



ADDRESSING COST INCREASES ON THE HORIZON

Over the last 20 years, the cost of imported water has risen dramatically, so we evaluated other options to obtain water to serve you. As many of you are aware, the District has filed an application with the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) to change our wholesale water supplier to the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD).

EMWD can deliver us the same water, through the same pipelines, with the same quality and reliability as SDCWA, but at a significantly lower cost. Had we been buying our water from EMWD our recent rate increase would not be needed. In fact, depending on what sort of conditions LAFCO places on our detachment, if we succeed, we will likely be able to both fund the much-needed replacement of failing pipelines AND provide rate relief.

If we are unsuccessful, we will be unable to source our water at the lower rate and the fact is the old pipelines will still need replacement. To highlight the required investment, we forecast the need to spend \$3 to \$4 Million per year in a pipe replacement program. However, we pay SDCWA about \$6 Million per year above and beyond what EMWD charges for the same water, from the same treatment plant, using the same pipelines.

You can easily see how those savings could be put to use in our District. We hold monthly public meetings where we discuss how to mitigate cost increases such as the impact of higher SDCWA water costs and how to prioritize the most efficient and effective allocation of funds for the District Capital Project Plan.

Please join us in person at 3707 Old Highway 395 by Zoom or call in and stay in tune with current decision-making process. The meeting calendar, agendas, past meeting minutes, and Zoom link to join virtually can be found on our website at www.rainbowmwd.com/meetings or contact Dawn Washburn at (760) 728-1178 ext. 129 or by email at dwashburn@rainbowmwd.com for more information. We hope to see you at one of our next meetings.

A GREAT RESOURCE FOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

The Solana Center for Environmental Innovation is a great resource for learning how to reduce waste, conserve water, and build healthy soil.

They are the sustainability experts for San Diego County providing community education and professional services to reduce waste, conserve water, and build healthy soil.

They offer educational, outreach, and retail programs that address watershed protection, water conservation systems, and marine debris prevention.



Solana Center
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INNOVATION

Here are just a few of the exciting things you can learn from the experts:

- Learn environmentally-friendly way to turn your food waste into nutrient-rich castings for your plants or garden beds.
- Learn how to successfully integrate compost and plants to capture water, benefit soil health, and create a climate-resilient farmscape.
- Learn how to harvest and use "black gold" from your worm bin to grow a healthy garden.
- Learn how to produce a fantastic soil amendment from composted livestock manure, using management practices to protect local waterways.

They also offer FREE e-waste pick up service to businesses in coastal North County cities every 3rd Wednesday from 10 AM - 2 PM.

Go to www.solanacenter.org to see more about their many programs and classes.

ATTENTION

**DISCONNECTION OF WATER
SERVICE
FOR NON-PAYMENT RESUMING**

The District is resuming disconnections for non-payment beginning March 2022. We realize times can be tough and finances are tight for many. If you are behind in your payments, to avoid having your water service locked off please contact our customer service department at 760-728-1178 or email us at billing@rainbowmwd.com and we will be happy to set you up with a payment plan. There are also some organizations out there that may be able to help you through these tough times. To learn more about emergency assistance programs for qualifying households offering payment assistance for utilities please go to our website at www.rainbowmwd.com.