

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

As the year draws to an end, many people reflect on the year that has past and make plans for the upcoming year. Here at RMWD we are no different. 2015 will be a memorable year for us for many reasons. As an unprecedented drought entered its fourth year, San Diego County was well prepared, with our investments in supply reliability providing for over 99% of our projected demands. Unfortunately, others in the state were not as prepared and the Governor's Executive Order in April directed the State Water Resources Control Board to mandate the confusing set of water reduction regulations that we are all wrestling with now. We know it has been challenging for our customers to see the cost of water increase with a promise of reliability only to have that rug pulled out from under our feet. A delegation from San Diego will be in Sacramento on December 7th to push hard for relief. We hope that El Nino helps end the shortages up north as well.

We also had a positive outcome from the protracted struggle with LAFCO over the FPUD forced merger. I have written a lot about this topic and we were all very grateful for the support of our ratepayers as it really was the deciding factor. We take your support seriously and work every day to serve your needs in the most efficient and effective way possible. We are also taking steps to ensure that a repeat of this sort of situation won't happen – at least not unless the ratepayers get to vote on it. You as ratepayers pay the bills so in our opinion your vote is the most important – we just need LAFCO to understand that.

Going forward into 2016 we have a lot of great opportunities ahead. Our Strategic Plan will be approved in January and this will provide a long term direction for the District. A key focus area is in water resources as it is pretty clear that imported water deliveries are becoming less and less reliable. We are moving into the next stage of preliminary design for a water reclamation plant that ultimately deliver about 1.5 Million gallons per day of non-potable water for irrigation purposes. This will be locally produced drought proof water that will help reduce our dependence on imported water supplies.

We are also working on the development of sources in the San Luis Rey groundwater basin for additional local supplies. There are a number of legal and environmental hurdles to get through but the development of an additional local supply is in the long term interest of our community. It won't be easy, but many times we have to do the hard things in order to prepare for the long term.

I encourage any interested member of our community to attend our regular Board or Committee meetings so you can see some of the details that go into meeting your water and wastewater needs. We are here to serve you, so your input is valued.

On behalf of all of us at Rainbow MWD, I want to wish you a fantastic Holiday season and a safe and prosperous New Year!

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**ARE YOU READY FOR EL NINO!**

Many of us have dealt with El Nino before and many others are new to this phenomenon. Either way it has been some time since we have seen this kind of rainfall; therefore, we need to be prepared. So are you ready? Here are a few things to keep in mind.



- 1) The days are becoming shorter and the nights colder so plants need less water. Adjust your watering schedule to accommodate these conditions.
- 2) Turn off your system entirely during the rains to save on your water usage.
- 3) Make sure your drainage passageways are clear to allow proper runoff.
- 4) Free sand bags will be available on a first come, first serve basis at your local Fire Station #4 located at Old Highway 395 and Pala Mesa Road so contact them beforehand at (760) 723-2024.

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**HOLIDAY GREASE DISPOSAL**

With holiday gatherings, out-of-town guests arriving, lots of baking and cooking, and garbage disposals working overtime during this busy season RMWD is asking its customers to remember to use best management practices when disposing of grease.

**Problem:**

Approximately 60% of all sewer blockages are caused by grease in the system. Oil and grease will solidify as soon as they hit cold water in the sewage pipes and can cause a blockage. These blockages can result in raw sewage spilling into our waterways and ocean. Even mixing grease with warm soapy water does not prevent clogs.

**Solution:**

Rainbow MWD has adopted Administrative Code Section 9.12 regulating commercial kitchen grease disposal; however, a review of those areas that do experience blockage problems reveals that many of them are in residential areas. Residents should also use proper grease disposal techniques as follows:

- Never put any type of grease or oil, whether it's frying oil, salad oil, or cooking grease, into the sewage system by dumping it down the sink.
- Put excess cooking oil or grease into a container and throw it in the trash.
- Wipe out greasy pots and pans with a paper towel before washing them.
- Do not use the garbage disposal to grind fat trimmings – wrap them up and put them in the trash.

**Little Known Fact:** The holiday season is the busiest time of the year for plumbers!

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SR 76 CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

As part of the Caltrans Highway 76 Realignment project, the existing Rainbow Municipal Water District sewer line is being upsized and relocated to the shoulder of the new highway. Below is a picture of showing an image of the auger bore operation to tunnel underneath an existing box culvert storm drain near Sweetgrass Lane. First, a 30-inch steel casing is tunneled under the existing storm drain and then the new 18-inch PVC sewer is pushed into place through the casing.

