

WaterNews

RANCHO CALIFORNIA WATER DISTRICT



Water Supply Reliability

Rancho California Water District's (RCWD/District) Board of Directors is committed to ensure water supply reliability for the future. Although water seems limitless and is for the most part taken for granted, it is not an absolute certainty that it will always be available. RCWD analyzes a number of factors that will affect the future water supply reliability including: growth, climate change, environmental conflicts, and aging infrastructure.



Currently, approximately 70% of RCWD's water supply is imported water, purchased through Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. Imported water comes from the State Water Project and the Colorado River. The State Water Project includes some 22 dams and reservoirs, a Delta pumping plant, a 444 mile-long aqueduct that carries water from Northern California's Sacramento- San Joaquin River Delta to Southern California. The project begins at Oroville Dam on the Feather River and ends at Lake Perris near Riverside. The 1,440 mile-long Colorado River passes through parts of seven states, several Indian reservations, and the Republic of Mexico. Supplies from the Colorado River are transported through the Colorado River Aqueduct to Southern California ending at Lake Matthews near Corona. Approximately 25% of RCWD's water supply comes from groundwater. Groundwater is the part of rain water and other runoff that seeps down through the soil until it reaches porous sand and rock formations that have the ability to store water underground. When water-bearing formations readily transmit water to wells and springs, they are called aquifers. RCWD currently has 44 active production wells. The District takes many actions in order to ensure water supply reliability in the future, including using recycled water for the remaining 5% of RCWD's water supply. Currently, RCWD is working on a Salinity Management Plan, an Integrated Regional Water Management Plan, and continues to promote water use efficiency. All of these projects will help ensure water supply reliability.

WAS YOUR HOME BUILT BEFORE 1993?

If so, RCWD would like to invite you to participate in our High-Efficiency Toilet Voucher Program. This voucher program entitles you to receive one free high-efficiency toilet when one is purchased at full price. The Niagara Stealth toilet, valued at \$164.76 (including tax), uses only 0.8 gallons of water per flush and is supplied through our partner, Ferguson Enterprises. We want to make replacing your current, water-wasting toilets with a more efficient model as easy as possible.

For more information or to apply for a voucher, please visit our website, www.ranchowater.com, have your account number ready and, once approved, your voucher will be mailed to you. For further help, you can call RCWD at (951) 296-6900.



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Congratulations to Rancho California Water District for taking First Place in the Floats/ Commercial category of the Temecula Electric Light Parade again this year!



Water - Saving Tip

With cooler weather upon us, it's a good time to check your irrigation system every couple of weeks for broken or misaligned sprinklerheads and drip emitters. Also check lawn sprinklers for damage after mowing. This can save a significant amount of water and keep your landscape looking great!

RCWD Recognizes Employees Years of Service

At the RCWD Board Meeting on Thursday, October 11th, five employees were recognized for twenty-five years of continuous service to the District.

The Board recognized Hilda Bojorquez, Mike Calvert, Richard Hall, Denise Todd, and Sheri Todd for their twenty-five years of service. "These five employees decided to make Rancho California Water District not just their job, but their career. The organization is fortunate to have dedicated, hard-working employees and it is the employees that make the District one of the top water Districts in Southern California," said former RCWD Board President John Hoagland.

When they joined RCWD in 1987, the Temecula valley area was experiencing significant growth and change. At that time, the District had 6,053 service connections. Twenty-five years later, there are over 44,000 connections serving 140,000 people. The District has made many improvements and changes over the years in order to provide the best possible customer service, while incorporating new technology, equipment, and implementing new water quality standards and safety regulations. Through the dedication of its long-term staff, RCWD has been able to accomplish those changes.



Board of Directors Elects New Officers

New Officers were elected for the 2013 calendar year at the Board of Directors meeting in December. Senior Vice President, Bennett Drake was elected President and Vice President Stephen Corona was elected Senior Vice President. The Directors' new positions took effect on January 1, 2013. Drake was elected to RCWD's Board in September 2001, with successive re-elections in 2005 and 2009. His current term expires in December 2013. Corona was also elected to RCWD's Board in September 2001, with successive re-elections in 2005 and 2009. His current term expires in December 2013.

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Santa Margarita River Clean Up and Tree Planting Event

On December 7th, approximately 40 participants met at the Temecula Gorge, which is at the confluence of Murrieta Creek and Temecula Creek, to remove trash from in and around the waterway. The group filled up several bags of trash as part of the clean-up. They also planted 30 Coastal Oak trees near the bank of the river.

The Santa Margarita River is an important water and ecological resource in the region, hosting a myriad of wildlife species and serving as an important component of the water supply for the Camp Pendelton Marine Base.

Water rights, water quality planning, wildlife, and environmental concerns associated with the Santa Margarita River were discussed in a seminar prior to the clean-up at the District headquarters in association with the American Bar Association, the Association of California Water Agencies, and law firm Rutan & Tucker, LLP.

“The seminar and field activities were an unqualified success and will serve to help facilitate communication and coordination among the various stakeholders represented at the event,” said Richard Williamson, RCWD Assistant General Manager.

Jeremy Jungreis, an attorney with Rutan & Tucker, and the overall coordinator for the event, provided a similarly positive assessment. “This successful event demonstrates the potential for attorneys, public agency officials, environmentalists, and regulators to work together in finding solutions for shared Southern California watersheds. It isn’t always easy to solve water disputes, but working together on projects like this helps all sides to better understand the big picture. This was a great project.”

EarthCapades Theater Program

In keeping up with our Water Education goals, RCWD is proud to report the success of a recent School Assembly Theater Program. This program, presented by EarthCapades, was offered as a complimentary environmental assembly to schools within RCWD’s service area. Over 4,600 students were reached, ranging in age from kindergarten to fifth grade. The “H2O Show” uses an interactive and fun approach that blends comedy, music, juggling, storytelling, and theatrics to teach students how everything is connected through water. The show also educates students about water resources and conservation while using California State Science Standards content to reinforce learning for STAR testing.

Results from a survey of the participating schools showed that EarthCapades did an excellent job of evoking “humor and active participation,” while “balancing the involvement of the students with learning the message.” Much praise also went to the performers with one teacher saying the “kids were engaged and interested in following along with his many suggestions for conserving water.” Another teacher noted that the high energy that EarthCapades performs with “had [the] children’s attention and they were able to retain the information.” One more round of shows will begin in March and more students will have the opportunity to experience this great educational tool and learn to always use water wisely.





Rancho California Water District

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7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,

Monday – Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Friday

Board of Directors

Ben R. Drake, President

Stephen J. Corona, Sr. Vice President

Lisa D. Herman, Vice President

John E. Hoagland, Vice President

William E. Plummer, Vice President

Roland C. Skumawitz, Vice President

James F. Stewart, Vice President

District Administrative Officers

Matthew G. Stone,
General Manager

Richard S. Williamson,
Assistant General Manager

Jeffrey D. Armstrong,
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

N. Craig Elitharp,
Director of Operations and
Maintenance

Andrew L. Webster,
Chief Engineer

Kelli E. Garcia, District Secretary

The Board of Directors meets regularly on the second Thursday of every month at 8:30 a.m. at the District Headquarters. The public is welcome to attend.

WaterNews is published quarterly to inform District customers about issues concerning water. Your questions or comments are welcome.

Meggan Valencia WaterNews Editor

New Website Coming Soon

RCWD will soon have a new website for your use!! www.RanchoWater.com will have a new look and will be customer friendly. Customers will continue to be able to logon and see and pay their bill. The website contains information for all customer classes (agricultural, commercial, residential), has water use efficiency information, and much more. A new feature on the website is "Notify Me." If you would like to be notified when the District is going to have a meeting or event, has bid openings, job openings, or a new newsletter you can sign up and you will be automatically alerted. We hope you visit us soon at www.RanchoWater.com.

Win a Gift Card!

RCWD is conducting a customer survey to learn customers' opinions on water quality, water rates, water use efficiency, and water supply reliability. The survey is only 10 questions long and should not take more than 10 minutes to complete. Everyone who participates in the survey is entered in a drawing for a chance to win a Lowe's gift card. Please visit our website, www.RanchoWater.com, and click on the "Lowe's" button to take the survey. Good Luck!

Email Addresses

Do you like receiving information from Rancho Water? We want to keep everyone informed, therefore we are in the process of collecting email addresses. One of the fastest ways for RCWD to get information to you is through an email, therefore if we currently don't have your email address on file, please call the District and let us add this to your profile. We will only use this to send you information about the District.

Inland Empire Garden Friendly Plant Sale

Home Depot will be having garden friendly plant sales coming to a location near you soon. The sales are from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Visit www.iegardenfriendly.com for more information.

- February 23: Lemon Grove, Oceanside
- March 2: San Diego, Chula Vista, Carson
- March 16: Encinitas, Lake Forest, San Diego
- March 23: 32020 Temecula Parkway, Temecula, Victorville, Barstow, Apple Valley
- April 6: El Cajon, Mira Mesa, Tustin
- April 13: 25100 Madison Avenue, Murrieta, Redlands, Ingelwood
- April 20: Upland, Eastvale, Excondito
- April 27: Hemet, N. Corona
- May 4: N. Moreno Valley, Chino
- June 1: Hawthorne, Perris
- June 8: N. Upland, Yucca Valley

