



COMMITTEE AGENDA

Communications and Customer Service Committee Meeting

**Board Room
3707 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook, CA 92028**

**Tuesday, July 21, 2026
1:00 PM**

- 1. CALL TO ORDER – Directors Townsend-Smith & Mack
(Hamilton - Alternate)**
- 2. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- 3. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Student Poster Contest Winners
 - B. Digital Media Policy
 - C. Communications Strategic Plan Update
 - D. Water Use Efficiency Update
 - E. Community Events Update
 - F. Newsletter Content Planning
 - G. Public Communications and Related Media Stories
- 4. ADJOURN**

ATTEST TO POSTING:

/s/Terese Quintanar
Terese Quintanar
Secretary of the Board

7/15/2026 1:19 PM
Date and Time of Posting
Outside Display Cases

Rainbow Municipal Water District (RMWD) provides remote attendance options solely as a matter of convenience to the public. RMWD will not stop or suspend its in-person public meeting should a technological interruption occur with respect to the Zoom or call-in line listed on the agenda. We encourage members of the public to attend meetings in person at 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028, or remotely utilizing the options below:

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For Online Participation:

Go to: <https://rainbowmwd.zoom.us/j/82688515149>

If members of the public attending virtually would like to ask a question or make a comment on any item listed on this agenda, please utilize the "Raise Hand" button, located at the bottom of the screen. We will be alerted that they would like to speak. When called upon, please unmute the microphone and ask the question or make comments in no more than three minutes.

For Call-in Only:

Call: (669) 900-6833, or (669) 444-9171, or
(309) 205-3325, or (312) 626-6799, or
(564) 217-2000, or (689) 278-1000
Meeting ID: 826 8851 5149

*Those who have joined by dialing a number on their telephone can dial *9 to alert us of a request to speak and *6 to unmute, once called upon by the presiding officer.*

In accordance with the requirements of California Government Code Section 54954.2, this agenda has been posted at the District's Administrative offices not less than 72 hours prior to the meeting date and time above. All public records relating to each agenda item, including any public records distributed less than 72 hours prior to the meeting to all, or a majority of all, of the members of the District's Board, are available for public inspection in the office of the District Secretary, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028

If you have special needs because of a disability that makes it difficult for you to participate in the meeting or you require assistance or auxiliary aids to participate in the meeting, please contact the District Secretary (760) 728-1178 by at least noon on the Friday preceding the meeting. The District will attempt to make arrangements to accommodate your disability.



Upgrade Your Landscape

Celebrate National Pollinator Month with Native California Plants

Pollinators are a vital part of food production to over 600 farms across San Diego County. These strong but mighty pollinators include bats, bees, birds, butterflies, and moths. Help keep pollinators in the local environment by planting native California plants in your yard.

Grow Your Landscape and Attract Pollinators

Design a yard with long-term water savings when you add California Friendly® and native plants. These non-invasive, easy to maintain plants use 75% less water than traditional turf lawns. The plants create an ideal environment to attract pollinators and add biodiversity. Get inspired and start your journey to create a native plant landscape with helpful information from the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Visit the CNPS website for gardening resources and more: [CalScape.org](https://www.cal-scape.org)

Landscape Rebates

Transform your landscape for less with rebates from the Waterscape Rebate Program. The program is offered by the County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program (WPP), which is dedicated to protecting our environment by preventing pollutants from entering local waterways. The Waterscape Rebate Program focuses on the installation of landscaping and water-wise features, to help save water, save money & beautify your home.

- Enhanced and new rebates are available for cisterns, native plants, rain gardens, rain barrels, septic pumping, trees, turf removal, and weather-based irrigation controllers.

Rebates are open to all residents, businesses, and agricultural producers living in Rainbow Water's service area and unincorporated areas of San Diego County. View rebates available and estimate your cost savings at:

SanDiegoCounty.gov/WatershedRebates

Photo above by Connie Hubbard, 2026 Garden Glow Best Landscape Contest nominee



There are over 1,600 bee species in California. Bees are a keystone species and contribute to over 30% of food pollination in California.



Around the District

Highlights from the General Manager: Biennial Budget Approval



The Fiscal Years 2026/27 and 2027/28 budgets were approved at the May Board of Directors meeting. Adoption of a two-year budget provides clarity to Rainbow Water's customers and will reduce staff time spent researching and producing the annual budget and allow more time to focus on other District projects and priorities. The two-year budget was made possible through multi-year water rates set by the water wholesalers Eastern Municipal Water District, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which drive a large portion of the District's costs. The wholesaler rates allowed staff to evaluate those increases for incorporation into Rainbow Water's budget.

The biennial budget prioritizes infrastructure upgrades, in particular, buried pipeline and valve replacement projects, and includes a three-year staffing plan to gradually hire on a Capital Improvement construction crew. The intent of the plan is to accelerate the rate of replacement and rehabilitation of the District's aging infrastructure while reducing the need for costly third-party contractors.

Rate Increases for the Next Two Years

Rates Effective January 1, 2027

- Increase variable water rates by 5%
- Increase fixed rates by 2.9%

Rates Effective January 1, 2028

- Increase variable water rates by 5%
- Increase fixed rates by 3.8%

Wastewater Rates*

- Increase by 13% on July 1, 2026
- Increase by 13% on July 1, 2027

* The EDU fixed monthly charges were approved in 2023

Throw it in the Organics Bin: From Yard Clippings to Food Scraps

EDCO's new Organics Recycling Program now allows residents to dispose of landscape waste (palm fronds and animal waste not included) with food scraps in the green organics bin, no bags needed. Learn more about organic recyclables and trash best practices at: tinyurl.com/Yrzuyc8



New Credit Card Processing Fees

Rainbow Water will start recovering the merchant costs for accepting credit cards and debit cards with a new 2.95% convenience fee for all online and in-person card payments. The new credit card fee policy was approved by the Board of Directors at their regular meeting on May 26. The fee will be collected directly from the payment processor to cover the merchant card fees and none of the revenue will go to Rainbow Water.

After the most recent budget analysis, the \$150,000 in annual credit card merchant fees were identified as a cost absorbed by all customers, not just those using credit cards. Rainbow Water's payment processor will now be passing on the credit card fees directly to customers who pay with credit and debit cards.

New fees will go into effect on August 3, 2026

- The fees do not apply to ACH payments, which remain as a no-fee option for customers.
- Fees apply to debit and credit card payments made through auto pay, by phone, online, and at the Rainbow Water office.

Contact Customer Service to update your billing information: Call 760-728-1178 or scan the code to update online.



Join the Rainbow Water Board of Directors Candidacy Filing Period Opens Summer 2026

Looking to serve your community and take a leadership role? Rainbow Water District has two board positions open in the November 2026 election. Candidates are elected officials representing five divisions and are selected by voters in the November general election for a four-year term. The November 3, 2026, ballot will include candidates for the Rainbow Water District's Board of Directors representing Divisions 3 and 4.

- Identify your division and search for your service address at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/What-division-am-i-in
- Candidacy materials will be available mid-July, with the nomination period extending to early August.

Customers interested in serving on the Board of Directors are invited to visit the County of San Diego Registrar of Voters for the latest information on how to file as a candidate, including filing deadlines. In-person services available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by phone (858) 505-7260 or email CandidateFiling@SDCounty.ca.gov. Review campaign filing information online: tinyurl.com/Tt8zu2n5

Revitalize Your Outdoor Space Free Virtual and Local Landscape Workshops

Want to learn tips and innovative ways to save water while beautifying your yard? Join Green Garden Creations and Metropolitan Water District for free online and in-person workshops.

California Friendly® and Native Plant Landscape Training

Saturday, July 25, 2026, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Oceanside Public Library, 330 N Coast Hwy, Oceanside, 92054
Sign up for the local in-person class: tinyurl.com/5tr5z24k



More than a dozen *free workshops* are available this summer to support long-term water use efficiency. Visit the Rainbow Water website for the list of workshops and to reserve your spot: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Landscape-Workshops



California Aqueduct at Lake Skinner,
Temecula, CA



Rainbow Water Rundown May Board Meeting Highlights

Urban Water Management Plan: A public hearing was held to adopt the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The State requires the report to be updated every five years to support long-term resource planning.

Employee Memorandum of Understanding: Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between Rainbow Water District and the Confidential Employees and the Rainbow Employees' Association were approved. Both employee association MOU's are effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

Board Closed Session Meeting Time: The Board approved an amendment to the Administrative Code to reflect that closed sessions can be held prior to the 1:00 p.m. open regular meeting start time, at Rainbow Water's discretion.

Energy Saving Project Update: Opterra Energy Services provided an update regarding Rainbow Water's options and opportunities to invest in energy saving projects before a July tax credit deadline.

Join Our Public Meetings

Meetings are held in the Rainbow Water board room and via zoom on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. Agenda and online meeting information is available at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Meetings



Board Meetings: June 23, July 28, August 18
Submit public comment in person or online: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Public-Comment

Committee Meetings

Informal meetings held on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Rainbow Water board room

- Engineering & Operations: July 7, Aug 4
- Budget & Finance: July 14, Aug 11
- Communications & Customer Service: July 21

3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028
Customer Care & After Hours: 760.728.1178
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
RAINBOWMWD.CA.GOV



RAINBOW

MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
JULY 2026 . ISSUE 259

Southern California's largest water reservoir, Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet, holds up to 246 billion gallons of local water supply. Read more in the award-winning Annual Water Quality Report.

Get to Know Your H2O

Annual Water Quality Report & Industry Award

Water is a key part of our daily lives. It is in everything we do, from growing avocados to preparing dinner and bathing kids. Rainbow Water works tirelessly to ensure a safe and reliable water supply is delivered to our community. This year was no different. Rainbow Water met all Environmental Protection Agency and California State Drinking Water Standards in 2025 and has published the information in the 2025 Annual Quality Report.

Rainbow Water routinely monitors the distribution system to ensure the water served to our customers' homes and businesses meets or exceeds all state and federal guidelines for safe drinking water. Last year, Rainbow Water team members conducted over 300 tests for total coliform bacteria and dozens of other water quality tests to maintain water compliance for the entire year, as reported in the annual water quality report.

Rainbow Water met or exceeded all EPA and California State Drinking Water Standards in 2025.



The Annual Water Quality Report, also known as the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), is issued by water agencies to inform customers about their drinking water supply, as required by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Drinking Water. The report provides details on the water quality monitoring, water wholesaler, water data, water contaminants, PFAS, fluoride, and a glossary of terms. The report includes an overview of Rainbow Water's 100% imported water supply and a map of water sources from the Colorado River Aqueduct and the State Water Project. The closest local water sources are Diamond Valley Lake in Hemet (pictured above), and Lake Skinner in Temecula (pictured at right), both sites feed from the State Water Project and Colorado River.

Rainbow Water's Water Quality Report Receives 2026 CAPIO Annual Report Award

Rainbow Water received the 2026 Award of Distinction from the California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) in the Annual Report category for the 2025 Annual Water Quality Report. This is Rainbow Water's first nomination and win for the industry award that highlights outstanding communication and public information campaigns by local government and public agencies across California.



Around the District

Highlights from the General Manager:

Tax Roll Assessments, Fees for Service, and New Water Theft Penalties



Rainbow Water's Board of Director's held public hearings at the June regular board meeting to update the fees for services and adopt annual tax roll assessments.

The annual tax roll assessment was approved by the board. This covers property tax revenues collected to be applied toward the readiness-to-serve charge and water availability initiated by the Metropolitan Water District. The assessment has been in place since the mid-1990's and has not increased since that time.

The board also adopted administrative penalties for water theft related to meter tampering, unauthorized fire hydrant use, and water diversion, as allowed by Senate Bill (SB) 394. SB394 was signed into law in October 2025 to help deter illegal water theft across the state. Water theft impacts the water supply available to customers, risks contamination, reduces water pressure, increases costs for all Rainbow customers, and could hinder access to fire hydrants during emergency events. The penalties are structured on a tiered violation level for first, second, and subsequent violations.

Rainbow Water's fees for service were amended to ensure costs for delinquent payments, developer plan checks, meter relocations, and other customer specific charges are recovered appropriately. The fees are reviewed, and cost recovery amounts are assessed by Rainbow Water during the annual budget process in the spring.

A complete list current rates and fees is available on the Rainbow Water website at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Water-Rates



2025 Consumer Confidence Report Available Online Read the latest information about your drinking water and view the data report in English and Spanish, with screen reader accessibility tools. For a limited time, printed reports are available at the Rainbow Water office. Start learning about your water today and download the report online at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/CCR



New Credit Card Processing Fees

Rainbow Water will start recovering merchant costs for accepting credit and debit card payments, with a new 2.95% convenience fee on all online and in-person card transactions. The new credit card fee policy was approved by the Board of Directors in May. The fee will be collected directly from the payment processor to cover credit card merchant fees, and the revenue will not be paid to Rainbow Water.

After the most recent budget analysis, the approximate \$150,000 in annual credit card merchant fees were absorbed by all customers, not just those using credit cards. Rainbow Water's payment processor will now pass on the credit card fees directly to customers who pay with credit and debit cards.

New credit card fees will go into effect on August 3, 2026

- The fees do not apply to ACH and check payments, which remain no-fee options for customers.
- Fees apply to debit and credit card payments made through auto pay, by phone, online, and at the Rainbow Water office.

Update Your Billing Information

- Visit the website rainbowmwd.ca.gov and select the Pay My Bill button on the homepage.
- Log into your account or set up an account.
- Select Payment Accounts, add a payment method for ACH payment and save your bank information.
- To set up auto payment, select Automatic Payments, add your recurring payment and select save to complete online bill pay enrollment.
- Customers also have the option to contact Customer Service to update billing information at (760) 728-1178.



Join the Rainbow Water Board of Directors Candidacy Filing Period Open Through August 7

Rainbow Water District has two voter elected board positions open in the November 2026 general election. Rainbow's Board members are elected officials representing five distinct divisions around the District and are typically selected to serve four-year terms. The November 3, 2026 general election will include candidates for the Rainbow Water District's Board of Directors representing Divisions 3 and 4.

How Do I Apply?

- Identify your division and search for your service address on the Rainbow Water website: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/What-division-am-i-in
- Complete and sign the candidacy filing forms.
Candidacy forms are available at the Rainbow Water office or the County of San Diego Registrar of Voters' office
- All candidates are required to file nomination forms in person at the San Diego Registrar of Voters office.
- Candidacy filing period: July 13 - August 7, 2026



SCAN FOR
REGISTRAR
OF VOTERS

Visit the County of San Diego Registrar of Voters for in-person services available Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or contact the office by phone at (858) 505-7260. For more information and a list of candidate frequently asked questions, please visit the Registrar of Voters' website or scan the code: tinyurl.com/Tt8zu2n5



Art Supply Drive For the Boys & Girls Clubs

Rainbow Water has partnered with the Boys and Girls Clubs of North County as a donation site for the Summer Art Supply Drive. All donations will go directly to students enrolled in summer camps and year-round after-school programs in our service area.

Donate Art Supplies

The Boys and Girls Clubs is actively seeking donations of new art supplies, including: crayons, colored pencils, construction paper, digital cameras, drawing books, erasers, general craft supplies, glue sticks, markers, paint, paintbrushes, sidewalk chalk, and more.

Drop-Off Location

From now to September 4, bring new art supplies to the Rainbow Water Headquarters, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook. Lobby open during regular office hours Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information visit the Rainbow Water website: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/BGC-donations

Strategic Plan Feedback

Rainbow Water is finalizing an update to the District's Strategic Plan and wants you to participate! The plan defines the District's mission and values, and sets primary goals and objectives for the next five years and beyond. We welcome your feedback and invite you to share your thoughts. A draft of the plan and a comment form are available on our website homepage at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/SP-Feedback



VIEW AND
SUBMIT
COMMENTS

Join Our Public Meetings

Meetings are held in the Rainbow Water board room, and via Zoom on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. The agenda, public comment, and online meeting information is available online at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Meetings

Upcoming Board Meetings
July 28, August 18, Sept 22



3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028
Customer Care & After Hours: 760.728.1178
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
RAINBOWMWD.CA.GOV

FALLBROOK & BONSALE VILLAGE NEWS

RMWD implements surcharge for credit card payments

June 19, 2026

Joe Naiman, Village News Reporter

Credit card companies have processing fees, so the Rainbow Municipal Water District must pay those fees if customers pay their bills by credit card. Rainbow's May 26 board meeting implemented a surcharge for credit card payments.

The board voted 5-0 to implement a 2.95% service fee for credit card payments. The surcharge will take effect Aug. 3.

"We felt it was reasonable to do," said Rainbow Board President Hayden Hamilton.

Rainbow customers may pay their bills with cash, checks, automatic payments, or credit cards. Banks do not place a surcharge on cash, checks, or automatic payments. The district takes both MasterCard and Visa credit card payments.

Credit card processing fees generally range from approximately 1.5% to 3.5% of the transaction amount, and some companies also have a flat per-transaction charge which is commonly in the range of \$0.10 per transaction. The actual processing cost varies depending on the type of card used including whether the card is a standard personal credit card, a rewards card, a business card, or a premium card.

During Fiscal Year 2024-25, the district absorbed \$98,738.02 in credit card processing fees for 36,991 credit card transactions, which equates to approximately \$8,228 per month and approximately \$2.67 per credit card transaction. The estimated Fiscal Year 2025-26 cost of absorbing credit card transactions is \$142,512, or an average of \$11,876 per month.

Because those who pay by cash, check, or automatic payment are currently subsidizing those who pay by credit card, the Administrative Code changes for both the section regarding payment of bills and the section regarding the sewer service charge state that to ensure fairness to all customers any convenience fee, surcharge, or processing fee associated with the use of a credit card, debit card, or other electronic payment method for payment of monthly service bills shall be borne by the customer choosing that payment method.

The board action also approved a notice to customers which informs them that the 2.95% service fee for credit card payments will begin Aug. 3 while also noting that the fee will not be charged for other types of payment methods.

FALLBROOK & BONSALE VILLAGE NEWS

Rainbow approves bargaining agreements with employee units

June 19, 2026

Joe Naiman, Village News Reporter

The May 26 meeting of the Rainbow Municipal Water District board approved two employee labor bargaining agreements.

One 5-0 vote approved a new memorandum of understanding with the Rainbow Association of Supervisors and Confidential Employees. A separate 5-0 vote approved a memorandum of understanding with the Rainbow Employees Association. Both agreements cover the period from July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2031.

"It was one that was beneficial to both groups from a managing standpoint," said Rainbow Board President Hayden Hamilton.

Both agreements maintain an annual pay grade range movement based on the Consumer Price Index while adding a maximum grade movement of 4% to mitigate the impact of inflation on base pay escalation.

Cost of living adjustments based on the Consumer Price Index were also maintained, but the new agreements include a minimum increase of 1.5% and a maximum increase of 3% to shield the district from potential impacts of high inflation during a potential volatile economic climate.

"The cost of living increases are reasonable," Hamilton said.

The new agreement also restructures the merit award program to a merit pool system, which will allow the district to budget for labor costs more accurately and ensure that the actual merit awards are aligned with the budget while maintaining a pay-for-performance system. The merit pool is established at 4% of annual salaries for the five-year term. Employees at the top of their pay grades will receive 50% of the merit award.

Employees who work more than 40 hours in a week will still receive overtime pay, but weekend work will not automatically be overtime and would only be overtime if the employee works more than 40 hours in the workweek. That will allow for temporary schedule changes without triggering overtime.

The change that daily overtime will now be after 10 hours rather than nine was actually part of an employee request for an experimental four-day work week in which employees would work four 10-hour shifts and have three days off. "It's a trial period for that," Hamilton said. "The employees were asking for it, and we said we're willing to give it a try."

If two-thirds of the employees of a specific department ask for a "4/10" workweek, a seasonal trial will be conducted subject to the general manager's approval of each department's schedule to ensure sufficient coverage.

After two years of seasonal trials, departments may apply for a year-round 4/10 schedule, which will also be subject to the general manager's approval. If the 4/10 workweek can be accomplished without sacrificing service availability to customers, it could potentially reduce the district's overtime costs but would also reduce employees' commuting costs.

The maximum allowed compensatory time was increased to 60 hours, and a new optional cash-out window in November of each year was added. The district's match for 457(b) and 401(a) retirement savings plans was increased moderately (the district offers flat rate matches rather than percentage matches, and it had been more than a decade since the match had been increased).

The allowance for safety footwear had not been increased in five years, so the annual allowance is now \$300. The daily stipends for employees who are assigned standby duty, ensuring that the district can maintain its availability to respond to emergencies all hours of the day and each day of the year, were also increased for the first time in five years.

The previous bargaining agreements will expire on June 30, 2026.

FALLBROOK & BONSALE VILLAGE NEWS

RMWD to assure 1:00 p.m. open session meetings

June 19, 2026

Joe Naiman, Village News Reporter

The Administrative Code of the Rainbow Municipal Water District states that regular board meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of each calendar month although the November and December meetings may be held on alternative dates to avoid holiday conflicts.

The Administrative Code also stipulates a 1:00 p.m. starting time, but some closed session items have caused those attending in person to have to wait outside for the start of open session and those following the meeting by telephone to have to wait until open session begins.

A 5-0 Rainbow board vote May 26 addressed the situation. A new section was added to the Administrative Code which stipulates that closed sessions, when necessary and properly agendized, may be held immediately prior to the open session.

If a closed session is part of the meeting, that portion will begin at noon, and the board may also go into closed session after the conclusion of public items. "It actually starts before the regular board meeting," said Rainbow Board President Hayden Hamilton.

A public agency board may go into closed session for four types of matters: personnel issues including salary negotiations and potential terminations (for a school board expulsion issues are also conducted in closed session), pending litigation, real property transactions, and facilities vulnerabilities.

Relevant staff members may be present for closed session items, but the public is not allowed in the board room.

Some closed session matters were not concluded by 1:00 p.m. "There were people standing in the lobby," Hamilton said. "It wasn't fair to the ratepayers to do that."

If a closed session is held, the open session agenda includes any reportable items from closed session discussion. The completion of closed session by 1:00 would allow settled items which can be publicly disclosed to be provided to the public. "It gives the opportunity for the public to comment, raise questions about any of the closed session topics," Hamilton said.

FALLBROOK & BONSALE VILLAGE NEWS

Vegetation Fire Sparked by Vehicle Contained After Burning 9.9 Acres

June 19, 2026

Firefighters have successfully contained a 9.9-acre vegetation fire that was sparked by a vehicle blaze along northbound Interstate 15 near East Mission Road on Thursday afternoon. The incident prompted temporary road closures and shelter-in-place orders, but a multi-agency response halted the fire's spread within hours.

There were no reported injuries to civilians or first responders.

The incident began at 1:18 p.m. on June 18, 2026, when a vehicle caught fire on the northbound freeway just south of East Mission Road. The flames quickly extended into the adjacent brush. By 2 p.m., the fire had burned approximately 5 acres, prompting emergency officials to issue a shelter-in-place order for the SDC-0108 zone to assess threats to nearby properties.

A unified command was established between the North County Fire Protection District, San Diego County Sheriff's Office, and Cal Fire. A massive response was mobilized, consisting of approximately 150 firefighters, 17 fire engines, three fire crews, three water tenders, and two dozers.

An aggressive aerial attack supported the ground efforts, utilizing an air attack plane, three air tankers, and two helicopters — including a CH-47D capable of night-flying missions.

The California Highway Patrol closed the Mission Road off-ramp and U.S. Route 395 in Rainbow on the east side of the freeway, leading to gridlock on northbound I-15 from State Route 76 to Mission Road.

By 3 p.m., the forward progress of the fire was stopped, and all shelter-in-place orders were lifted as crews transitioned to mop-up operations. By 5 p.m., all lanes on northbound I-15 were reopened and traffic returned to normal.

The fire destroyed one vehicle, but no other structures were damaged. Authorities officially declared the fire controlled at 7:54 p.m., with all units becoming available by 9:45 p.m.

"CAL FIRE would like to express our gratitude for the outstanding work that our cooperators and assisting agencies provide," a Cal Fire Public Information Officer said in a statement. "We are very fortunate to have a great working relationship with our valued public safety partners and to have limited the damage from this fire, bringing it under control within just over 7.5 hours."



Agencies assisting in the effort included the Deer Springs Fire Protection District, San Diego County Fire, Oceanside Fire Department, San Marcos Fire Department, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services, and Rainbow Municipal Water District.

5 pm UPDATE: all lanes on NB I-15 open and traffic returning to normal. Fire reported to have burned nearly 10 acres.

3:15 pm UPDATE: Northbound I-15 from Sr 76 to Mission is gridlocked. Mission Rd. offramp is closed and 395 is closed as well in Rainbow on the east side of the freeway. Find alternate routes if possible.

3 pm UPDATE: All Shelter in place orders have been lifted and the forward rate of progress on the fire has stopped. Crews are on the scene for mop-up.

Firefighters are responding to a vegetation fire along northbound Interstate 15 near South Mission Road in Fallbrook, according to emergency officials. The fire was reported at 1:23 pm on Thursday, June 18, 2026. As of 2 pm 5 acres were reported to have burned.

As of 2 p.m., 11 units from North County Fire Protection District were on scene battling the blaze. Additional resources, including California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) units and air tankers, were en route to assist with firefighting efforts.

Officials have issued a shelter-in-place order for the area designated as SDC-0108 as crews work to contain the fire and assess potential threats to nearby properties and residents.

The size of the fire and any damage reports were not immediately available. Authorities urged residents in the affected area to remain indoors, close windows and doors, and monitor Village News for updates.

The cause of the fire is believed to be a truck that caught on fire on the northbound freeway.

More information will be released as it becomes available.



Congressman Issa Announces FY 2027 Community Project Funding Applications

April 8, 2026

Office of Darrel Issa

Congressman Issa has submitted Community Project Funding requests for the following projects in Fiscal Year 2027.

Projects benefitting district communities and residents are listed below in alphabetical order with each indicating the respective subcommittee of jurisdiction. Letter of request and financial disclosure information for each project is linked in each headline.

Project: North San Diego Agricultural Districts Water Resiliency and Fire Protection Project

Location: Fallbrook, CA

Applicant: Rainbow Municipal Water District

Recipient Address: 3707 Old Hwy 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028

Requested Amount: \$9.5 million

Other Information: Funding would be used for a cooperative project coordinated by Rainbow Municipal Water District, Fallbrook Public Utility District, Valley Center Municipal Water District, and Yuima Municipal Water District to replace aging, failure-prone potable water distribution mains and rehabilitate critical drinking water storage reservoirs.