the Jan. 23 hearing, Judge Karnow will take the matter under submission before issuing his decision.

MWD's rates – challenged in two lawsuits that were coordinated for trial – overcharge the San Diego County Water Authority, which relies on MWD to transfer large volumes of independent water supplies from the Colorado River. Other MWD member agencies benefit from corresponding undercharges, which totaled \$57 million this year and are projected to reach \$217 million annually by 2021.

"The outcome of this litigation is of critical importance to our ratepayers and San Diego County's \$188 billion economy," said Maureen A. Stapleton, general manager of the Water Authority. "Lawsuits are our last resort, but when MWD refused to comply with the law, we were forced into court to protect our ratepayers and our economy.

"We thank our region's elected officials, business groups, civic organizations and other public agencies that have stood with us throughout this case," Stapleton said.

(Source: San Diego County Water Authority)

HARVESTING RAINWATER RUN-OFF

Would you be interested in a free (for the most part except for some labor) source of water for plant irrigation available right from your own property? I am talking about rainwater harvesting during California's current rainy season. Catching rain runoff for irrigation purposes from one's roof or from your property's higher contours can yield 100's to 1,000's of extra gallons for irrigation per season. Even though rain is scarce in San Diego County just one inch of rainfall on a reasonably large roof can yield up to 600 gallons of water.

The rainwater is free although there is some cost and possibly some physical labor involved in its collection and its ultimate use in plant/garden irrigation. The parts of a complete rainwater harvesting system include the "catchment" area (from a roof or land contours), "rainwater conveyance system" (gutters or placement of collecting containers below a roof's natural water flow concentration points), "holding vessels" (containers or cisterns), and an "irrigation delivery system" (piping, pumps or simply manually hauling it to plants). The place you utilize to harvest water might best be located close to the holding vessels and the targeted plants; thus reducing the need for lengthy and/or burdensome distribution efforts/systems.

Are you sold yet? Okay! How does one get started harvesting rainwater? You can start by catching roof runoff into your own spare plastic garbage cans or like containers. It is both simple and effective. You then can irrigate plants and such manually through our rainy season. You know, like the old days with a bucket or a sprinkling can. Or you might choose to create a more complete or even fully automated system. Websites listed at the end of this article help cover various options. Also, go to Google or any like search engine and search under "harvesting rainwater" to shop the full range of options. Specifically, you can go to Google Maps Mania – Water Harvesting to calculate how much rain you could collect from your own roof. How cool is that?!! Other web sites of interest: www.rethinkwateruse.org & www.larainwaterharvesting.org. Happy watering!