



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024 . ISSUE 238



\$765,000+
In grant funding approved for
Rainbow Water customers

National Farmer's Day Celebrating the Legacy of our Community

In celebration of National Farmer's day on October 12, Rainbow Water looks back at the history of our community.

Two Centuries of Farming

The communities of Bonsall, Fallbrook, and Rainbow have been home to agricultural farms since the 19th century when dry farming and raising livestock were spread across the rolling hills and valley. Over the course of the latter century, new settlers came to town from Pennsylvania, Kansas, and many other states to buy land and build farms including the District's namesake, JPM Rainbow. The community was transformed when the Bureau of Reclamation began the build of the First Aqueduct from 1945 to 1947 followed by the Second Aqueduct opened by Metropolitan Water District in 1960. The formation of the Rainbow Water District in 1953, dramatically impacted the way farmers received water, and the variety of crops changed from grains, olives, and honey to avocado and citrus fruits.

The 1970s and early 1980s gave way to local grove services planting over 300,000 acres of avocados per year. In addition, the area saw an increase in nurseries and fresh cut flower farms that harvested protea and pincushions. Since the 1990s, the region has flourished with small farms of fruit, vegetables, and flowers. Today the abundance of small farms and orchards have made the North San Diego County region among the top agricultural counties in the country.

Support Your Local Farmers

The best way to support your local farmers is by purchasing from local growers at the farmers market, fruit stands, and nurseries. When you buy local, you support the economy and help maintain the rich agricultural history of the region.

Farmers Market & Fruit Stands: Before you head out to the market, make a plan to stop by the Bonsall Farmers Market on Sunday's at Bonsall Elementary or one of the many local fruit stands to shop for fruit, vegetables, and honey.

Nurseries: Visit one of our picturesque local nurseries to buy native plants. Continue on the next page to read about California Friendly Plants and the Turf Replacement program.

Grant Programs for Agricultural Customers

Regional CropSWAP Program

Rainbow Water is proud to partner with Rancho Water, to bring customers the Regional CropSWAP Program. Since the program launched in the spring, nearly 70 customers have applied and received grant funding totaling over \$765,000. Projects approved for funding aim to sustain agriculture through crop upgrades or rejuvenation, improve irrigation, and other best management practices.



Read more about the program to identify a rebate that best fits your needs and submit an online application at [regionalcropswap.com](https://www.regionalcropswap.com)

Water Savings Incentive Program

Metropolitan's Water Savings Incentive Program (WISP) is exclusively available to non-residential customers in our service area to increase water-use efficiency through funding high-efficiency equipment upgrades, installation of irrigation systems, and water management services. The program encourages the submittal of custom projects designed for water-saving needs that assist agricultural customers in achieving their water efficiency goals. Explore the program and project examples on Metropolitan's website: tinyurl.com/57khamx5

Get Inspired: Scan to watch a video about how the Rice Canyon project saved a Rainbow Water customer over 75% of their bill through Metropolitan's WISP.



Fall Planting Guide

As the heat wave comes to an end, the fall season is an ideal time to establish a new garden or replace turf. The fall months provide cooler temperatures to reduce stress on new plantings while the soil remains warm from the heat and provides a superior environment for roots to grow. In addition, the lower temperatures allow for water to soak deep in the roots with less evaporation from the heat during daylight hours. Take the next step to improve your garden and optimize your resources this fall with California Friendly plants, turf, and tree rebates from Metropolitan Water District.

Rebate Programs

Create beautiful, sustainable, water-saving landscapes with the help of Metropolitan's Turf Replacement Program. The rebate starts at \$3 per square foot for residential and commercial customers who remove their grass and replace it with water-efficient California Friendly® and native plants. Receive an extra \$100 per tree added to your project for a maximum of five trees.

Start the application process online and make a project reservation prior to removal of grass or plants. Upon rebate submittal, you have up to 180 days to complete the project and submit the final request for rebate. Check your rebate estimate and find more details: bewaterwise.com



California Friendly Plants

Revive your garden or landscape by clearing out debris from old plants or areas that may have been impacted by dramatic heat. Enhance your landscape with colorful California Friendly and native plants that will allow you to stop wasting valuable water resources on grass. Look for new California Friendly plants on the Be Water Wise website to plan your project. Pick up some of the plants below at your local nursery to start your fall planting.



Medium Plants: Baja Fairy Duster, Bush Germander, California Lilac, Cleveland Sage, Lion's Tail, Mexican Bush Sage, Rosemary (pictured at left), and White Sage.



Large Plants: Arabian Lilac, Conebush, Grevillea, Manzanita, and Toyon.



Vines: Lilac Vine, Roger's Red Grapes, and Bougainvillea (pictured at left).

Ground Cover: Creeping Rosemary, Kurapia, Silver Carpet, Seaside Daisy, South African Daisy, Trailing Latana, and Yarrow.

Succulents: Aloe, Aeonium (pictured at left), Hens-and-Chicks, Live Forever, Red Yucca, and Rose Purslane



Did you know bats and beetles are pollinators? Support the ecosystem and help pollinators when you plant native plants. Find out more bewaterwise.com/garden.html



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

Water Footprint Calculator

Find Out Your Virtual Water Usage



Water is a valuable resource and a vital component of life. Did you know that water plays an important part in every industry from farming and manufacturing products to producing energy? This type of water use is known as a virtual water footprint and it is part of our daily water consumption. The virtual water calculator from the Water Footprint Network was created to find out how much water your household uses based upon three main categories:



Blue water refers to the amount of surface water and groundwater required to produce an item.



Green water is the amount of rainwater required (evaporated or used directly) to make an item.



Grey water is measured by the amount of freshwater required to dilute the wastewater generated in manufacturing, to maintain state and local water quality.

Take the free online water calculator to find out your virtual water use and explore how you can reduce your water footprint to keep water flowing for the next generation. Visit: watercalculator.org

2024 General Election

Ballot Drop Box Locations



The San Diego County Registrar's office sent mail in ballots for the General Election to registered voters the week of October 7. Voters have the choice to vote in person, by mail, or return to a secure ballot drop box location. The Registrar's office has ballot drop box locations throughout the county including the Rainbow Water office. Remember to seal your envelope and sign the exterior before dropping into the ballot box.

The ballot box at the Rainbow Water office is available for drop off October 8 through November 5, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For additional polling locations and voter information scan the code or visit: sdvote.com

