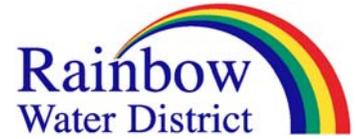


RAINBOW WATER AND FIRE DISTRICT COMMUNITY MEETING



Where: Briggs Middle School, 2355 Yolanda Avenue, Springfield

When: August 9, 2012 from 7:00-8:30 pm

Why: Meet the volunteer officials and staff employees who manage and operate the district for you, and hear a presentation and ask questions about a proposal to install "smart" water meters.

WHAT WE ARE PROPOSING

The district has utilized technology in many ways, but we are outdated when it comes to reading our water meters. Every month, staff must drive and walk around the entire district, physically looking at the odometer-style display on the water meter and recording the numbers with pencil and paper. The meter reading information is then returned to the office and typed into the computer to generate the monthly water bills.

We are looking at two possible upgrades to this process:

- **Upgrade #1** would consist of modifying our computer software and purchasing electronic data recorders. Field staff would still have to walk up to every water meter and read the display on your meter, but they would enter numbers into an electronic recorder that would give instant feedback if it appeared the numbers did not make sense. The recording device could then be downloaded into the computer at the office, eliminating the need to enter the numbers a second time, saving staff time and reducing the opportunity for data entry errors. The project will pay for itself in labor savings.
- **Upgrade #2** requires the installation of low power radio transmitters in the meter box in each customer's yard. Staff would still drive and walk through the neighborhoods, looking for signs of leaks and answering customer questions, but the electronic recorder would receive the meter reading signal directly from the device, significantly reducing data entry time and further reducing the potential for errors that require a second visit to confirm the reading. In addition, since the electronic monitors record usage several times per hour, when the data is downloaded once per month the computer would detect abnormal usage patterns and help alert us to a possible leak. When we purchase our electronic data recorders, we have an opportunity to buy enough discounted transmitters to upgrade 10% of the district. We would install them at the most time consuming locations, allowing us to try the technology while gaining immediate benefit. If we decided to outfit the entire system with the new technology, we would likely choose to take 5-10 years to budget for and upgrade a portion of the system each year as part of our regular meter replacement program.

Critics of smart meters are primarily concerned about a loss of privacy and the health impacts of adding more radio waves to our environment. We believe this is directed more at electric smart meters that attach to the house and track when and how much electricity is used, but some of the concerns may apply to water meters as well. At this meeting we intend to tell the public what we are thinking, offer a presentation about this technology from staff and equipment suppliers, and allow time for discussion and questions from the audience. We desire to hear from our customers before we finalize a decision. Please join us!

COMMUNITY MEETING AGENDA

7:00 pm	Refreshments and Introductions
7:15 pm	Smart Meter Project Presentation
7:45 pm	Smart Meter Questions and Answers
8:00 pm	Discuss District Goals, Other Questions and Answers
8:30 pm	Adjourn

ABOUT THE DISTRICT

The Rainbow Water and Fire District Board of Commissioners consists of five district residents elected to serve four year terms. Rainbow's Budget Committee is made up of the five commissioners plus five additional district residents that are appointed by the board to serve three year terms. We have a staff of six that takes care of the office administration and daily operations and maintenance activities.