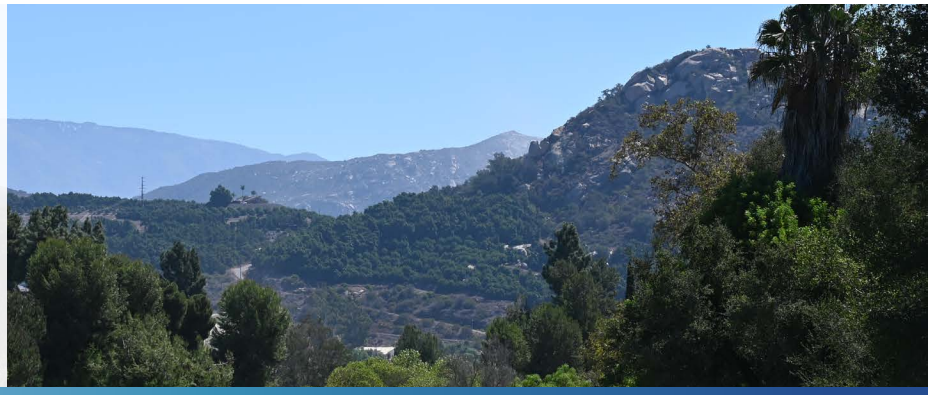
RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER
OCTOBER 2026 . ISSUE 262



New California Law to Eliminate Water Waste for Nonfunctional Turf



California is making moves to eliminate water waste with a new law banning the use of potable (drinking) water to irrigate nonfunctional turf on public, government, commercial properties, and homeowner associations. The California Legislature passed Assembly Bill 1572 in 2023, which created Water Code Section 10608.14 to conserve limited natural resources and encourage sustainable landscaping.

How will AB 1572 help save water?

The new law aims to reduce outdoor water waste by replacing nonfunctional turf with native plants or gardens, helping create more sustainable landscapes. According to Metropolitan Water District, 51,000 acres of grass in their six-county area is classified as nonfunctional turf, and **turf conversion is estimated to reduce total water use by 10%.**

When will the phased implementation start?

- January 2027: Local government, public agency, and school sites
- January 2028: Commercial, industrial and other institutional properties
- January 2029: Common areas of homeowner associations and similar sites

What are nonfunctional turf areas?

- Decorative mowed grass and not used for recreational purposes
- Highway, street medians, and parkways
- Grass surrounding school sites or office buildings
- Grass on sloped areas not suitable for recreational use
- Grass in parking lots or HOA common areas

Save Water on What Matters, Not Unused Turf

Rainbow Water's commercial and institutional customers are encouraged to begin planning turf removal by attending the Transforming Lawns workshop in November, and apply for commercial turf removal rebates of $3 to $4 per square foot up to 50,000 square feet. Rebates are available online from the County of San Diego at: **https://tinyurl.com/22przmtw**

Around the District

Highlights from the General Manager

Free Turf Removal Landscape Workshop in Fallbrook

Rainbow Water has partnered with Metropolitan Water District, Fallbrook Public Utility District, and Valley Center Municipal Water District to host a free in-person landscape workshop.

Transforming Lawns: A Sustainable Approach

Date: Thursday, November 5, 2026
Time: 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Location: Fallbrook Public Utility District
990 E. Mission Rd., Fallbrook, CA 92028
Light refreshments & breakfast to be served

Join us for a class on turf replacement and how nonfunctional turf will impact your community. You will learn how to transform a landscape into a beautiful, sustainable, and water-efficient environment. The workshop will guide you through:

- Selecting climate-appropriate plant types
- Soil preparation and irrigation strategies
- Turf removal options and rebates
- Exploring sustainable landscape functions
- AB 1572 and your local water agency
- An onsite native garden tour

Reserve Your Seat

Nurseries, landscape professionals, HOA's, property managers, and customers welcome to attend. Space is limited. Register online at: **https://tinyurl.com/mreybfpc**

SCAN TO REGISTER

The nonfunctional turf ban does NOT apply to Rainbow Water residential customers.

Jump into Savings with Rebates for Turf, Plants, and Landscape Assistance

Rebates are available to residential and commercial customers through the County of San Diego's Waterscape Rebate Program. Explore rebates for native plants, irrigation controllers, rain barrels, rain gutters, and more. Estimate your rebate online at: https://tinyurl.com/22przmtw

Public Safety Power Shutoffs in the Region

Rainbow Water Remains Ready with Emergency Planning & Support



Southern California is experiencing extreme heat, with triple-digit temperatures and winds that dry out landscapes and create excess vegetation that can fuel wildfires. Extreme weather patterns have led power utilities to implement Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) to immediately reduce the risk of wildfires caused by strong winds and low humidity. Utility companies, including San Diego Gas and Electric (SDG&E), can decide when and where to shut off customer power as a preventative fire measure.

How Rainbow Water Prepares for Power Outages

Rainbow Water utilizes power from SDG&E to pump, move, and deliver water to all customers in the service area. When a PSPS event warning is received from SDG&E, Rainbow Water crews proactively complete the following:

- Attend SDG&E daily briefings with local water and utility agencies
- Fill water tanks to 90% capacity
- Prepare backup generators at pump stations
- Fuel all District vehicles
- Schedule staff on duty for the full event

Rainbow Water works tirelessly 24 hours a day, seven days a week to provide water services and collaborates with North County Fire Protection District, San Diego County Sheriff's Department, and neighboring water agencies to reduce the risk of emergencies that impact the water supply. Read more on the website: **rainbowmwd.ca.gov/public-safety-power-shutoffs**

How to Stay Informed & Prepared for an Event

Take small actions during a PSPS event to keep your home safe.

- Prioritize indoor water use for essential health and hygiene needs.
- Keep up to date on the most recent PSPS events and community resources on the SDG&E website: **sdge.com/psps-dashboard**
- Update your Rainbow Water emergency contact information to receive notifications for outages and emergency events. Submit the form online: **rainbowmwd.ca.gov/update-your-info**
- Download the Genasys and Watch Duty phone apps for access to emergency and evacuation information.
- Steer clear of downed power lines and report the emergency to 911 and/or SDG&E's emergency line at 800-411-7343.
- Pack an emergency essential kit with clothing, flashlights, first aid kit with medications, non-perishable food, and water.
- Follow the Ready, Set, Go evacuation preparation plan from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection's website: **readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/**



2026 General Election

Ballot Drop Box at Rainbow Water Headquarters

The County of San Diego Registrar of Voters' office sent ballots for the General Election to all registered voters in the first week of October. Voters have the choice to vote in person, by mail, or by returning a secure ballot to a drop box location. Rainbow Water is designated as an official ballot drop box location and is available to all San Diego County residents for ballot drop-off.

For polling locations, ballot drop box locations, and voter information, scan the code or visit: **sdvote.com**

Official Ballot Drop Box at Rainbow Water

Dates Open: October 6 - November 3, 2026
Time: Mon - Fri, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Closed on weekends
Election Day: Tuesday, November 3, 2026, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Location: Rainbow Water Headquarters, 3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook

New! Sandbag Pickup Location for Residents

Rainbow Water has partnered with the County of San Diego and North County Fire Protection District on a new location for residents to obtain free sandbags in preparation for upcoming storms.

Horse Creek Ridge Staging Area

Location: Corner of Pankey Road and CA-76 Fallbrook, CA 92028 (Across from 5090 CA-76)
Availability: For Rainbow Water and North County Fire Protection District residents
Tips: Bring gloves and a shovel
More details: **rainbowmwd.ca.gov/sandbags**

RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT SINCE 1953

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