



A Monthly Newsletter

April 2022

Serving the Community

“Your Independent Local Government Agency Providing Water, Wastewater, Drainage, Security and Solid Waste Services”

District Meeting Schedule For April 2022

Board Meeting Will Be Held In the Board Room

March 28, 2022

Special Board Meeting—Reserves @2:00 p/m

March 30, 2022

Special Board Meeting—Budget @2:00 p.m.

April 20, 2022

District Board Meeting @ 5:00 p.m.

Committee Meetings Will Be Held Via ZOOM

April 5, 2022

Personnel-7:30 a.m.
Improvements @ 8:00
Finance @ 10:00 a.m.

April 7, 2022

Communications & Technology @ 8:30 a.m.
Security @ 10:00 a.m.

The public is invited to attend.

All meeting dates and times are subject to change. Be sure to check our website, www.rmcsd.com for any changes

BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

673 Registered Voters in RM Respond to Security Opinion Poll

Rancho Murieta is unique in that it is the only Special District in California to provide 24-hour security by an internal Security Department as opposed to Security being outsourced. Over the last few months, the District has worked with True North Consulting to survey residents, organizations and businesses to evaluate opinions for how the Security Department is funded and operated. Security services provided by this internal department at Rancho Murieta are primarily funded by the Measure J Special Tax, as approved by the voters in 1998.

When the voters approved, Measure J, they established methods for setting monthly security services rates for commercial, residential, and undeveloped properties. Measure J provided funding for two (2) Gate Officers and one (1) Patrol Officer working 24/7/365. Initially, the voter approved rates provided sufficient funds to support the twenty-four hour per day operations. During the first few years, rates were set lower than the rate established by Measure J. Approximately ten years later, the rates needed to increase to keep up with the rising costs. As the years progressed, costs caught up and then surpassed the available rate increases. For fiscal year 2021-22 (July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022), the District allocated sixty-five percent (65%) of general purpose property tax revenue to support Security services.

Given these circumstances, a representative Security Opinion Poll survey has been conducted to provide a quantitative assessment of the views, priorities, and perceptions of this issue among the Rancho Murieta community. We are presenting the results to the Finance Committee, which is chaired by Director’s John Merchant and Martin Pohll, on April 5, 2022. The results of the survey will inform District leadership whether sufficient support exists among Rancho Murieta voters for a vote on a new parcel tax for security and if so, what sort of measure is likely to generate the broadest consensus considering such factors as tax rate, the level of services provided, and the outlook for security services. If recommended by the Finance Committee, the survey will be discussed at the Regular Board meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 20th.

WATER SHUTOFFS FEBRUARY 2022

We will be initiating the Water Shutoff process effective February 28, 2022. The District’s goal is bring all of our outstanding accounts current to prevent potential water lock-offs. We have been actively contacting residents to encourage bringing their accounts current or entering into a payment installment agreement. We understand there may be extenuating circumstances and we want to work with you. If your account is delinquent and you are unable to bring your account current immediately, we ask that you contact us as soon as possible to



GM CORNER

EDIBLE FOOD RECOVERY IN CALIFORNIA

As part of our continued partnership with the Community of Rancho Murieta, Cal-Waste wants to share some information regarding solid waste mandates and programs and their effects on services in your community.

California Senate Bill 1383 (Short Lived Climate Pollutants Act) has made headlines in the past year with its requirements surrounding the collection of food waste for both businesses and residents. The lesser discussed component of the bill is the recovery of edible food so that it can be distributed to people in need. The legislation states that by 2025, California must recover 20% of the edible food that would otherwise be sent to landfills, for people in need.

According to CalRecycle, “Californians send 11.2 billion pounds of food to landfills each year, some of which was still fresh enough to have been recovered to feed people in need.” While most grocery store franchises have systems in place that provide this excess food to food banks, soup kitchens, and other food recovery organizations, there is still a need to get commercial food generators to buy into these same programs as well. Starting this year, restaurants, caterers, lodging centers, campuses, and other business entities that generate food will have to adopt practices to deliver their excess edible food to food recovery organizations, such as those noted above.

Similar to the other components of SB 1383, this edible food recovery target comes with a lack of developed infrastructure. The bill directs three main components to achieve the reduction target:

1. Jurisdictions must establish food recovery programs and strengthen their existing food recovery networks
2. Food donors must arrange to recover the maximum amount of their edible food that would otherwise go to landfills
3. Food recovery organizations and services that participate in SB 1383 must maintain records

In regard to the third component, it is already commonplace for food recovery organizations to maintain records of donations, but that’s the only component that currently has a system in place.

The first component adds a layer of oversight to these systems. While it’s not currently clear, it is likely that jurisdictions will have to oversee food recovery and donations within their domain (city limits, county lines, district boundaries, etc.) The second component, also not clear at the moment, will likely require more businesses to participate in the food recovery process than previously have. Historically, businesses may have voluntarily donated excess food, but this bill makes it a requirement going forward. As SB 1383 ramps up, Californians can expect edible food recovery to be another new recycling norm in an effort to reduce Green House Gases and divert organics from landfills.

Employee Spotlight – Heather Pedro — Operator In Training

Heather Pedro joined the District February 14, 2022, as our new Operator in Training. We were thrilled to welcome her! Heather is a positive addition to the team, and will be assisting in operating the Water Treatment Plant, learning the how to repair pipes and equipment, and learning how the system operates. She is excited about a career in water treatment, and has taken some college classes to prepare herself for the work. Heather has 4 horses, one of whom is a wild mustang that she rescued. If she wasn't dedicated to keeping the water safe to drink for the Residents of Rancho Murieta, she would be training horses. Welcome Heather!!



SUMMER IS SNAKE SEASON

It’s summer, which is the time rattlesnakes are looking for cozy places to “hang out”. If you are working in your garden or landscape, be especially watchful. Also, if you are walking your dog, be sure it is on a leash and not off “investigating” sights and sounds where it can be bitten.

Reminder: snakes are great swimmers, so be careful when you swim in the river or lakes.



Board of Directors

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Martin Pohll
Director
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BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Friday—Closed

DISTRICT STAFF

Tom Hennig

General Manager

thennig@rmcsd.com

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Ron Greenfield

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March 16, 2022 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Adopted Resolution R2022-03 Calling for General District Election
- Approved Engineering Services Contract with HDR for Water Treatment Facility Chlorine Gas to Hypochlorite Conversion Project
- Adopted Resolution R2022-05 authorizing District Application for Cal-Recycle Grant
- Adopted Resolution R2022-06 allocating \$30,000 to Support RMA’s efforts to mitigate the Midge Flies in Laguna Joaquin

FEBRUARY 2022 COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Improvements Committee

- Discussed Potential Agreement with CalCAD Geographical System Agreement
- Evaluated Responses to Sodium Hypochlorite Design Services

Security Committee

- Discussed ABDi Continental Software/Hardware Upgrade Schedule
- Discussed Improved Traffic Flows at the Gate

Finance Committee

- Discussed Payment Installment
- Discussed Franchise Agreement with Cal-Waste
- Discussed Board Strategic Planning and Budget Workshop

Communications & Technology Committee

- Received Update on Reservoir Information and Education Committee
- Discussed Keeping Track of Current Issues Report
- Received update on Website FAQ’s

Personnel Committee—Cancelled

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Riverview: Phase 1a utility is complete. Phase 1b utility installation has begun with the installation of sewer infrastructure.

Retreats: Water main and water service installation has been completed for the east section with a tie in scheduled at the County Club for Monday the 14th of March. District staff will be replacing the County Club water meter prior to the tie in. Water service tie-in is scheduled for March 10th in De La Cruz.

It was determined that the lift station 6B that conveys sewage from De La Cruz and the Retreats North and East development has insufficient capacity to convey existing storm influenced flows and the additional base flow that will come online with the completion of the Retreats development. District staff and Engineer met with K. Hovnanian representatives, and it was agreed that the developer will fund the updates to lift 6B per District engineering directive. Currently, the capacity upgrade is envisioned to require an upsizing from 11 hp to at least 15 hp pumps.

Taco Bell: All underground utilities have been installed and framing has commenced.

Circle K/Shell: Water, storm drain utilities, and the oil water separator still need to be tied in and above ground civil and mechanical construction is commencing.

Detailed Updates can be found on our website:
<https://www.ranchomurietacsd.com/development-projects>

COMMUNITY FAQ's

RESERVOIR LEVELS

We understand that the Community is very interested in the levels of the Reservoirs, so we plan to update you monthly on those levels through the winter and spring. As March 16, 2022, all of the Reservoirs are full. The District is looking to add the stoplogs to the spill ways, which will effectively allow us to raise the level to the Reservoirs to their maximum capacity. We won't be able to add these until April 15.

BUDGET AND RESERVES

This is the time of year when the Board and Staff are working to prepare the Communities Budget and Reserve Study. Your new Rate Notice will be delivered in Early April.

SWIMMING POOL COVERS

Did you know solar swimming pool covers are a practical and economical way to save money on your pool expenses? A cover can lower your overall pool maintenance costs, including heating and chemical use. Pool covers help reduce evaporation, which means less water is needed to refill the pool. Pool covers can also lessen the time spent cleaning

DROUGHT UPDATE

State Water Board Adopts Emergency Water Use Regulations to Boost Drought Resilience

Despite early winter storms, California remains in a drought

SACRAMENTO – As climate change-fueled extreme weather continues to disrupt our water system, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted an emergency regulation on January 4, 2022 that prohibits certain wasteful water use practices statewide and encourages Californians to monitor their water use more closely while building habits to use water wisely.

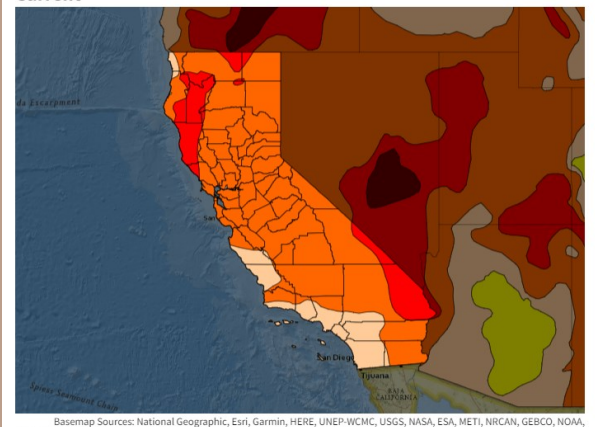
The Founders of Rancho Murieta were very insightful in guaranteeing the water supply for future residents, and while our Reservoirs are full today, the drought outlook is menacing. The time is now to be mindful of conserving the water that we have. The District is encouraging residents to continue with the voluntary 15% Reduction of water adopted by the Board in July, 2021. District Staff anticipates more stringent conservation measures to be put in place in the near future.

Among the wasteful water practices included in the January 4th regulation are:

- ✦ Turn off decorative water fountains
- ✦ Turn off/pause your irrigation system when it's raining and for two days after rain
- ✦ Use an automatic shutoff nozzle on your water hose
- ✦ Use a broom, not water, to clean sidewalks and driveways
- ✦ Give trees just what they need: avoid overwatering

The regulation stems from Governor Newsom's Emergency Drought Proclamation on October 19, 2021, which expanded the drought emergency statewide and encouraged the State Water Board to supplement voluntary conservation measures by prohibiting certain wasteful water uses. Prohibited use regulations are not new in California. Similar regulations were in place during the state's last severe drought. In some areas, they were made permanent through local action.

Current U.S. Drought Monitor Conditions for California: 



U.S. Drought Monitor for CA

(D0) Abnormally Dry: 100.0%	(D1) Moderate Drought: 100.0%	(D2) Severe Drought: 87.0%	(D3) Extreme Drought: 12.8%	(D4) Exceptional Drought: 0.0%
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Source(s): NDMC, NOAA, USDA
Updates Weekly - 03/08/22

[Drought.gov](https://drought.gov)

For more information on the drought and ways you can help visit:
<https://www.watereducation.org/droughtinfo>

HOW TO CONTACT THE DISTRICT

Visit us on the web at www.rmcsd.com!

- *The District's Administration Office is located at: 15160 Jackson Road, Rancho Murieta
- *Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 1050, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683; Main Office: 916-354-3700
- *South Gate: 916-354-3743 **Contact the South Gate for after-hours water problems.**