



# PIPELINE

COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

A Monthly Newsletter

## DID YOU KNOW?

*It takes 19 gallons of water to grow just one apple.*



## District Meeting Schedule FOR JUNE 2019

**June 4, 2019**

Personnel @ 7:30 a.m.

Improvements @ 8:30 a.m.

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**June 6, 2019**

Finance @ 8:30 a.m.

Communication & Technology @ 9:30 a.m.

Security @ 10:30 a.m.

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**June 19, 2019**

District Board Meeting @ 5:00 p.m.

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***The public is invited to attend.***

*All meeting dates and times are subject to change. Be sure to check our website, ([www.rmcsd.com](http://www.rmcsd.com)) for any changes.*

## PET MICRO-CHIP SCANNER

The District has been exploring options to make the pet micro-chip scanner reader more accessible to residents. The scanner has been available at the South Gate if a resident brought the animal to the South Gate. We realize, that for various reasons, a resident may not be able to bring an animal to the South Gate to use the scanner.



Effective immediately, residents can still bring the animal to the South Gate to use the scanner, but now residents can elect to check out the scanner, take it with them, and return the scanner back to the South Gate when they are done using it. We believe this will make the scanner more accessible to the community. A resident can go to the South Gate and request to check it out. The resident will have to sign an agreement form and will have to return the scanner as soon as they are done with it, no later than 60 minutes (1 hour) after they leave the South Gate. This will ensure the scanner is returned and available for others to use.

District staff will not deliver to or pick up the scanner from a resident; this is the honor system at work. Residents will have more access to the scanner, but they need to be responsible for it and return it when done. We only have one scanner so cooperation from the residents will help ensure availability for its use.



## SECURITY REMINDERS

### PLANNING ON BEING OUT OF TOWN?

Be sure to notify Security about the dates you will be gone so patrol can be extra watchful of your property in your absence. You can fill out the form on line, [www.rmcsd.com](http://www.rmcsd.com) and click the Submit by Email button on the top of the page or print it out and turn it in to either the North or South gate.

### RANCHO MURIETA ASSOCIATION RULE VIOLATIONS

Speeding and stop sign violations by you and/or your guests are subject to Rancho Murieta Association (RMA) fines. The speed limit for golf carts is 10 miles per hour on cart paths and at the lakes. Golf carts and other vehicles can drive up to 25 miles per hour on roadways unless otherwise posted. Overloaded golf carts or unsafe usage, such as towing skate-boarders or bikers, are also subject to RMA fines.





**Rancho Murieta Community Services District**  
 P.O. Box 1050  
 15160 Jackson Road  
 Rancho Murieta, CA 95683  
 Phone: 916-354-3700  
 Fax: 916-354-2082

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Visit us on the web!

[www.rmcsd.com](http://www.rmcsd.com)



## ADJUST YOUR SPRINKLERS

Irrigation systems need regular maintenance and adjustments to keep them working efficiently year after year. Damage from lawn equipment or improper winterization can cause leaks and other serious problems.

- **Adjust sprinkler heads.** Remove or correct obstructions that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Adjust sprinkler head positions and spray patterns to avoid watering sidewalks or structures and to provide necessary clearance over growing plants.
- **Replace leaking parts.** Solenoids on the back-siphon valves and irrigation heads wear out over time causing continuous leaks. Drip emitters pop-off and lines get chewed by rodents and need to be replaced.
- **Inspect your system.** Check for leaks, broken or clogged sprinkler heads, and other problems. Leaks are a huge water waster. A good contractor can perform regular maintenance checks for leaks, broken or clogged spray heads, and other problems. Ask them to show you common problems to watch for between visits.
- **Install a rain shutoff switch.** These inexpensive sensors can be retrofitted to almost any system and help compensate for natural rainfall by turning off your system in rainy weather.
- **Consider “smart” technology.** Climate or soil moisture sensor-based controllers evaluate weather or soil moisture conditions and then automatically adjust the irrigation schedule to meet the specific needs of your landscape.
- **Consider low volume, micro irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs.** Drip (or trickle) irrigation, micro-spray jets, micro-sprinklers and bubbler irrigation all apply a very small amount of water, slowly and precisely, minimizing evaporation, runoff and overspray.
- **Have your system audited.** Hire a professional to conduct an irrigation audit and uniformity test to verify areas are being watered evenly and appropriately and make necessary adjustments.

Visit our website for more information: [www.ranchomurietacsd.com](http://www.ranchomurietacsd.com).



## MAY 2019 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Discussed Developer Request to Use Deposit Moneys for Delinquent Installments to CFD #2014-1 – Developer Withdrew His Request
- Presentation of General Manager’s Action Plans
- Approved Intern Rate of Pay
- Approved Annual Audit Engagement Letter
- Reviewed Proposed 2019/20 Budget and Capital Improvement and Capital Replacement Projects
- Held Public Hearing for Proposed Service Charge Increases and Special Tax Adjustments

**Volunteers needed for the VIPS Program (Volunteers in Partnership with Sheriffs). Contact Jackie Villa 354-8509 for more information.**



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## How to Contact the District

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

Fax: (916) 354-2082

**Contact the South Gate for after-hours water problems.**

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## BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Friday

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon / 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Closed for Lunch - 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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## District Observed Holidays

New Year's Day (*January 1*)

President's Day (*3rd Monday in February*)

Memorial Day (*last Monday in May*)

Fourth of July

Labor Day (*1st Monday in September*)

Thanksgiving Day (*4th Thursday in November*)

Day after Thanksgiving

Christmas Day (*December 25th*)

## GENERAL MANAGER’S CORNER

### The District’s Annual Budget – Impact of State Regulations/Actions

Since we are in the middle of the Board’s review and approval of the District’s annual budget, I thought it useful to highlight a sample of regulatory factors that drive our budgets costs. These are just a few of many examples.

Dams. The recent Oroville Dam incident is a perfect example because the District was impacted in two ways. First, the State’s Department of Dam Safety (DSOD) annual inspection fees were significantly increased. In fact, the annual fees for inspections of our dams have nearly doubled in five years from around \$33K to \$63K. As a result of the Oroville incident, the District was further required to immediately prepare dam inundation studies for each of its three reservoirs and a levee which is part of the sewer treatment pond complex. This unanticipated study cost ratepayers nearly \$66K to accomplish.

State Lands Commission Lease. A State Lands Commission lease simply allows the District to conduct maintenance on its utility pipelines that cross the Cosumnes River. Before, this lease held a 25-year renewal period. This year, the lease renewal has transitioned to every three years with a cost of \$3K each time, along with a fair amount of new regulatory reporting information being required.

Employment Laws. Many residents in Rancho Murieta have successfully run a business and understand the cost impacts of new regulations impacting employers. The District is subject to the same State and Federal employment laws as private sector businesses. Simply adding a new annual training requirement as the State did this year, typically increases costs to the District by thousands of dollars a year. In higher turnover positions, this cost is amplified as each new employee must undergo the same newly required training.

New regulatory costs to the District are not just financial. As new programs and reporting requirements are added, a District like ours is not able to regularly add new bodies to take on the new responsibilities. These programs are typically added to existing staff workload who have already assumed a great amount of added regulatory responsibilities over the years. Although we do our best to accommodate new mandates, at some point the extra time required to meet the mandates can impact existing staffs’ ability to focus on and maintain the same level of quality service in what are critical core areas.

On May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, I will attend the California Special Districts Association (CSDA) Legislative Days legislative advocacy event. Among a number of my priorities is to make clear to our State legislators our concerns about the likely unintended but often permanent cumulative cost and service level impacts of unfunded State mandates to ratepayers within local districts like RMCS D.

## RANCHO MURIETA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

*"Your Independent Local  
Government Agency Providing  
Water, Wastewater, Drainage,  
Security, and Solid Waste Services"*

### DISTRICT STAFF

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### PET WASTE DISPOSAL

Did you know that pet waste contains bacteria which can be harmful to people and the environment? Pet waste left on lawns, trails, and sidewalks can wash into the storm drain system and into creeks and rivers.

Here are some reminders:

- When walking your dog(s), always carry a plastic bag and pick up after your pet(s).
- Pet waste stations, which provide free plastic bags, are located at Laguna Joaquin, Lake Chesbro, Stonehouse Park, and Riverview Park.
- Dispose of pet waste in the trash.
- Never wash pet waste into a storm drain.



*We thank you for being a responsible pet owner and helping to keep our waterways clean.*



### CO-OP INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The District has developed a strategy to complete project related work by partnering with the University of Pacific's (UOP) School of Engineering. This program is named the UOP Cooperative Education Internship Program, CO-OP. UOP's School of Engineering requires students to complete a six-month paid Cooperative Internship as part of their graduation requirement. UOP is the only University west of the Mississippi that has CO-OP as a graduation requirement. This will be the first year that the District is participating with UOP.

The duties of the Intern will be to support a variety of the District operations based on department needs and the availability of a specific CO-OP Intern skill set. For example, the first intern proposed is majoring in Engineering Management. Their focus will be to assist District Administration staff with scanning escrow files into the document management system and to update operational management procedures.

Both of these primary tasks will improve District operations by leveraging existing technologies such as Electronic Document Management and Microsoft SharePoint. Each task supports the District Board's number one goal of

improving the financial operations for the District. Future CO-OP students would potentially focus on Civil Engineering, Engineering Management, Computer Engineering/ Science or any other specific initiative within the District.

