



WATER SUPPLY UPDATE

The last two winters have been about as different as they could be. The winter of 2016/2017 started wet in November and stayed that way through March. We got steady light rain events punctuated by a couple of huge deluges in our area. The new pipeline bridge that is visible across Moosa Creek along Camino Del Rey near I-15 was installed when one of these storms blew out our pipeline that crossed the creek. Residents in the Pala Mesa area also had a big cloudburst that caused some damage. Snowfall in the Sierras broke all records.

This last winter was the exact opposite. Until recently, the Sierra snowpack was looking like it was going to be one of the smallest on record. As many of your water bills could attest, even old timers around here have a hard time remembering a dryer winter than what we just had. Most of us never got to shut off our irrigation systems like we normally do in the wintertime.

Many news outlets reacted to this situation by beating the drum of drought, raising fears about a return to drought. Some compared the high-water use during this winter to the low water use last year and attributed it to people who had fallen back into wasteful practices. In our area this is nonsense – RMWD demands are heavily weather dependent. When it is dry people water more and when it is wet they water less. Those facts don't make good headlines so many media outlets avoid these facts and prefer something more sensational.

The month of March saw a big change in the weather patterns with several big storms bringing rain, and more importantly, lots of snow to the Sierras. April is starting out the same way with a series of big storms on the way. While we are still below "normal", the water content in the Sierras is improving dramatically.

Even if the snowpack was very low, the reality is that last year's excess supply filled virtually every reservoir in the state. Lake Oroville, the largest reservoir in the State Water Project that nearly failed last year, is expected to come close to cresting again soon. The State is planning to release water down the Feather River which could entail putting the recently repaired spillway to the test!

The main message here is that San Diego's water supply is only partially dependent on the Sierras because we get a lot of our water from the Colorado River system. We also have local supplies from the Carlsbad Desalination plant. We have more than adequate supplies for this year and for several years into the future even if there were little to no snow in the Sierras. The investments that our customers and others in the region have made in reliability are again proving useful. This diversification of supply helps make sure that our communities have all the water that they need for families, landscaping, groves, and other commercial activities.





LILAC FIRE RELIEF

On February 27, 2018 the Rainbow MWD Board of Directors establishing a policy to provide conditional temporary relief to persons who have suffered a loss of their homes including complete loss of use of their water service or wastewater service to the property due to the 2017 Lilac Fire. For additional terms and conditions please contact our customer service department at 760.728.1178 or go to our website to download the waiver application on our website FAQ page at <https://www.rainbowmwd.com/faqs>

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FALLBROOK ANTIQUE CAR SHOW

Rainbow MWD is pleased to announce that we have secured a booth at the 53rd Annual Fallbrook Antique Car Show to be held this year on Sunday, May 27, 2018, rain or shine, from 9:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. at the Pala Mesa Resort located at 2001 Old Hwy 395.

This annual celebration which is free to the public is put on by the Fallbrook Vintage Car Club which uses proceeds from the event to help local non-profit organizations.

District staff and dedicated volunteers will be on-hand to answer questions and giving away informational items and fun prizes. Make sure to stop by our booth and see our new water system display.

COST SAVING OPPORTUNITIES FOR SAN DIEGO FARMERS

Farming has never been easy and it is certainly not easy right now. The rising cost of water, energy, labor, more stringent state regulations, foreign competition and fluctuating markets, challenge our growers every day.

Through joint efforts with the Mission Resources Conservation District (MRCD) and US Department of Agriculture – National Resource Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS), Rainbow Municipal Water District (RMWD) is pleased to offer our growers opportunities to reduce water and energy costs:

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) – Up to \$1.5 million in direct and in-kind funding from the USDA-NRCS and the San Diego region's water agencies including RMWD is available to assist implementation of on-farm soil and water conservation and management practices and equipment.

The process starts with a free Irrigation Efficiency Evaluation by MRCD; qualifying growers may then apply for financial assistance to implement conservation practices from the USDA-NRCS.

For more information on these programs contact Lance Andersen, Agricultural Program Director with MRCD at 760-728-1332; or via email at lance@missionrcd.org. Lance will take the time to help you understand the program and determine what is best for your needs.