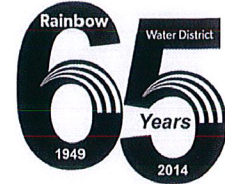


**June 2016**

It seems like just yesterday that Rainbow Water District was celebrating our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, but that milestone was already two years ago. Wikipedia defines time as the “indefinite continued progression of existence and events that occur in apparently irreversible succession from the past through the present to the future.”



While some Hollywood movies tell interesting stories about travel “back in time” to change the future, we don’t have that technology available to help us maintain our water system. Most of our system is made of metal, and metal corrodes and develops leaks. Screens clog and pumps wear out, so well capacity diminishes over time. The “fix” usually involves replacing a pump or a section of pipe with a brand new item. The fixes get tougher when we have to replace large sections of buried piping or expensive wells, or install treatment equipment to bring the water to a higher level of purity. With the age of our system, we are starting to face these challenges.



In the last year we hired a well driller to repair a failed screen, although our 46-year old well now supplies less water than it used to. We refurbished two other wells, cleaning screens and replacing worn parts, and we are finishing renovations of a third well. We drilled one new well and are waiting on permits to install a pump and piping to connect it to the rest of our system.

The water coming from our wells is naturally filtered by sand and gravel, and we do not usually need any other treatment except adding a low dose of chlorine to disinfect against bacteria. We



have learned, however, that at high river levels it is possible for some surface water to take a shortcut into one of our shallower wells, and chlorine alone is not sufficient to treat against the microorganisms that could be present in the water. This well has not been operated since we discovered the problem, and we have hired engineers to design a treatment system for this well. As part of this wellfield upgrade we will replace some of our oldest piping, add backup power capability, and gain the ability to filter up to 1.4 million gallons of water per day.



**RWDonline.net**

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The Rainbow Water District Budget Committee and Board of Commissioners met over the last three months to wrestle with our budget and balance income versus expenditures to allow us to proceed with our list of important projects. Effective with the water bills mailed in June 2016, the average bill will go up by \$3.55 per month. The average Rainbow customer uses about 11 units (1 unit = 748 gallons) of water per month. The average bill consists of a base charge plus a usage charge for the quantity that is used. Our base rate (for a typical ¾" meter) is rising from \$15.00 to \$18.00, and our usage rate is rising from \$1.05 to \$1.10 per unit.

We began this letter by talking about the passage of time. As humans, we think in terms of generations and how we leave a legacy for those who follow after us. We think about that a lot. We are sympathetic to how higher water bills impact your home budget, but we thank you for working and supporting us as we invest in your water system for the next generation!

**You can find us on the web at [www.RWDonline.net](http://www.RWDonline.net) and you can link from the website to our Facebook account. (Don't confuse us with Rainbow Municipal Water District near San Diego.)**

Sincerely,

Jamie Porter  
Superintendent

Our **2015 Annual Water Quality Report** is available online this year and will not be mailed. You may view a copy through the link under our website's Water Quality menu, or enter this URL:  
**[www.rwdonline.net/2015RainbowReport.pdf](http://www.rwdonline.net/2015RainbowReport.pdf)**

***A special note about lead in drinking water:***

Lead in drinking water is mainly from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Rainbow is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but we cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 1-2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead) or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

Because of concerns in surrounding communities, we want you to know that the Springfield School District (SSD), out of an abundance of caution, has contracted with an independent outside contractor to conduct a comprehensive water testing program. Previous water testing conducted at SSD facilities in 2002 met all regulatory requirements. Of course, SUB and Rainbow stand ready to support if needed.