



## RANCHO MURIETA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT

15160 Jackson Road, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

Office - 916-354-3700 \* Fax - 916-354-2082


### IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting

January 3, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

All persons present at District meetings will place their cellular devices in silent and/or vibrate mode (no ringing of any kind). During meetings, these devices will be used only for emergency purposes and, if used, the party called/calling will exit the meeting room for conversation. Other electronic and internet enabled devices are to be used in the "silent" mode. Under no circumstances will recording devices or problems associated with them be permitted to interrupt or delay District meetings.

### AGENDA

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Comments from the Public**
3. **Monthly Updates**
  -  Solar Power Update
4. **Correspondence from Michael Davis, Robert Hannaford, and David Lewis**
5. **Directors & Staff Comments/Suggestions [no action]**
6. **Adjournment**

*In accordance with California Government Code Section 54957.5, any writing or document that is a public record, relates to an open session agenda item and is distributed less than 72 hours prior to a regular meeting will be made available for public inspection in the District offices during normal business hours. If, however, the document is not distributed until the regular meeting to which it relates, then the document or writing will be made available to the public at the location of the meeting.*

Note: This agenda is posted pursuant to the provisions of the Government Code commencing at Section 54950. The date of this posting is December 30, 2016. Posting locations are: 1) District Office; 2) Rancho Murieta Post Office; 3) Rancho Murieta Association; 4) Murieta Village Association.

# MEMORANDUM

Date: December 28, 2016  
To: Improvements Committee  
From: Paul Siebensohn, Director of Field Operations  
Subject: Correspondence from Michael Davis, Robert Hannaford and David Lewis

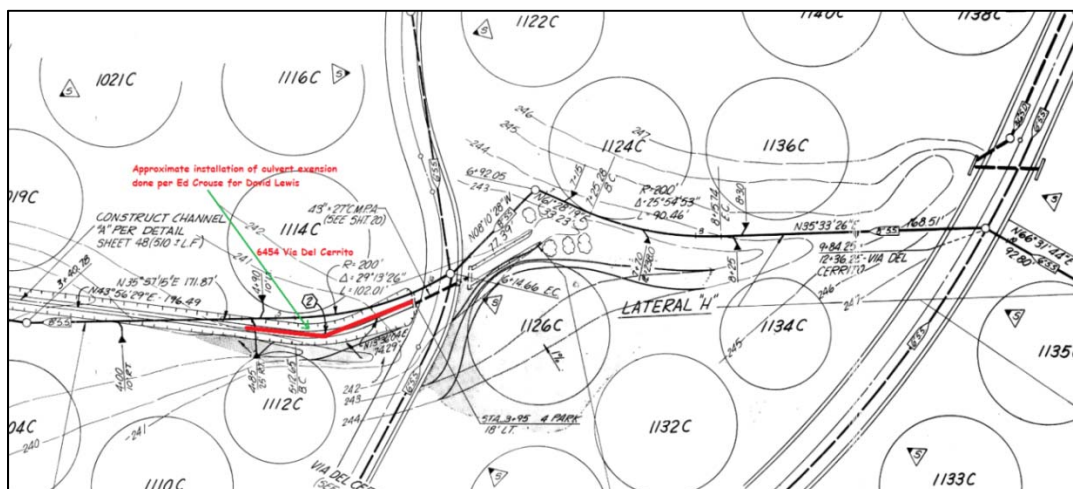
## RECOMMENDED ACTION

No action recommended. Review per Board of Director's request from December 21, 2016 Board meeting.

## BACKGROUND

At the December 21, 2016 Board meeting, resident David Lewis inquired about a letter sent to Director Graf on January 4, 2016. Director Graf was not aware of the letter and did not recall receiving it. The letter from residents Michael Davis, 6456 Via Del Cerrito, Robert Hannaford, 6442 Via Del Cerrito, and David Lewis, 6454 Via Del Cerrito, who reside around the 4 Park Via Del Cerrito drainage culvert, was provided to the Board of Directors at the December Board meeting. Two of the residents, Michael Davis and David Lewis, were present at the Board meeting. The Board referred the issue to staff for research asked that the item be discussed at the January Improvements Committee meeting.

Former General Manager/District Engineer, Edward Crouse, had worked with Mr. Lewis at some point in the past to accommodate Mr. Lewis's concern with potential erosion from the drainage flow channel that ran adjacent to the south east side of his lot. This resulted in a project where the District worked with Mr. Lewis to extend a pipe from the existing culvert alongside his property to satisfy him for a request to do some landscaping in his front yard and channel drainage away from his home. Ed, as the District Engineer, sized the pipe and directed former Utility Supervisor Rob McLeod to install it with the assistance of Carillo Enterprises in the summer of 2008. Ed said it was done in agreement with David Lewis, which Mr. Lewis had confirmed with me in previous personal meetings. The project resulted in the installation of approximately 100' of 24" soil tight high density polyethylene pipe from the existing headwall between lots 1114 & 1112, as depicted in the drawing below.



After the pipe was installed and backfilled over by the District, Mr. Lewis had subsequently landscaped the area extending outside his lot including planting of trees and a DG path.

The area across the roadway at 4 Park Via Del Cerrito flooded twice since the pipe was installed.

First time: This was a result of a wood pile stacked up between lot 1126 and the drainage ditch that had washed some of the wood into the pipe during a heavy rain event and caused it to plug up in January 2009.

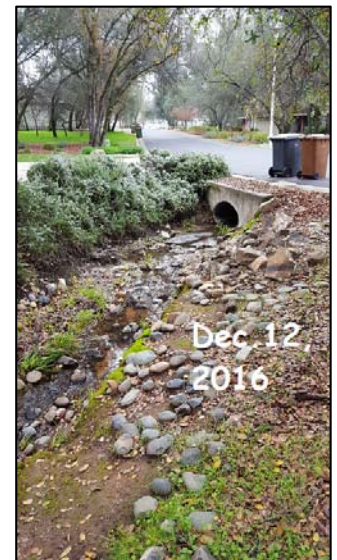
Second time: Rain event on Feb. 8, 2015 where District received 2.6" of rain in one day, most of that over a few hour period. Sacramento County had noted that this rainfall was over a 100yr event. Culverts and ditches are only designed to accommodate a 100yr event and this was beyond the design capacity of culverts.

The level of protection provided by the District storm drainage system is:

- Protection of developable areas from the 100 -year flood event.
- Street drainage systems are designed for the 10-year storm.
- Culverts, open channels and natural streams are designed for the 100-year storm.
- Finished floor elevation should be a minimum of 1 foot above the 100-year storm water surface.

Another issue may be that lot 1126 is not a minimum 1 foot above the 100-storm water surface elevation. Lot building pads are the responsibility of the home builder and are reviewed by the County, for which we have no records.

After the first event I have staff check this culvert, and sometimes myself as shown in photo to the right, before each large predicted storm. I had also had staff remove some concrete and rocks that were limiting the flow into the upstream side of the pipe.



Later in 2015 Mr. Lewis approached me to remove the pipe. I met with Ed Crouse who confirmed he and Mr. Lewis had met to discuss this drainage multiple times and that the project was the result of Mr. Lewis's concerns, and that if he wanted anything else done he should formally request it so we may document it for our records as the District had already spent a substantial amount of time and resources there. I then let Mr. Lewis know the District put the pipe in as a result of his request. He said that wasn't really what he wanted, that he wanted a block wall installed along his property. After meeting several times and making a suggestion to Mr. Lewis I drafted an agreement to note his request, stating that we would remove the culvert pipe extension and armor the outlet of the existing culvert within five feet of it, and allow him to install a block wall as he said he originally wanted to do. He never signed the agreement so we never proceeded with doing this work.

Since that time the highest rainfall event was recently this past December 15, having received 1.95" of rain in one day without incident.

I believe the simplest solution moving forward is to proceed as I had previously recommended to Mr. Lewis of lot 1114, however issued back the residents of the letter as follows:



The District will be removing the drainage pipe that was installed alongside your home. The former District engineer had staff install the pipe adjacent to your property to remedy previous concerns of lot 1114 along the drainage channel. Removing the pipe extension will put the drainage back to as it was originally designed. As we have discussed with lot 1114, any improvements or obstructions that were placed over the top of the pipe will be removed and discarded. As previously discussed some of the soil removed from the pipe cover may be used to fill the low spot of the front yard of lot 1114 as well as to provide a berm for lot 1112. Lot 1114 may install a block wall along it should they choose to as long as it does not obstruct flow. If any improvements are outside your lot, please contact the RMA Architectural Review before proceeding.

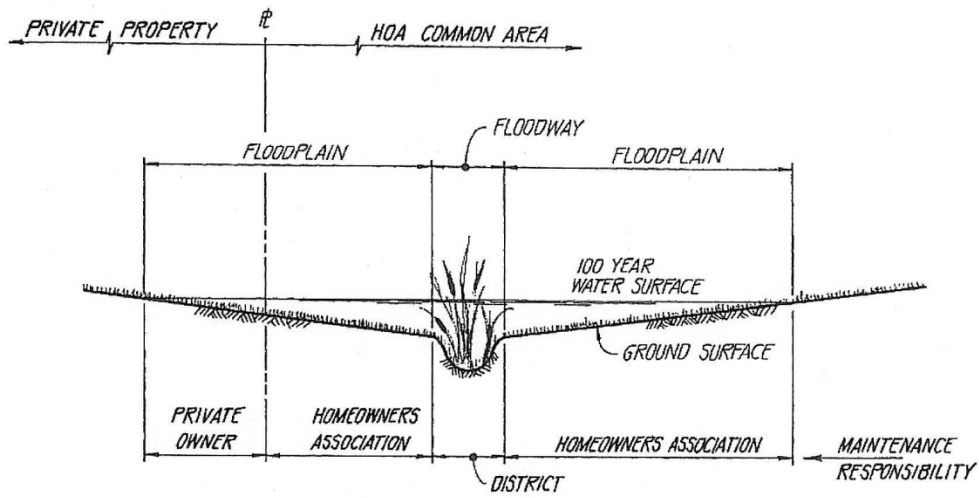
A general idea of what District could do is shown below:



After receiving a copy of the resident's letter I'm requesting a quote for an engineers review from Coastland of the culvert and their recommendation in case the board wishes to have a formal review.

For general reference, the figure below shows the delineation of responsibilities between District and others within the District.

**FIGURE NO. 1**



**PUBLIC / PRIVATE  
MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY  
FOR  
DRAINAGE CHANNELS & SWALES**

Michael Davis  
6456 Via Del Cerrito  
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

Robert Hannaford  
6442 Via Del Cerrito  
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

David Lewis  
6454 Via Del Cerrito  
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

Morrison Graf, Director  
Rancho Murieta Community Services District  
15160 Jackson Rd  
P. O. Box 1050  
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683

January 4, 2016

Dear Mr. Graf

This is a formal request for the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) to assess and properly address the issue of the drainage channel overflowing **consistently** (every 3 years) on to the adjacent properties at Park 4, Via Del Cerrito.

First we will go into the design of the drainage channel. Upstream of Park 4 there are 4 contributing pipes and one of which is larger in diameter than the single and only pipe located at Park 4. It's hard to imagine that a down stream pipe and channel that is smaller could possibly handle the flow of 4 upstream pipes when one of them is larger than the single downstream pipe. Also, it has been found that many times the water storage tank located on Rio Oso, Park 3 drains into one of the 4 contributing pipes during times of heavy rain. One of the residents questioned CSD about this and was told CSD no longer drains the tank into the channel anymore. That statement has been found to be wrong and has since been documented. It still drains during times of heavy rain. This is irresponsible and negligent when the fact is there is already a flooding problem with this channel and this just adds to the problem.

Now we will go into a little of the history of the problem. In 2008, one of the residents spoke with CSD requesting permission to build a brick wall to protect their home from water intrusion because the drainage channel was filling to such a high level that the water level was just below the flooring of this home. Also the home needed protection from erosion around its foundation. CSD said it wasn't necessary to build and didn't approve the wall and instead extended the pipe running under the street to a point past the home. Unfortunately, they installed a pipe smaller in diameter than the pipe that passes under the street (See attached photo). Now, in heavy rains, the water backs up at the larger pipe and floods over the street to a depth of approximately 12" and 80 feet wide. It then careens across the driveway of the homes on both sides of the street and flows over the lawns up against the foundations of three homes.

The flow now covers the area between Mr. Lewis' home, the Davis' home and the Hannaford home. The flow fills the Hannaford home's pool (see attached photo), garage, and front yard up to the sill plate at the front door. The flow fills Mr. Lewis's front yard, garage and the steps going to the front door. The flow fills the side yard of the Davis' home and floods their air conditioning/heating and pool equipment. All three homes side yards flood to the point of being a few inches, if not only one inch from flooding the insides of the homes. All three homes are endangered of having the soil eroded away from the foundations. During the times of the floods the street is flooded so deep it is impassable by cars. CSD's attempt to address the issue of the channel flooding residence properties in 2008 was inadequate and unsuccessful. The channel now just floods in a different direction. Also, CSD recently informed the homeowner who requested wall, that it is RMA's responsibility, not the homeowner or CSD's because it would be located outside of the homeowner's property and just to the side of the center of the channel.

This drainage channel bottlenecks at Park 4 and has caused property damage numerous times to adjacent homeowners properties. The flow capacity of the channel at the bottleneck is only  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the capacity of the upstream contributing pipes. The downstream pipes are also double the flow capacity or more than Park 4's channel and pipe capacity.

One of the homeowners involved was informed by one of your employees that CSD does not staff Engineers. Maybe that's how it was improperly designed in the first place. With your recent election I now know CSD does have at least one Engineer on staff capable of reviewing and addressing our concerns. We homeowners would like your help in getting CSD to address this continuing problem. The issue has already been discussed with Mr. Siebensohn to no avail. He actually stated that one of the residents must request and sign off on any needed changes to stop the flooding. Our question is, isn't it CSD's responsibility to design drainage to meet the needs of the community rather than the responsibility of the homeowner? Your Mission Statement states that it is your responsibility. We offered several suggestions that were refused but still CSD wanted the residents to engineer, request and sign off on any needed changes. Working with CSD is very frustrating. Obviously, we don't think it's the homeowner's responsibility to engineer and request the changes needed to correct the problem that was created by CSD in the first place.

Example pictures are shown on the next pages:





One example of the drainage channel's overflows is shown above. This picture is actually of the street and the front yards and driveways of the houses on opposite sides of the street. You can see the flood covers the street, driveways and has entered the garages of the homes on both sides of the street. The drainage channel enters from between the two oaks at the left and runs along the side of the house in the picture and then flows (or should flow) into a pipe under the street that can no longer be seen because of the consistent overflow problems the channel bottleneck causes. This picture was taken from inside of one of the flooded garages.



You can see the aftermath of one of the channel overflows that filled this pool with mud.





Here you can see the extension pipe being installed by CSD at Via Del Cerrito, Park 4. As you can see it is restrictive and only aggravates an already bad situation. The improper design of the channel at Park 4 already had overflow problems caused by inadequate channel design at this bottleneck point.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Concerned Rancho Murieta homeowners,

Michael W. Davis

Robert Hannaford

David S. Lewis

C: Jim Moore (RMA)  
Sacramento County Dept. of Water Resources