



## COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER JULY 2024 . ISSUE 236



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## Smart Irrigation Month Best Practices for Smart Water Use

July is recognized as Smart Irrigation Month due to the start of high water consumption in California. As the heat rises in the summer, outdoor water usage increases and accounts for nearly half of all water usage on the average water bill. Converting your irrigation to a smart water system can improve water efficiency and assist with identifying water waste. There are various options for best practices you can adopt for water usage, including rebates for smart flow devices and irrigation efficiency upgrades for sensors and automation. Read below for available irrigation rebate opportunities to optimize outdoor water use.

### Flume Smart Home Water Monitor

Rainbow Water is proud to partner with Flume to offer an intelligent water monitoring device that provides you with customized alerts of abnormal water usage. Get to know and control your water with easy-to-read water use reports and insights. The average user finds a reduction of 14% in water use, and more than 70% of Flume users found leaks within the first month.



The device ships to your home and can be easily installed with the help of step-by-step videos available on the Rainbow Water website. The device is attached to your water meter, where it measures water flow through the meter and connects to your WiFi to send data to a secure cloud that reports water usage and alerts you of unusual activity that could indicate a leak.

The Flume device is available for Rainbow Water customers at a reduced rate of \$49.99 per household with no monthly monitoring fee. The Flume Smart Water System includes a Flume water sensor, bridge, and app. Visit the Flume website [flumewater.com/rainbow](http://flumewater.com/rainbow) to learn more about purchasing the device, track your use, catch leaks, and identify minute-by-minute usage.

### Regional CropSWAP Program

The Regional CropSWAP Program is available for agricultural water users in western Riverside and northern San Diego Counties, with a mission to promote sustainable and efficient agricultural practices.



The program offers participants three distinct, incentivized project types tailored to enhance agricultural productivity while prioritizing environmental stewardship. The Regional CropSWAP's rebate upgrade types include comprehensive crop upgrades as well as irrigation efficiency improvements to enhance water distribution uniformity by revitalizing your irrigation equipment, such as pipes, sprinklers, pressure regulators, and drip systems. The rebates allow for the implementation of soil moisture sensors to make data-driven decisions for optimal irrigation scheduling. In addition, the installation of new irrigation systems provides remote monitoring and valve control equipment to automate your irrigation, saving time and resources.

Participating in the program will maximize your irrigation efficiency, reduce water waste, and contribute to the sustainable management of our precious water resources. Invest in your farm's irrigation infrastructure today and join the mission to promote water conservation in agriculture.



Scan to learn more and watch  
Flume video tutorials



Explore the program and apply  
online: [regionalcropswap.com](http://regionalcropswap.com)



# Water Use Surveys

## Applications Now Open for Free Commercial and Residential Water Use Survey

Are you looking for an innovative way to improve water use efficiency for your home or business? For a limited time, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is providing free in-person commercial large landscape surveys, and virtual or in-person indoor/outdoor residential surveys for properties in the Rainbow Water service area. In addition, Mission Resource Conservation District offers the Water Efficiency Technical Assistance Program (WETA), a free irrigation efficiency analysis for growers. The surveys provide customers with recommendations to improve outdoor landscape and indoor water use to reduce water waste and make their businesses, homes and properties more efficient.

Surveys are conducted with assistance from the customer, and only one survey is available per property for the life of the program. The property must be located within Metropolitan's service area for the water use survey or North San Diego County for the WETA survey.

### How the Survey Works

#### Commercial Surveys

A certified landscape auditor will conduct a comprehensive review of the irrigation system, including but not limited to: breaks, controllers, drainage, leaks, irrigation scheduling, site conditions, system pressure, and valve functions. Participants will receive a written report that includes data collected during the survey with recommendations for site irrigation efficiency including system repairs, equipment updates, and irrigation scheduling.

The WETA Program expands the audit to include growers with or without wells, reviews pump efficiency and provides a complete analysis with eligibility for irrigation upgrades and farm improvements from the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

#### Residential Surveys

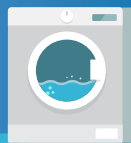
The survey is free to residential customers and may be performed virtually or in-person with a homeowner or adult over 18. A phone or tablet is required for the virtual survey to allow photos or video with the survey auditor. The indoor evaluation will review indoor device make, model, age factor, and water use. The outdoor inspection will review the meter, check for leaks, and identify the irrigation system to evaluate zone or station information. The auditor will survey issues that contribute to higher water use, such as valve malfunctions, high or low pressure, sprinkler misalignment, poor draining, breaks and leaks, and runoff. A written report with data collected from the survey and rebate information will be provided to the customer.

Funding for the program is limited, and surveys are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Take advantage and apply today.

Metropolitan Water District  
[waterefficiencysurvey.com](http://waterefficiencysurvey.com)  
[mwd@waterwise-consulting.com](mailto:mwd@waterwise-consulting.com)

Mission Resource Conservation District  
[missionrcd.org/weta-program](http://missionrcd.org/weta-program)  
[appointments@missionrcd.org](mailto:appointments@missionrcd.org)

Scan to watch a video about the water use survey



# Summer Watering Tips

Make the most of your outdoor watering this summer by following these useful tips.



➡ **Change the Time:** The best time to water during the summer months is when the sun goes down. Adjust outdoor irrigation to water in the morning and late evening to avoid loss of water due to evaporation from the heat.

➡ **Tune Up Your System:** Review your system to check for leaks, clogged sprinklers, or overspray to avoid water waste due to runoff.

➡ **Adjust for Zones:** Save watering time by adjusting for the watering needs of your yard area based on shade, grass, soil, and plant type.

## Share Your Experience

### Take the New Customer Service Survey



Did you have a recent interaction with a member of the Rainbow Water Team? Share your experience by rating our level of service and select your preferred method of communication. Your participation in the survey helps to improve operations and customer service. Visit the website or scan the code to tell us how we are doing.

[rainbowmwd.ca.gov/customer-survey](http://rainbowmwd.ca.gov/customer-survey)



## Stay in Touch Update Your Emergency Alert Contact Information

Have you recently moved or changed your phone number? Make sure we have the most recent phone number and email address on file so that you may receive notifications for outages, leaks, and service information. To update your contact information, call Customer Service at (760) 728-1178.

## 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.  
[RAINBOWMWD.CA.GOV](http://RAINBOWMWD.CA.GOV)