The Rainbow Municipal Water District (MWD) provides potable water and wastewater collection services within portions of the unincorporated north county communities of Bonsall, Fallbrook, Pala, and Rainbow. The District was formed in 1953 to provide water and wastewater collection services within approximately 80 square miles of a predominately rural and agricultural area.

The Rainbow MWD is a member of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and imported water purchased from the SDCWA is the District’s sole water source. The MWD annually purchases approximately 20,000 acre feet of water to distribute to 7,300 metered connections.

The Rainbow MWD serves a relatively rural area; however, district wastewater collection services are provided in limited areas. Wastewater collected in the MWD is transported to the City of Oceanside’s San Luis Rey Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) for treatment and disposal through the Oceanside outfall. The District contracts for 1 million gallons per day (mgd) of capacity within the WPCF.

The Rainbow MWD is governed by a five-member Board of Directors that is elected from geographic divisions of the District.

LAFCO approved a sphere-of-influence for the Rainbow MWD in 1984 that was smaller than the district boundary. However, research completed in 2012 revealed that the sphere was based on a mapping error, which included a parcel in the District that had been detached but remained in the tax rate area due to bonded debt. Thus, the sphere was designated as coterminous.

In 2003, a Special Study Area designation was placed on approximately 162 acres located in the Interstate 15 and Old Highway 395 corridor.

In 2014, a sphere amendment added a total of 852 acres consisting of: 327 acres, which constitutes the non-contiguous portion of the San Luis Rey MWD;

the 429-acre Warner Property and a small segment of Pala Road located on its south side; and three non-contiguous parcels totaling 96 acres that are between San Luis Rey and Rainbow MWDs. The Special Study Area was resolved when Rainbow MWD’s territory located east of I-15 was placed in Valley Center MWD’s sphere and Valley Center MWD territory located west of I-15 was added to Rainbow MWD’s sphere.

Update 5/7/14