



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2024 . ISSUE 237



Celebrating the 70 Year History of Rainbow Water

Rooted in the Agriculture Community

Rainbow Water is proud to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater service for the past 70 years to our farming and residential communities. Situated between scenic rolling hills, the community is home to a longstanding tradition of rural lifestyle and robust agriculture production dating back to the 19th century.

The origins of the District formation are rooted in the agricultural community. The initial formation of the water agency began with retired United States Coast Guard Reservist and 75-year member of the Rainbow Grange, Bill Hitt, and retired Orange County newspaper publisher, Ben Martin. Together, Hitt and Martin worked diligently in the 1940s to find alternative water resources in response to the California drought, which severely impacted farmers in the area.

Since the Rainbow Municipal Water District's establishment as a special district in December 1953, water has been imported from the Colorado River and California Aqueduct, and supplied to the unincorporated communities of Rainbow, Bonsall, and portions of Fallbrook.

The Origins of the District's Name

The District's founders wanted a name to represent the large service area, and the collective decision was to name the new water district after the town of Rainbow and local Rainbow Post Office. Both the town and post office were named after James Peebles Marshall Rainbow, who was referred to as JPM Rainbow. He was a Pennsylvania native who moved to the area in 1875 to start his own 20-acre farm near Fallbrook. JPM Rainbow was notably the first farmer in San Diego County to farm and ship a load of grapes in 1875, according to the Poway Progress newspaper. He served two terms on the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and ran a successful farm in Rainbow. The post office named after Rainbow, was established in the late 1800s and was in the Rainbow General Store at present-day 5th Street and Rainbow Valley Road.

What's a Pressure Reducing Valve?

Water pressure regulators or pressure-reducing valves (PRV) are compact valves used to reduce high incoming water pressure from the public water main to provide a lower, more consistent water pressure for distribution to your household plumbing and fixtures. The PRV will look like the picture above when installed on a water meter.

Why Should I Have a PRV?

Rainbow Water has high pressure within water mains in certain areas due to the varying terrain of the service area. High water pressures in home plumbing systems may cause leaking water heaters, dripping faucets, dishwasher and washing machine noise and breakdown, or leaking water pipes. Water flowing at a rate more than necessary to satisfy normal fixtures or appliance demands can become damaging, wasteful, and reduce equipment life expectancy in homes. Maintaining a set pressure in the house, usually 50 pounds per square inch (psi), may ensure that home piping and appliances operate under a safe and satisfactory pressure.

Who is Responsible?

In high pressure areas, Rainbow Water installs a pressure regulator on the District-owned side of the water service to protect the District's water meter. However, given the unique properties and varying needs of each customer's on-site water system, the customer is responsible for installing and maintaining a PRV on the customer's side of the meter, preferably as close as possible to the downstream side of the District meter to ensure all the customer's plumbing is protected. PRV's can be purchased at a home improvement or plumbing supply store and can be installed as a do-it-yourself project or by a qualified plumbing contractor.



For more information on PRV's scan or visit:
rainbowmwd.ca.gov/water-pressure-regulator-faqs

New Sewer and Lift Station Project Opens

Rainbow Water celebrated its recently completed Thoroughbred Lift Station with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Wednesday, September 4, in Bonsall. The capital improvement project is Rainbow Water's eighth lift station and will provide greater emergency resiliency and operational flexibility, as well as capacity in the wastewater collection system.

The new facility is located at Thoroughbred Lane and SR76, and has pipelines along SR76, Camino Del Rey, and Old River Road. The lift station will collect an average of 600,000 gallons of sewer flows per day and is equipped with 350,000 gallons of emergency storage to help with emergency response and major system maintenance.

"As a public agency, it is our duty to provide water and wastewater service to the community, and failure is not an option for us," said Jake Wiley, Rainbow Water General Manager. "We must plan and adapt to changes to keep our water and wastewater systems flowing efficiently without interrupted service. Projects like Thoroughbred Lift Station are vital to meet the needs of our growing community."

Construction commenced in Spring 2022 and was completed in July 2024 through a shared cost partly funded through developer capacity fees that support the District's infrastructure. The multi-year effort and construction process to bring a significant asset to the community, received \$10.5M in Sewer Capacity fees from the Citro development. The project's total cost, was \$21,033,360, including design, construction, support services, legal, and staff costs. The large capital project was a cooperative effort with local state and federal offices, community partners, and project partners.

"We appreciate the support from Congressman Issa's office and Jim Desmond's office, as well as community partners Bonsall Unified School District, North County Fire, Bonsall Chamber, and local businesses who were impacted by the construction of the project," said Wiley.

The project replaced aged and undersized sewer lines alongside and across the San Luis Rey River, and expanded a critical wastewater lift station reaching the end of its useful life. The new sewer lift station and pipeline improvements will facilitate wastewater collection service that benefits all areas served by Rainbow along the SR76 corridor as well as future developments.

Pictured below: Malik Tamimi, Rainbow Water Senior CIP Project Manager, cuts the ribbon to open Thoroughbred Lift Station in Bonsall.



CropSWAP Program

Over 55 Rainbow Water customers have been approved for CropSWAP Program funding totaling over \$400K. Scan or visit regionalcropswap.com to find out more.



North County Fire Open House

Saturday, October 12

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

North County Fire Station One

315 E. Ivy Street, Fallbrook, 92028



Celebrate Fire Prevention Month with us at the North County Fire District's Annual Open House. Fire deputies will be on hand to answer questions on evacuations and road closures during a wildfire. The event is free and kids of all ages will have the opportunity to view emergency vehicles up close, and participate in fire and safety demonstrations. Various public agencies including Rainbow Water will have resource booths on emergency preparedness and safety. More info at: ncfireca.org



Emergency Preparedness Month Tip

Stay in the know about wildfires and evacuation information with Watch Duty, an app that provides real time updates by active and retired firefighters, first responders, and dispatchers. The app is used by public agencies including Rainbow Water, to monitor and report the most up to date emergency information. Watch Duty allows users to view wildfire maps, track fire perimeters, red flag warnings, power outages, evacuation orders, air quality, and submit photos for fire locations.

For more info and to download Watch Duty visit: watchduty.org



Stay Connected

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.

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