WELCOME

A Guide to Your Local Water Provider

RAINBOW
MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Welcome to
Rainbow Water

Rainbow Water is proud to deliver water and wastewater services to the community. Situated between scenic rolling hills, the community is home to a longstanding tradition of rural lifestyle and robust agriculture production.

The area's unique topography and zoning allow residents to enjoy relief from the overcrowding of city life. However, the less densely populated area results in fewer customers than the more populous urban areas to share the cost of maintaining critical water and wastewater infrastructure that supports our community.

Commitment to Service

Delivering safe and reliable water while maintaining fiscal responsibility is an essential part of Rainbow Water's commitment to service. Periodic rate adjustments are necessary to meet the demands of maintaining and improving infrastructure to ensure water reliability for ratepayers.

Rainbow Water is committed to continuously improving water infrastructure to meet the needs of our ratepayers and prepare for water emergencies.

Agency Overview

Founded in 1953, Rainbow Water treats and delivers water to over 9,000 water customers and over 3,400 sewer customers within an 82-square mile service area. As a small government agency, Rainbow Water works tirelessly to maintain service 24 hours a day and 365 days per year.

Incorporated: December 30, 1953

Mission: To provide our customers reliable, high quality water and water reclamation service in a fiscally sustainable manner.

Imported Water Sources: Water is imported from the Robert A. Skinner Treatment Plant in Temecula, Riverside County. Water is sourced from the Metropolitan Water District from the Northern Sierra Mountains through the State Water Project, and the Rocky Mountains through the Colorado River Aqueduct.

Service Area: Rainbow Water has a service area of 82-square miles, or over 52,000 acres, and is comprised of the communities of Rainbow, Bonsall and portions of Fallbrook, Vista, Pala, and Oceanside.

Water Wholesaler: Eastern Municipal Water District (2025-present)

Distribution System
Water Main:
344 miles of pipelines

Sewer Facilities
Lift Stations: 8
Sewer Main:
95 miles of pipelines

Water Facilities
Pump Stations: 10
Reservoirs: 3
Storage Tanks: 13

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A Guide to Understanding
Your Water Bill

Understanding your water bill and rates can be challenging. Many customers wonder what the charges are related to and how it applies to the monthly bill.

Invoice Terms and Charges

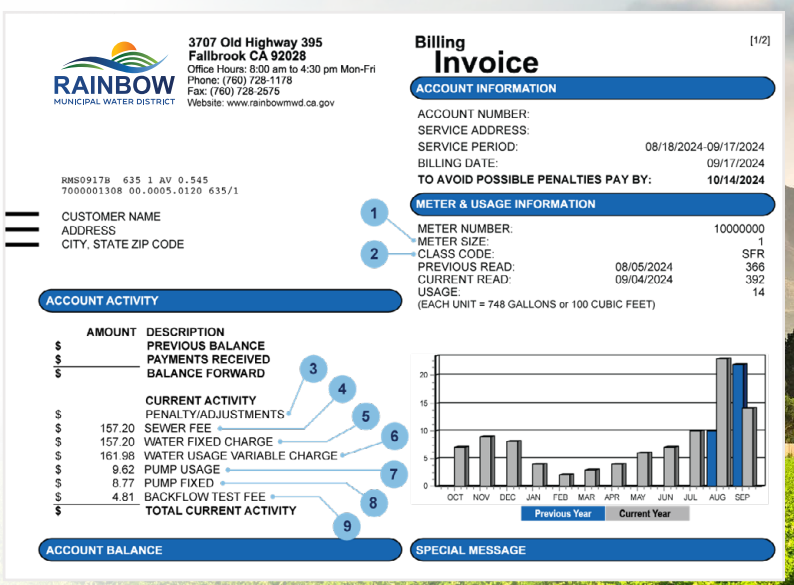
To help better understand the fees, a sample invoice is shown at right and below is a guide to explain the items found on the monthly invoice.

1. **Meter Size:** Water meters vary in size from 5/8" up to 6".
2. **Class Code:** The customer classification code determines which rates apply and are categorized in the following codes:
   - Agriculture (AG), Agriculture with Residence (AD)
   - Single-family (SFR), multi-family (MF), commercial (CM), and Institutional (INS)
3. **Penalty & Adjustments:** Revisions to previous billing are applied and may include adjustments due to a leak or inaccuracies in billing.
4. **Sewer Fee:** The monthly fixed charge for wastewater services is based on home size (equivalent dwelling unit) to represent the estimated sewer flows.
5. **Water Fixed Charge:** The monthly fixed fee is based on meter size to recover the fixed costs the District incurs to operate and maintain its water storage and delivery system, and the fixed costs our wholesaler imported water provider charges the District to maintain the system to bring water into region. Fees include the costs to maintain and replace mainlines, meters, valves, and storage reservoirs, and fixed charge pass-through from our wholesale water provider.
6. **Water Usage Variable Charge:** The charge is based on the actual amount of water consumed in the billing period and recovers the cost the District has to pay to buy each unit of imported water from its wholesaler, and recovers variable costs the District pays to maintain its own infrastructure.
7. **Pump Usage:** The usage variable charge recovers energy costs to customers who reside in higher elevation pump zones that require water to be pumped in order to receive water service.
8. **Pump Fixed:** The fixed fee recovers the cost to maintain pump stations that move water to service areas located at higher elevations.
9. **Backflow Test Fee:** The charge refers to costs associated from the backflow program for ratepayers requiring backflow devices to help regulate water flow.

The Billing Cycle

Rainbow Water has a monthly billing cycle for permanent and temporary meters. The monthly bill is calculated based upon fixed charges, variable rates, and pumping charges.

Sample Invoice



RAINBOW MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

3707 Old Highway 395
Fallbrook CA 92028
Office Hours: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Mon-Fri
Phone: (760) 728-1178
Fax: (760) 728-2575
Website: www.rainbowmwd.ca.gov

Billing Invoice [1/2]

ACCOUNT INFORMATION
ACCOUNT NUMBER:
SERVICE ADDRESS:
SERVICE PERIOD: 08/18/2024-09/17/2024
BILLING DATE: 09/17/2024
TO AVOID POSSIBLE PENALTIES PAY BY: 10/14/2024

RMS0917B 635 1 AV 0.545
7000001308 00.0005.0120 635/1

CUSTOMER NAME
ADDRESS
CITY, STATE ZIP CODE

METER & USAGE INFORMATION
METER NUMBER: 10000000
METER SIZE: 1
CLASS CODE: SFR
PREVIOUS READ: 08/05/2024 366
CURRENT READ: 09/04/2024 392
USAGE: 14
(EACH UNIT = 748 GALLONS or 100 CUBIC FEET)

ACCOUNT ACTIVITY

AMOUNT	DESCRIPTION
$	PREVIOUS BALANCE
$	PAYMENTS RECEIVED
$	BALANCE FORWARD
	CURRENT ACTIVITY
$	PENALTY/ADJUSTMENTS
$ 157.20	SEWER FEE
$ 157.20	WATER FIXED CHARGE
$ 161.98	WATER USAGE VARIABLE CHARGE
$ 9.62	PUMP USAGE
$ 8.77	PUMP FIXED
$ 4.81	BACKFLOW TEST FEE
$	TOTAL CURRENT ACTIVITY

OCT NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR MAY JUN JUL AUG SEP
Previous Year Current Year

ACCOUNT BALANCE

SPECIAL MESSAGE

MONTHLY WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICE RATES

Rates Effective 7/1/2026

Monthly Fixed Charges

SINGLE FAMILY, MULTI-FAMILY, COMMERCIAL, & INSTITUTIONAL		
CAPACITY CLASS	METER SIZE	MONTHLY FIXED CHARGES
B	3/4″	$96.76
C	1″	$157.20
D	1.5″	$308.26
E	2″	$489.56
F	3″	$1,063.64
G	4″	$1,909.66
H	6″	$3,934.07

AGRICULTURAL AGRICULTURAL WITH RESIDENCE		
CAPACITY CLASS	METER SIZE	MONTHLY FIXED CHARGES
B	3/4″	$143.81
C	1″	$239.68
D	1.5″	$479.36
E	2″	$766.97
F	3″	$1,677.75
G	4″	$3,019.94
H	6″	$6,231.63

FIXED PUMPING CHARGES	
ZONE	TOTAL RATE PER MONTH+
All Pumping Zones	$8.77

BACKFLOW TESTING	
METER SIZE	MONTHLY CHARGE×
5/8″ - 2″	$5.83
3″ - 6″	$9.58

WASTEWATER FIXED CHARGES	
MONTHLY SEWER SERVICE CHARGES PER EDU ⅄	
All Customer Classes	$100.49

Monthly Variable Charges

WATER VARIABLE CHARGES	
CUSTOMER CLASS	TOTAL RATE PER UNIT*
Single Family Residence	$6.42
Multi-Family	$6.42
Commerical	$6.42
Institutional	$6.42
Construction	$6.42
Agriculture w/ Residence	$5.10
Agriculture	$5.10

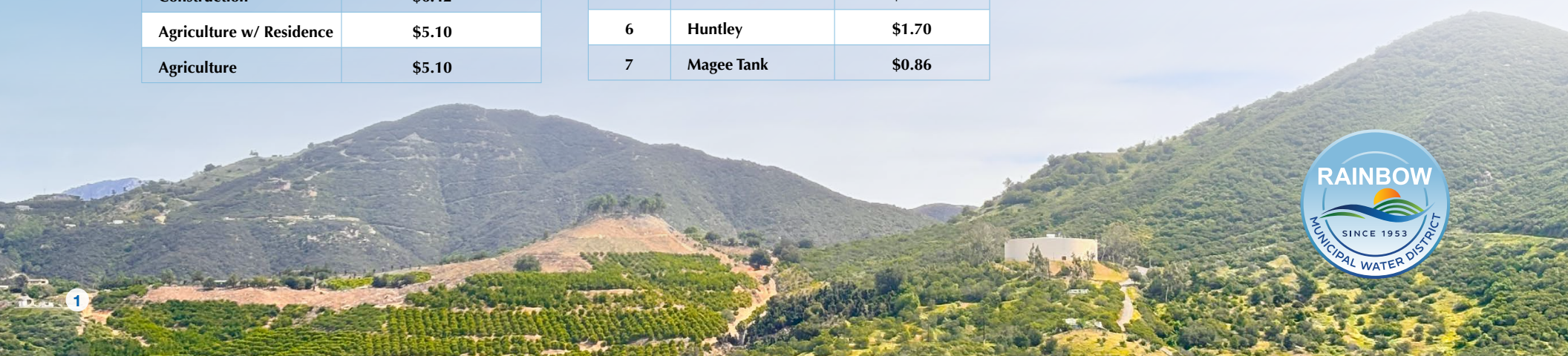
VARIABLE PUMPING CHARGES+		
ZONE #	PUMPING ZONE	RATE PER UNIT*
1	Rainbow Heights	$3.17
2	ID U-1	$1.69
3	Vallecitos	$0.31
4	Northside	$0.16
5	Morro Tank	$0.43
6	Huntley	$1.70
7	Magee Tank	$0.86

⅄ Charge per Equivalent Dwelling Unit (EDU) for customers connected to the District's sewer system.

\+ Pumping charges apply to customers who reside at higher elevations that require water to be pumped in order to provide service.

* 1 unit of water = 748 gallons

× Charges apply to customers with a backflow device(s).



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WATER & WASTEWATER CAPACITY FEES

Rates Effective 7/1/2026

Water Capacity Fees

CAPACITY CLASS	METER SIZE	MAX HCF/MONTH (HCB: HUNDRED CUBIC FEET)	CAPACITY
B	3/4″	50 HCF	$ 14,220.00
C	1″	80 HCF	$ 22,753.00
D	1.5″	130 HCF	$ 36,974.00
E	2″	300 HCF	$ 85,322.00
F	3″	600 HCF	$ 170,643.00
G	4″	1,000 HCF	$ 284,407.00

Sewer Capacity Fees

Fees for residential only - all other land use types will be calculated on a case by case basis.

EDU	LAND USE FACTOR	LIVING AREA (SQ FT)	EXPANSION	UPGRADE	TREATMENT	TOTAL
0.8	HOUSE	≤1,250	$ 11,899.00	$ 2,239.00	$ 951.00	$ 15,451.00
1.0	HOUSE	1,251 to 2,000	$ 14,874.00	$ 2,799.00	$ 1,188.00	$ 19,314.00
1.2	HOUSE	2,001 to 3,000	$ 17,849.00	$ 3,358.00	$ 1,425.00	$ 23,175.00
1.5	HOUSE	3,001 to 4,500	$ 22,310.00	$ 4,198.00	$ 1,783.00	$ 28,970.00
2.0	HOUSE	4,501 to 6,000	$ 29,748.00	$ 5,596.00	$ 2,377.00	$ 38,626.00

Water Capacity Notes

1. All materials other than the meter are to be provided and installed by a private contractor with an “A” license. Refer to RMWD Standard Drawing W-1.
2. Backflow preventor (R/P Device) requirement is determined by the District’s Cross Connection Control Technician.
3. For Capacity Class A, lot sizes must be less than 5,000 sq ft (0.11 acre) wit irrigation area less than 1,000 sq ft.
4. For Capacity Class B, lot sizes must be less than 21,780 sq ft (0.5 acre).
5. The total water capacity fee will include the applicable Market Cost for meter material, which will depend on the type of meter and the timing of purchase.

* All fees are nonrefundable and represent costs for services rendered and/or materials provided.

Sewer Capacity Notes

1. All Materials to be provided and installed by a private contractor with an “A” license. Refer to RMWD Standard Drawing S-8.
2. For all other land use factors see Exhibit 1 of Ord. 24-08.
3. Residences with more than 6,000 square feet will be calculated on a case by case basis.

Deposit Notes

▲ Project administration deposits cover District costs associated with inspection, meter installation, and administrative oversight. Deposit balances, if applicable, are eligible for refund upon completion of the one-year warranty period following project acceptance or after two (2) years of project inactivity, whichever occurs first.

✓ Projects involving the installation of more than five (5) meters shall be designated as Development Projects. A deposit shall be required for such projects, the amount of which shall be determined by the District at its sole discretion, based upon the anticipated scope, complexity, and resource demands of the project.

× Projects involving more than five (5) Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) shall require execution of a Sewer Service Agreement with the District. A deposit shall be required, the amount of which shall be determined by the District at its sole discretion, based upon the scope, complexity, and anticipated impact of the proposed development.

Deposits

PLAN REVIEW TYPE	COST PER SHEET
Single Commercial Lot	$1,400.00
Residential Lots (parcels < 5)	$1,400.00
Subdivision	$1,800.00
Commercial Development Center	$1,800.00
Apartment Complex	$1,800.00
County Project	$1,800.00
Right-of-Way	$1,000.00
As-Builts	$1,000.00
Cost Estimates	$1,000.00

EASEMENTS	
Legal Description	$1,500.00
Plat Map	$1,500.00
Grant of Deed	$1,500.00

PROJECT ADMINISTRATION ▲	
WATER ✓	
1 - 5 Meters	$4,000.00 per meter
Meter Relocations	$4,000.00 per relocation
Fire Hydrant/Appurtenances	$4,000.00 per fixture
SEWER ×	
1 - 5 EDUs	$4,000.00

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MISCELLANEOUS SERVICE FEES AND CHARGES

Rates Effective 7/1/2026

ITEM	FEE
New Account Set up	$23.00
Delinquency Rate	5% for first month, 1.5% thereafter
Returned Check	$32.00
Lien Processing	$77.00
Release of Lien	$77.00
Tax Roll Fee Unpaid Water/Sewer Charges	$103.00
Locked Meter Turn-on	$85.00
After Hours Turn-on	$254.00
Cut Padlock	$113.00
Fire Standby Charge (monthly)	$5.00
Bypass Meter (monthly)	$10.00

ITEM	CHARGE
Fire Service Only Meter	$10.00
Fire Flow Test	$450.00
Backflow Inspections (non-compliance)	$137.00
Damage to District Property	$500.00
Meter Obstruction	$350.00
METER TESTING CHARGE	
1″ or smaller	$158.00
1.5″ to 2″	$224.00
3″ to 6″	$461.00
SERVICE AVAILABILITY LETTERS	
Minor Subdivision	$160.00
Major Subdivision	$265.00

TYPE OF VIOLATION	FIRST VIOLATION	SECOND VIOLATION	THIRD & SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS
Meter Tampering/Unauthorized Reconnection ▲	$ 130.00	$ 700.00	$1,300.00
Water theft/Unauthorized Diversion ✓	$ 1,000.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 3,000.00
Unauthorized Fire Hydrant Use ×	$ 2,500.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 10,000.00

Violation Notes

▲ Based on Government Code Section 53069.45, which authorizes administrative fines for water theft, including actions to divert, tamper with, or reconnect water utility service. The hydrant category is based on the newer Government Code Section 53069.46, added by SB 394, which allows retail water agencies to adopt enhanced penalties for unauthorized fire hydrant connections, including use of a fire hydrant, hydrant meter, or fire detector check.

✓ Water Theft/Unauthorized Use Administrative Fine: $1,000 for a first violation, $2,000 for a second violation within 12 months, and $3,000 for a third or subsequent violation. This fine is in addition to the cost of water used, District labor, administrative costs, investigation costs, equipment damage, meter replacement, and any other costs incurred by the District.

× Unauthorized Fire Hydrant Use Administrative Fine: $2,500 for a first violation, $5,000 for a second violation, and $10,000 for a third or subsequent violation, in addition to all applicable cost recovery charges.

Stay Connected

Contact Customer Service: 760.728.1178
Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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3707 OLD HIGHWAY 395, FALLBROOK, CA 92028
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