

San Diego County “Transitional Special

Agricultural Water Rate” (TSAWR)

* Established by contract with the San Diego County Water Authority.
* Provides farmers with a lower water rate than municipal customers ($212 savings per acre foot). Participants are exempt from paying storage and other charges from the SDCWA that fund programs intended for droughts and emergencies (Imperial Irrigation District Transfer, Carlsbad Desalination Plant).
* TSAWR customers are locked into the program during drought reductions, and are the first water users to be cut back.
* Enrollment in the program carries over to the new owner if a property is sold.
* If a property in the TSAWR program is subdivided during a drought, the allocation for the original property is divided amongst the new parcels.
* Districts with TSAWR customers receive a credit from the SDCWA to cover the cost of the negotiated rate.
* TSAWR cutbacks depend on the water reduction the SDCWA receives from Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD). The most recent cutback occurred in fiscal year 2016 (15% reduction in historic use during fiscal year 2014, structured as a month by month allocation for the period of July 2015-Jun 2016)
* TSAWR programs require that a property meet certain criteria; acreage requirements, proof of revenue from the agricultural operation, an approved backflow device, and potential site inspections.
* Districts who fail to meet cutbacks set by the SDCWA may be subject to penalties/fines.
* The program is currently in good standing through December 31st, 2020.
* When drought restrictions are removed, TSAWR customers can opt out of the program or re-enroll if the account was enrolled during the 2008 certification.
* For the local avocado industry, the TSAWR program provides an estimated annual savings of $11.2 million dollars for its participants.

*For more information, follow meetings, social media and press releases from the following organizations:*

* Fallbrook Public Utility District ([www.fpud.com](http://www.fpud.com) )
* San Diego County Water Authority ([www.sdcwa.org](http://www.sdcwa.org) )
* San Diego Farm Bureau ([www.sdfarmbureau.org](http://www.sdfarmbureau.org) )
* MWD of Southern California ([www.mwdh2o.com](http://www.mwdh2o.com) )
* State Water Resources Control Board ([www.swrcb.ca.gov](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov) )

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