



2026 Student Poster Contest

Bonsall Elementary School Students Take Home Top Awards

Rainbow Water announced the winners of the 2026 Student Water Awareness Poster Contest at the Communications and Customer Service meeting in July. This year, the top fourth grade artists are all students from Bonsall Elementary School and include Lillian Hackbarth, Ada Rae Prechtel, and Sarai Chavarin.

Rainbow Water General Manager Jake Wiley recognized the fourth grade student artists for their outstanding artistic achievement and presented each artist with a custom-designed award with their poster and a bag of art supplies. The three student entries will advance to the regional contest, competing alongside 30 student entries in the 35th annual water poster contest hosted by North County Water Agencies (NCWA).

"We received over three dozen entries from students in our service area, and our team voted to select the winners in our service area," said Wiley. "This contest is a testament to our commitment to partner with our local schools to educate our youngest audience about the importance of using water wisely."

At the beginning of the year, Rainbow Water distributed poster contest entry forms to fourth grade classes at Bonsall Elementary and Vallecitos Elementary to invite students to create original artwork centered on the theme "Love Water, Save Water." The poster entries are collected and judged by Rainbow Water staff based on creativity, artistry, and the best expression of the theme. Three finalists are selected and submitted to NCWA's regional judging panel to determine the front cover and placement in the 2027 calendar. The calendar is designed by NCWA members and printed locally for distribution to all member agencies. The 2027 calendar will be available at the Rainbow Water headquarters in December 2026.



Lillian Hackbarth, first place



Ada Rae Prechtel, second place



Sarai Chavarin, third place

Around the District

Highlights from the General Manager

Protecting Your Water District: An Investment in Cybersecurity Resilience

In an environment where water and wastewater utilities nationwide are increasingly targeted by cyberattacks, including a wave of coordinated intrusions affecting utilities across multiple states this summer, Rainbow Water has taken proactive, sustained steps to protect the systems that deliver safe, reliable water to our customers. Rainbow Water secured outside funding through the federal State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program to perform a comprehensive cybersecurity maturity assessment of information technology and operational technology environments, benchmarked against the NIST Cybersecurity Framework 2.0. The assessment has directly informed a formal set of security policies and controls that are guiding how Rainbow Water strategically protects its networks, systems, and the data entrusted to us by the community.

Beyond assessment and policy, Rainbow Water maintains active, around-the-clock cybersecurity defenses to proactively identify and close security gaps before they can be exploited. In the past year, Rainbow Water began incorporating artificial intelligence into its cybersecurity operations. Adoption of AI-driven tools has increased proficiency in detecting anomalies, accelerating scanning for sensitive and regulated data across District systems, and enhancing the ability to identify threats at machine speed. Overseen by the District's Cybersecurity Steering Committee, these efforts reflect Rainbow Water's commitment to safeguarding critical water infrastructure and strengthening resilience to an evolving threat landscape. These improvements ensure the integrity of the water supply to our community while upholding the confidence of our customers.



Fall Blood Drive & Living Kidney Donor Match Program Screening

Blood Donors Receive a Complimentary Ticket to SeaWorld Howl-O-Scream



Next month we continue our partnership with San Diego Blood Bank by hosting the fall mobile blood drive to replenish the local blood supply. The semi-annual blood drive will have the added component of online screenings with Scripps Living Kidney Donor Program. Learn about the process of becoming a living donor and help us take one step closer to finding a kidney donor for a long-time Rainbow Water team member.

Summer is one of the most challenging times of the year for blood donation, and San Diego Blood Bank needs your help to replenish the supply.

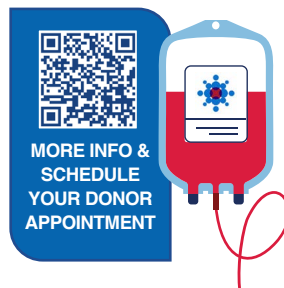
Join Us for the Fall Blood Drive

Date: Thursday, September 24, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Rainbow Water District Parking Lot
3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook, CA 92028

Complimentary Gifts: Donors receive a SeaWorld Howl-O-Scream ticket, Rainbow Water reusable water bottle, and tote bag.



Every Donation Makes a Difference for Local Patients. Schedule your appointment online and read more information on the Rainbow Water website: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/Blood-Drive

Summer Art Supply Drive

Make a Difference and Donate Supplies for the Boys & Girls Clubs of North County

Rainbow Water is proud to partner with the Boys and Girls Clubs of North County and serve as a donation site for the Summer Art Supply Drive. All donations will go directly to students enrolled in summer camps and year-round after-school programs in our service area.

Donate Art Supplies

The Boys and Girls Clubs is actively seeking donations of new art supplies, including: crayons, colored pencils, construction paper, drawing books, erasers, general craft supplies, glue sticks, markers, paint, paint brushes, poster board, scissors, sidewalk chalk, and more.



Drop-Off Location

From now through September 4, bring new art supplies to: Rainbow Water Headquarters
3707 Old Highway 395, Fallbrook
Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

For more information, visit the Rainbow Water website: rainbowmwd.ca.gov/BGC-donations



New Credit Card Fees

As we begin the new 2027 fiscal year, Rainbow Water is rolling out new fees to recover costs associated with credit card transactions. Rainbow Water is now recovering merchant costs for accepting credit and debit cards with a **new 2.95% convenience fee for all online and in-person card payments**. 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.

The decision to implement fees was approved by the board at the May meeting after a budget analysis identified the \$150,000 in annual credit card fees were absorbed by all customers rather than only card users. To ensure credit card fees are only paid by customers who use them, Rainbow Water's payment processor is adding the credit card fees directly to customers who pay with credit and debit cards.

What to Know

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

How to Update Your Billing Information

- To update your billing information, contact Customer Service by phone during office hours.
- Have your bank routing and account number information available to update billing.
- You can request to be enrolled in auto-bill payment and receive digital bills via email.

Call Customer Service to Update Your Billing Information at 760-728-1178

District Public Meetings

How to Participate

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

Board Meetings

Sept 22, Oct 27, Nov 17, Dec 15

Committee Meetings

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

- Engineering & Operations: Sept 1, Oct 6
- Budget & Finance: Sept 11, Oct 13
- Communications & Customer Service: Sept 15

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