

MITIGATING INCREASING WATER COSTS

Raising costs to impact everyone, and here in San Diego County, with inflation costs up over 6 percent, we see increases higher than the rest of the nation.

A 2017 American Water Works Association's report and a study this year by statista.com documented that San Diego's water rates were among the highest in the nation. San Diego households spend more than twice the national average on water and will continue to rise with the San Diego Water Authority's (SDCWA) anticipated rate increases of at least 5.5 percent in 2023.

For decades, our ratepayers have been burdened by rapidly rising water costs. Just over the past decade, water costs have shot up an average of 8 percent per year. Over the last 25 years, SDCWA has made significant investments to construct new storage and treatment facilities that provide limited benefit to the more rural agricultural communities served by RMWD. As a result of these investments, the standard treated water rate from SDCWA is over \$600 more expensive than the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) located in Riverside County.

With over 60% of the District's water being purchased by agricultural users, the increasing costs for water have negatively impacted this area in particular. The District's pursuit in detaching from SDCWA and annexing into EMWD is intended not just to save money for our ratepayers but is necessary to help preserve the foundation of the local economy and the appeal of our local communities.

We encourage our ratepayers to stay involved and engaged in this process as the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), which is responsible for overseeing the establishment, expansion, and boundary changes of cities and special districts, including water districts, moves forward in their analysis on the proposed detachment application submitted by Fallbrook Public Utility District (FPUD) and RMWD.

For more information, go to our website at www.rainbowmwd.com/detachment-and-annexation-updates.

Go Paperless

Technology has made going paperless easier than ever. It also allows you to access your information from anywhere at any time, and you will contribute to the well-being of the environment by cutting down on the amount of paper you use. Simply update your notification preferences on your online account or contact our customer service staff at billing@rainbowmwd.com, we will be happy to assist.



DISTRICT OFFERS HOMEOWNERS A NEW WAY TO DETECT LEAKS, SAVE MONEY, AND CONSERVE WATER



The District is extending its special offer to customers on the groundbreaking FlumePro water protection system. This device usually costs \$200, but RMWD customers may get the FlumePro water system for the \$49 annual fee, including the innovative new Flume Home Water Sensor, a lifetime warranty, and free battery replacements.

The Flume device is innovative in installation, accuracy, and whole property coverage for indoor plumbing and outdoor irrigation. No plumbers or pipe cutting are needed for installation. It simply straps around the existing water meter and feeds real-time data to the companion iOS and Android App. It measures indoor and outdoor irrigation water use to a tested accuracy of 99.9%.

The easy-to-install Flume Home Water Sensor opens up a new world for local homeowners and agricultural property owners alike, one in which they can:

- Detect unknown leaks before they get their bill or cause costly damage.
- See how much water they are using in real-time and daily, weekly, and monthly.
- Set water usage goals and budgets.
- Receive smartphone notifications on suspicious water activities while away from home.

Purchase your device NOW by going to www.flumetech.com/rainbow.

Public Committee Meetings Virtual Participation and Involvement

We now offer virtual participation for our public committee meetings, allowing customers a simple and easy way to stay involved.

Every month volunteer ratepayers lead three separate committees providing you an opportunity to be involved and provide direct input on the District's activities and decision making. **Currently, we have openings in all three of these committees**, Budget and Finance, Engineering and Operations, Communications, and Customer Service.

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 our next meeting. Please join us on Zoom or call by going to our website at

www.rainbowmwd.com/join-our-committee-meetings-on-line