



Upgrade Your Landscape Celebrate National Pollinator Month with Native California Plants

Pollinators are a vital part of food production to over 600 farms across San Diego County. These strong but mighty pollinators include bats, bees, birds, butterflies, and moths. Help keep pollinators in the local environment by planting native California plants in your yard.



Grow Your Landscape and Attract Pollinators

Design a yard with long-term water savings when you add California Friendly® and native plants. These non-invasive, easy to maintain plants use 75% less water than traditional turf lawns. The plants create an ideal environment to attract pollinators and add biodiversity. Get inspired and start your journey to create a native plant landscape with helpful information from the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Visit the CNPS website for gardening resources and more: CalScape.org

Landscape Rebates

Transform your landscape for less with rebates from the Waterscape Rebate Program. The program is offered by the County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program (WPP), which is dedicated to protecting our environment by preventing pollutants from entering local waterways. The Waterscape Rebate Program focuses on the installation of landscaping and water-wise features, to help save water, save money & beautify your home.

- Enhanced and new rebates are available for cisterns, native plants, rain gardens, rain barrels, septic pumping, trees, turf removal, and weather-based irrigation controllers.

Rebates are open to all residents, businesses, and agricultural producers living in Rainbow Water's service area and unincorporated areas of San Diego County. View rebates available and estimate your cost savings at:

SanDiegoCounty.gov/WatershedRebates

Photo above by Connie Hubbard, 2026 Garden Glow Best Landscape Contest nominee

Around the District Highlights from the General Manager: Biennial Budget Approval



The Fiscal Years 2026/27 and 2027/28 budgets were approved at the May Board of Directors meeting. Adoption of a two-year budget provides clarity to Rainbow Water's customers and will reduce staff time spent researching and producing the annual budget and allow more time to focus on other District projects and priorities. The two-year budget was made possible through multi-year water rates set by the water wholesalers Eastern Municipal Water District, and Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, which drive a large portion of the District's costs. The wholesaler rates allowed staff to evaluate those increases for incorporation into Rainbow Water's budget.

The biennial budget prioritizes infrastructure upgrades, in particular, buried pipeline and valve replacement projects, and includes a three-year staffing plan to gradually hire on a Capital Improvement construction crew. The intent of the plan is to accelerate the rate of replacement and rehabilitation of the District's aging infrastructure while reducing the need for costly third-party contractors.

Rate Increases for the Next Two Years

Rates Effective January 1, 2027

- Increase variable water rates by 5%
- Increase fixed rates by 2.9%

Rates Effective January 1, 2028

- Increase variable water rates by 5%
- Increase fixed rates by 3.8%

Wastewater Rates*

- Increase by 13% on July 1, 2026
- Increase by 13% on July 1, 2027

*The EDU fixed monthly charges were approved in 2023

There are over 1,600 bee species in California. Bees are a keystone species and contribute to over 30% of food pollination in California.



Throw it in the Organics Bin: From Yard Clippings to Food Scraps

EDCO's new Organics Recycling Program now allows residents to dispose of landscape waste (palm fronds and animal waste not included) with food scraps in the green organics bin, no bags needed. Learn more about organic recyclables and trash best practices at: tinyurl.com/Yrzuycv8



New Credit Card Processing Fees

Rainbow Water will start recovering the merchant costs for accepting credit cards and debit cards with a new 2.95% convenience fee for all online and in-person card payments. The new credit card fee policy was approved by the Board of Directors at their regular meeting on May 26. The fee will be collected directly from the payment processor to cover the merchant card fees and none of the revenue will go to Rainbow Water.

After the most recent budget analysis, the \$150,000 in annual credit card merchant fees were identified as a cost absorbed by all customers, not just those using credit cards. Rainbow Water's payment processor will now be passing on the credit card fees directly to customers who pay with credit and debit cards.

New fees will go into effect on August 3, 2026

- The fees do not apply to ACH payments, which remain as a no-fee option for customers.
- Fees apply to debit and credit card payments made through auto pay, by phone, online, and at the Rainbow Water office.

Contact Customer Service to update your billing information: Call 760-728-1178 or scan the code to update online.



Join the Rainbow Water Board of Directors Candidacy Filing Period Opens Summer 2026

Looking to serve your community and take a leadership role? Rainbow Water District has two board positions open in the November 2026 election. Candidates are elected officials representing five divisions and are selected by voters in the November general election for a four-year term. The November 3, 2026, ballot will include candidates for the Rainbow Water District's Board of Directors representing Divisions 3 and 4.

- Identify your division and search for your service address at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/What-division-am-i-in
- Candidacy materials will be available mid-July, with the nomination period extending to early August.

Customers interested in serving on the Board of Directors are invited to visit the County of San Diego Registrar of Voters for the latest information on how to file as a candidate, including filing deadlines. In-person services available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. by phone (858) 505-7260 or email CandidateFiling@SDCounty.ca.gov Review campaign filing information online: tinyurl.com/Tt8zu2n5

Revitalize Your Outdoor Space Free Virtual and Local Landscape Workshops

Want to learn tips and innovative ways to save water while beautifying your yard? Join Green Garden Creations and Metropolitan Water District for free online and in-person workshops.

California Friendly® and Native Plant Landscape Training

Saturday, July 25, 2026, 11:00 AM - 12:15 PM
Oceanside Public Library, 330 N Coast Hwy, Oceanside, 92054
Sign up for the local in-person class: tinyurl.com/5tr5z24k



More than a dozen *free workshops* are available this summer to support long-term water use efficiency. Visit the Rainbow Water website for the list of workshops and to reserve your spot: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Landscape-Workshops



California Aqueduct at Lake Skinner,
Temecula, CA



Rainbow Water Rundown May Board Meeting Highlights

Urban Water Management Plan: A public hearing was held to adopt the 2025 Urban Water Management Plan and Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The State requires the report to be updated every five years to support long-term resource planning.

Employee Memorandum of Understanding: Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between Rainbow Water District and the Confidential Employees and the Rainbow Employees' Association were approved. Both employee association MOU's are effective July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031.

Board Closed Session Meeting Time: The Board approved an amendment to the Administrative Code to reflect that closed sessions can be held prior to the 1:00 p.m. open regular meeting start time, at Rainbow Water's discretion.

Energy Saving Project Update: Opterra Energy Services provided an update regarding Rainbow Water's options and opportunities to invest in energy saving projects before a July tax credit deadline.

Join Our Public Meetings

Meetings are held in the Rainbow Water board room and via zoom on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. Agenda and online meeting information is available at: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Meetings



Board Meetings: June 23, July 28, August 18
Submit public comment in person or online: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Public-Comment

Committee Meetings

Informal meetings held on Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Rainbow Water board room

- Engineering & Operations: July 7, Aug 4
- Budget & Finance: July 14, Aug 11
- Communications & Customer Service: July 21

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