

**From:** Greg Thomas

**Sent:** Thursday, July 6, 2023 4:07 PM

**To:** Simonds,Keene <[Keene.Simonds@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:Keene.Simonds@sdcounty.ca.gov)>

**Subject:** [External] Rainbow MWD/Fallbrook PUD Detachment - Support

Dear Mr. Simonds,

I write to support the detachment of Rainbow MWD and Fallbrook PUD from the San Diego County Water Authority and concur with LAFCO staff's recommendations. Please let the LAFCO commissioners know to register a support for detachment and not delay the vote any longer.

The straw that broke the back on responding is the most recent lies being spread in an email by the Chair of SDCWA and the \$200M costs this will cause to all of San Diego. The reality is it's not even close or will impact the rest of the county and SDCWA service area, and the two agencies will be paying a reasonable "divorce" fee for their detachment. Seriously, \$4.8M a year for 5 years is \$24M, which is a significant hit to a small agency budget and potentially rates, of which many are low-income customers! We already know the agricultural business community has been reduced in size due to water rates. The other reality is they barely use the SDCWA system, as many of the northern SD county agencies don't, as well as the amount they take in total acre-foot (AF) barely makes a dent in SDCWA totals.

The real question all of San Diego County and the cities in the county should be asking is what is it going to cost them as the City of San Diego and a few other agencies roll off the SDCWA system and Metropolitan Water District as they pursue their own pure water programs? This will force agencies such as Rincon and others who are 100% reliant on imported water to absorb a significantly higher cost, since the City of SD and others will say they don't need to pay for imported water, so the costs will go against those still taking from the SDCWA system. Maybe LAFCO should look into how the costs are going to be spread out in the future to those 100% reliant on imported water and SDCWA, as well as a re-determination of voting weights of SDCWA member agencies should be assessed if agencies like City of SD are buying 50% less water in the future.

Sincerely,

Greg Thomas