



Our Region's Trusted Water Leader  
**San Diego County Water Authority**

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## News Release

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### **Board Supports Countywide Vote on Potential Member Agency Detachment**

*Regional electorate should weigh in on plans by Fallbrook and Rainbow water agencies*

The San Diego County Water Authority's Board of Directors last week authorized actions to seek to ensure all San Diego County voters are heard on plans by the Rainbow and Fallbrook water agencies to leave the regional water wholesaler and instead join a Riverside County water agency.

The Board of Directors approved a resolution to ask the San Diego Local Agency Formation Commission – known as San Diego LAFCO – to require approval by voters across the Water Authority's service area of any proposed "detachment" by the Rainbow Municipal Water District and the Fallbrook Public Utility District from the Water Authority. Detachment from the Water Authority has potential impacts for water agencies, fire districts and water ratepayers across San Diego County.

The Board's action is consistent with the idea shared by LAFCO Commissioner Dianne Jacob at the San Diego LAFCO meeting on October 7, 2019, that voters in the Water Authority's entire 24-member agency service area have an opportunity to be heard and vote on any detachment.

Fallbrook and Rainbow have stated their intentions to leave the Water Authority, but they have not yet filed applications with San Diego LAFCO, which would manage the multi-step process and could deny the requests or approve them on specified terms and conditions, including a vote by the San Diego County electorate.

To date, the agencies have made public a general proposal, but have not explained how detachment would affect water supply reliability, rates or infrastructure for the Water Authority and each of its 24 member agencies, including Fallbrook and Rainbow customers. The Water Authority has asked the agencies to provide this information and discuss their plans with all affected parties before applying for detachment, as required by LAFCO rules and procedures.

The Water Authority's Board has taken no position on the detachment, and stands ready to provide all information requested by San Diego LAFCO. The Water Authority wants to ensure an opportunity for full participation by all affected parties.

Correspondence and reports related to detachment are at [www.sdcwa.org/lafco-detachment](http://www.sdcwa.org/lafco-detachment).

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*The San Diego County Water Authority sustains a \$231 billion regional economy and the quality of life for 3.3 million residents through a multi-decade water supply diversification plan, major infrastructure investments and forward-thinking policies that promote fiscal and environmental responsibility. A public agency created in 1944, the Water Authority delivers wholesale water supplies to 24 retail water providers, including cities, special districts and a military base.*



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