

2015 OUTLOOK

Rainbow MWD has a lot of important activities going on in 2015 – here is an outlook for the year.

First off is the drought. Since RMWD has a great deal of agricultural water consumption, a lingering drought in the Sierras means a greater chance that water restrictions and mandatory allocations could begin next year. We are working with our other North County agencies and the San Diego County Water Authority to ensure that any allocation methods are fair to all involved. We are hoping that the current pattern of rain and snow in Northern California remain in place for some time as that will reduce or eliminate the risk of allocations.



We also have some important wastewater projects that are about to get started. In conjunction with the Highway 76 widening project, our main sewer outfall will be relocated along several miles of the roadway that is under construction now. This is an important project that will improve the capacity of the line and provide for service to new developments coming from the east. Rainbow successfully negotiated with Caltrans to reduce the cost of the project through an \$800,000 contribution to our cost share from Caltrans.

We are in the design process for the replacement of another sewer lift station near Highway 76 and Olive Hill Road. We are working to include the replacement of the old sewer siphon that runs under the river in this area to reduce the potential for leaks into the watershed. We are currently under design for this project and expect to complete design during 2015.

Another important sewer project is the replacement of the sewer line in North River Road which conveys all of the wastewater from RMWD to the City of Oceanside. This is a challenging project because the line is deep (>20 feet in places) and the roadway is narrow. We are currently working with the City of Oceanside and the Marine Corps to figure out how to deal with the traffic impacts from construction.

To round out the wastewater side, we are about to commence a wastewater master plan update to determine what facilities will be required to serve existing and future customers now and in the future. There is a great deal of development slated to begin on the east side of the 15, so this update will confirm earlier work and lay the groundwork for the establishment of fair capacity fees for new developments to pay when they connect to the system. The goal of this process is to ensure that the regular wastewater ratepayer will not pay one cent of the costs related to bringing new customers into the system.

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On the water side, we are performing a water master plan update as well with a similar goal of establishing appropriate capacity fees for new development. Of particular interest to us is the issue of storage. Rainbow ratepayers have invested in covering the three large open reservoirs over the last several years and these projects have been great successes. Our water system is in full compliance with all State and Federal laws related to storage and distribution of drinking water. A looming question remains as to exactly how much storage we need to have and whether to make additional investments in the Beck Reservoir which sits empty at this time. This large (200 Million Gallon) reservoir has a great deal of capacity but would require costly upgrades in order to come into service. The question we want to answer is whether the existing storage reservoirs can handle our storage needs so we can save the ratepayers the expense of upgrading Beck.

Last, but not least, is the LAFCO issue. Rainbow continues to vigorously defend the voting rights of its ratepayers against FPUD's attempt to dissolve Rainbow and enforce a system of electing representatives that will disenfranchise Rainbow ratepayers. We have a series of meetings coming up over the next few months with LAFCO at which we expect to prevail in our attempt to highlight that the FPUD proposal is bad public policy. We look forward to a time when this is behind us so we can focus on meeting the needs of the ratepayers of both agencies. Rainbow stands ready to work with FPUD to achieve these cost efficiencies, but not at the expense of the voting rights of our ratepayers. Our ratepayers have sent hundreds of letters of support for Rainbow to LAFCO in an overwhelming display of the will of the people and at the end of the day we know that this will be the deciding factor in this process.

RAINBOW MWD SELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIVES

With the outcome of the November 2014 elections and accordingly to the RMWD Administrative Code policy, the Rainbow Board of Directors selected new officers and representatives at their January 6, 2015 Special Board meeting. The officers and representatives are as follows:

Board President: Dennis Sanford
Board Vice President: Bob Lucy
Board Secretary: Helene Brazier
Treasurer: Midge Thomas

Local Agency Formation Commission Representative:	Dennis Sanford
Santa Margarita Watershed Council Representative:	Dennis Sanford
California Special Districts Association Representative:	Tom Kennedy
San Luis Rey Watershed Council Representative:	Tory Walker
San Diego County Water Authority Representative:	Tom Kennedy