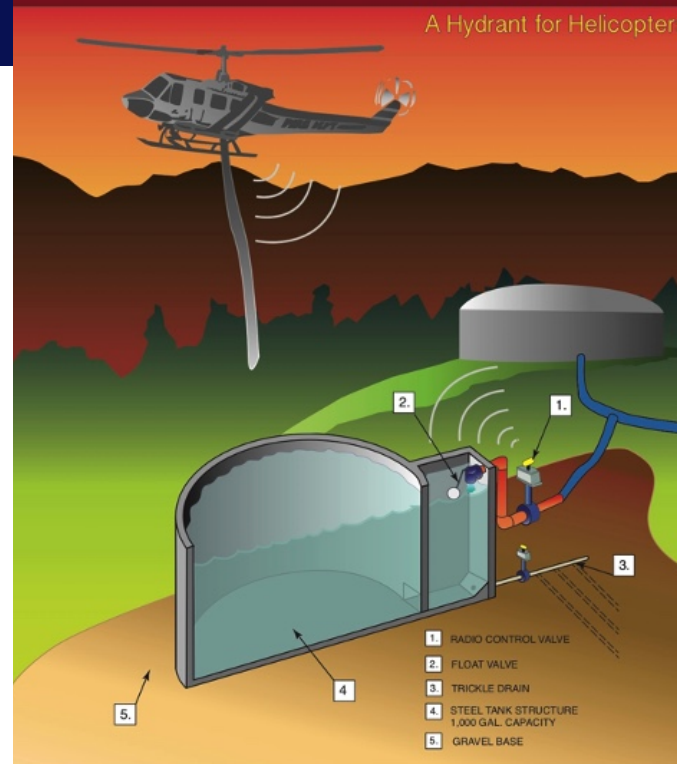


INNOVATION AT WORK IN THE COMMUNITY

RMWD takes pride in being an industry leader and thinking outside the box. With Innovation as one of our Core Values, and with fire protection water being a key element of the services we provide to the community, staff coordinated with both CalFire and the North County Fire Protection District to begin installing the **region's first Heli-Hydrant** (pictured to the right and below).

In our area, getting air support to douse at the early stages of a fire can make the difference between a small fire and one that gets out of control. In our arid region there are not a lot of options when a fire helicopter looks around to find a water source.



To meet this critical need to get water onto a fire fast, we are building a Heli-Hydrant. This is an above ground tank with specialized valves and piping that allows a firefighting helicopter to fill up with water for fire suppression. Having this type of local resource will reduce flight times between trips. A lot of fires seem to start along the I-15 corridor so this facility will be in an ideal location above Pala Mesa.

RMWD is very excited to be working on this project and is also coordinating with other agencies to add more around the area.



ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

This annual report is to provide you water quality information compiled during 2020. Included are details about where your water comes from, what it contains, and how it compares to Federal and State standards.

RMWD routinely monitors the distribution system for drinking water constituents of concern. Last year, in addition to dozens of other water quality tests, we conducted 264 tests for total coliform bacteria. The State Water Resources Control Board - Division of Drinking Water (SWRCB-DDW) requires that no more than 5% of the water samples collected per month may test positive for total coliform. RMWD was in compliance for the entire year.

For a copy of this full report please go to our website at www.rainbowmwd.com/annual-drinking-water-quality-report-2020 and download the PDF. There are also hard copies available in our front lobby for your convenience.

What Are We Constructing?

Our Engineering Department works closely with our Operations Department to ensure proposed projects are prioritized to best meet the needs of our ratepayers. This ensures the highest priority projects are on schedule and will provide the most benefit to you. The District has areas with extremely high water pressure (~300 psi).



These high pressures are due to the unique topography in our region and the need to move water within the system from one pressure zone to another. District staff actively seeks to reduce water pressure within its system wherever possible. To do so, Pressure Reducing Stations (PRS) are installed. You may have walked or driven by these facilities (pictured above) wondering what it is. Inside this green box are a series of large pressure regulating valves - a super-sized version of what you might have in your garage. These valves are set to regulate the pressure for normal daily flows but also have larger valves designed to meet demands for fire flows. Having **ample** fire flow capacity is an important part of the service we provide for the community. We hope it is never needed, but the history of wildfires in our area tells us it is better to be prepared for when that time comes.



VITAL RESOURCES

Water storage facilities are a vital component of any water distribution system. While these facilities provide storage of water to meet peak daily demands, their size is actually set to meet fire flow demands. In fact, the size of our tanks and water mains are all designed to meet fire flow demands which is an essential service to our community that is **often overlooked**.

At Rainbow Municipal Water District (RMWD), the water is stored in two different facilities - tanks and covered reservoirs. Reservoirs are in-ground impoundments that are lined and covered to preserve water quality. They have much larger storage volumes - up to 150 million gallons. These are designed to serve as longer term storage - rising and falling over weeks instead of days. The larger reservoirs have sophisticated mixing and monitoring systems to ensure water quality is maintained.

Tanks at RMWD are generally made of steel or concrete and can hold up to six million gallons of water. The tanks are maintained regularly and receive comprehensive internal inspections yearly - often by sterilized remote underwater camera systems. Every other year they are drained completely for a thorough internal inspection and any minor repairs are completed. The tanks are then thoroughly cleaned and disinfected before coming back on line. Every tank has a regularly scheduled recoating of interior and exterior paint in a cycle that repeats every 5-7 years depending on the condition of the coatings.

System operators at RMWD monitor the storage systems and make flow adjustments three times per day. They consider the weather, usage, and other factors when deciding how much water to add to the tanks. To maintain water quality, the water in the tanks is cycled daily. Water samples are also pulled weekly to monitor the overall quality and reported to the State of California Water Resources Control Board. Tanks are located on hilltops which provides adequate water pressure to the distribution system.

If you ever see an RMWD truck at one of these sites, feel free to stop by and say hi. The operators enjoy answering any questions and perhaps will give you a tour around the tanks. Additionally, if you ever see something suspicious happening at a tank site, please contact Rainbow Water District immediately - working together we can ensure safe drinking water for everyone.