



RCWD News Release

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT
42135 WINCHESTER ROAD / P.O. BOX 9017
TEMECULA, CA 92589-9017
(951) 296-6922 OR (951) 296-6877 FAX

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CONTACT: Meggan Valencia
951-296-6922 (office)
951-526-6961 (mobile)
ValenciaM@RanchoWater.com

SUBJECT: *Agricultural Customers Could Receive Project Funding from Rancho California Water District*

Temecula, CA June 30, 2016 –

Rancho California Water District (RCWD/District) was awarded a \$1,000,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). The grant was awarded through the Bureau's Agricultural Water Conservation and Efficiency Grants offering for implementation of an Agricultural Crop Conversion Program (Program). The goal of the Program is to help sustain local agricultural by providing financial incentives to the District's agricultural customers for converting high water use crops to lower water varieties. This will reduce pressure on water supplies.

The District collaborated with local farm managers to develop the framework for the Program, and to estimate water savings that would result from its implementation. The District anticipates the types of crop conversions most likely to result from the Program to be: avocado to winegrape conversions, citrus to winegrape conversions, and avocado to citrus conversions.

The District is in the process of applying for \$2,000,000 in additional grant funding through the Department of Water Resources to expand the Program. If

successful in acquiring this additional funding, 3,960 acre feet of water could be saved over a ten year period (enough water to serve 7,920 households). “Agriculture is an important part of our community and Rancho Water continues to partner with the industry”, said Jeff Armstrong, RCWD General Manager. “This program will save water and will give local agricultural customers some sustainable options.”

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Formed in 1965, Rancho California Water District supplies an area consisting of approximately 150 square miles. The District serves the area known as Temecula/Rancho California, which includes the City of Temecula, parts of Murrieta, and other contiguous lands. The District is separated into two divisions: the Santa Rosa Division generally west of I-15 and Rancho Division generally east of I-15. The District currently provides sewer service to the Cal Oaks and Bear Creek areas.

“The mission of the Rancho California Water District is to deliver reliable, high-quality water, wastewater and reclamation services to its customers and communities in a prudent and sustainable manner.”