

Pipeline

A quarterly newsletter published by the Rancho Murieta Community Services District

RMCS D Budget Approved

by Greg Hall

At its April 26th meeting, the CSD Board of Directors approved a \$2.3 million budget for the 2000-2001 fiscal year. Although the total budget shows an increase of about 6%, operating efficiencies combined with new revenue sources mean that rates will not increase again this year.

Two trends that affect the budget are growth of our customer base and increased property tax revenue. The District usually receives around \$250,000 in property tax revenue. Over the last several years, customer growth has steadily risen by about 50 customers a year. For the coming fiscal year, the District is projecting about 100 new customers.

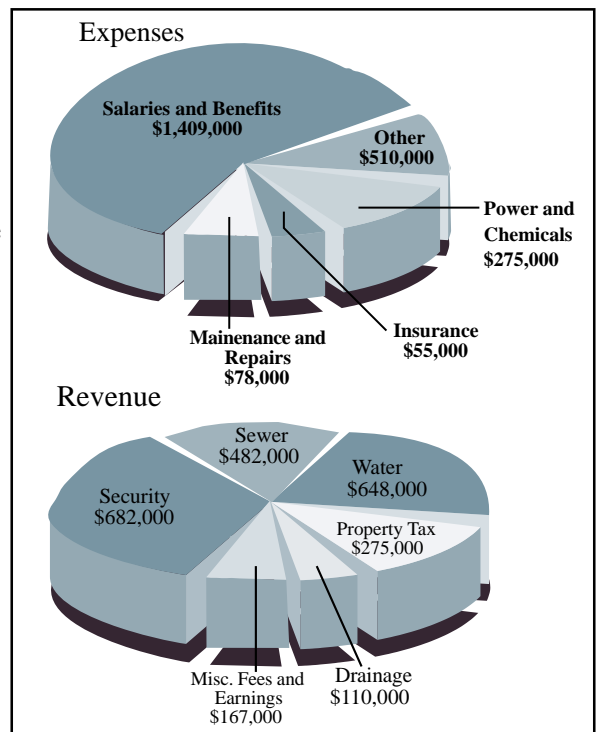
Even with larger than usual customer growth, the District is able to keep rates steady. The water and sewer plants are built to serve a certain capacity and operating costs remain fairly constant. Until the plants reach capacity and new capital investment is required, the District can service more customers with only a small increase in operat-

ing expenses.

The budget process began in January, with staff preparing initial budgets for each department. The budgets were then reviewed and revised by the Finance Committee over a period of several months. Staff presented draft budgets to the Board during a public hearing at the April 26th board meeting, where the budget was adopted. A copy of the CSD 2000-2001 budget may be viewed at the CSD Administration Office or at www.ranchomurieta.csd.com/financial.htm.

Although both **maximum tax rate ceilings** were increased by the annual 2% allowed, the **actual** drainage and security special tax rates will remain the same again this year, and are less than the maximums allowed.

Water and sewer rates for the fiscal year beginning July 1 will remain the same as last year. The steady building of new



homes, co-mingled with cost efficiencies implemented over recent years, has kept water and sewer rates the same since 1993, with rate reductions in 1996. However, due to Proposition 218, Murieta Village residents incurred a small increase in water rates in 1997 and, at the same time, an offsetting reduc-

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Budget

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tion in sewer rates.

Water, sewer, security, drainage, and general fund expenses for last year were under budget. While proposed wages and employer's costs will rise slightly, these costs are offset by a drop in insurance costs. The District's workers' compensation modifier went down substantially, since a couple of large claims were closed. The CSD is a member of the Special District Workers' Compensation Association Pool, which determines the workers' compensation rates the District pays. This year, a good safety and claim record saved about \$24,000.

For more information on the budget, log on to the District website, or call 354-3700.

Yellow Bridge

by Ed Crouse

Rehabilitation work on the Yellow Bridge proceeded ahead of schedule, and is nearly complete. The \$444,000 rehab effort successfully repaired joints, replaced bearing plates, removed lead-based paint, and refreshed the bridge with a new coat of epoxy-based paint.

Use of the bridge was somewhat restricted during construc-

tion, but River City Painting was able to keep at least one lane open to traffic at all times and work was scheduled around the Country Club's tournament schedule. As a result, CSD received no complaints from Country Club members or staff during the construction.

The District congratulates River City Painting's owner Glenn Brown and on-site superintendent Guy Graves for a job well done so far. A grand opening will be held this summer.

Golf Cart Safety

by Jim Noller

Golf carts are the second vehicle of choice in Rancho Murieta. Some people who aren't golfers use them as an alternative vehicle; other residents use them as their only means of transportation.

Some drivers don't think that golf carts are cars, but a golf cart is considered a motorized vehicle and is subject to all vehicle codes. Golf carts must stop at *all* stop signs. They must have lights on at night, and the number of passengers must be limited to the number of seats on the vehicle.

Security treats golf carts as motorized vehicles and cites drivers for infractions, just as we would any other car that travels

on the streets. Because security has clamped down on stop sign violations, drivers are paying more attention to the rules of the road. As a result, stop sign violations have fallen recently.

With summer here and the kids home from school, it's important to remember another rule of the road: only licensed drivers are allowed to drive golf carts. Kids may have the best of intentions when they take the wheel of a golf cart, but they don't always have the best judgement. They are easily distracted and don't know the rules of the road because they are not licensed drivers. So for their safety, as well as the safety of all community residents, kids are not allowed to drive golf carts.

Snake, Rattle and Roll

by Jim Noller

Snakes are abundant this year. District security has logged one-third more calls than normal from people encountering rattlesnakes. The increased building activity stirs them up and makes them more visible around homes. But rattlers also live in the wild. In summer months, rattlesnakes head for a cool place like garage floors, the shady part of rock outcroppings, or the high grass.

WATER FACTS:

- To fill the lakes in 1999, the District pumped 492 million gallons of water, or about 1,500 acre-feet.
- To fill the lakes in 2000, the District pumped 576 million gallons, or 1,769 acre-feet.

If you see a snake, the most important thing is not to touch it. Children should be warned not to play with snakes. If a snake shows up around your home, call the security department. Let us determine whether it is a rattlesnake and remove it safely.

Security officers do not always destroy snakes. If we find a rattlesnake in garage or in a back yard where children are playing, the resident usually wants the snake destroyed. But if snakes are found in less settled places, an effort is made to relocate them, rather than dispose of them.

On the outside chance that you are bitten by a rattlesnake, call 911 and the Fire Department medics will immediately transport you for an anti-venom shot.

Drainage Ditches In Bloom

by Ed Crouse

When Rancho Murieta was first developed, there was little water flow in the ditches during the summer months. Now that the community has continued to grow, new homes mean more landscape irrigation and more run-off into the streets and ditches. The water that now flows through the ditches helps breed mosquitos,

increases weed growth, and stimulates algae bloom in stand-off pond areas.

The increased run-off contains fertilizer that carries nutrients, increasing algae bloom in ditches and drainage detention basins. After an algae bloom dies, it putrefies and becomes a smelly nuisance.

The weeds irrigated with run-off water can seed and get into people's lawns and landscapes, so reducing run-off that stimulates weed growth also helps reduce weeds around the houses.

The District provides chemical treatment of algae and other aquatic weed growth throughout the drainage system, but there is a better way to solve the problem. The solution is simple: residents should control water and not over irrigate and over fertilize.

Use It. Don't Lose It

by Lee Lawrence

On average, Californians use about 1-inch more water every day than they need to properly irrigate their landscape. Rancho Murieta residents are no exception.

It may be necessary for sprinklers to be turned up when new landscape is put in or lawns are first fertilized. But after a few

days, it's important to adjust the sprinklers, so water isn't wasted. The water that runs off your lawn not only costs you money, it causes problems for the community's drainage system.

So be water wise this summer and follow a simple rule: If irrigation is running off, shut it off. Remember my motto: "Use all the water you need, but don't waste the water you use."

Directors Positions Open

Two positions on the District's Board of Directors will be open this fall. Directors Don Menicucci and John Thurston, who have served the District since 1992, will leave the Board as they finish their four-year terms.

If you are interested in running for election to the CSD Board of Directors, the filing period is from July 17 through August 11, 2000. To qualify, you must be a registered voter and a resident in the District. Duties include attending a Board meeting on the third Wednesday of the month, and participation in the District's standing committees.

To learn more, contact the Sacramento County Registrar of Voters at (916) 875-6451 for details on candidate statements and the official ballot package.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Possums eat rattlesnakes.

The year 2000 is off to a good start with no incidents of burglary reported. Vandalism has risen, due mainly to pranksters who “TP” houses and trees. Construction theft is the chief reason that petty theft has climbed. At the request of the County Club, security has enforced trespass violations on people using the Yellow Bridge to reach the Cosumnes River. The Homeowners Association asked security to step up enforcement of parking rules, so be sure to get a permit if you want to park in the streets or driveways.

	January-April 2000	January-April 1999	Total 1999
Grand Theft	2	2	7
Petty Theft	12	4	39
Robbery	1	0	1
Burglary	0	15	26
Vandalism	51	18	93
Trespass	74	31	251
<i>RMA Rule Violations</i>			
Speeding	87	83	181
Stop Sign	48	47	92
Street/Driveway Parking	364	177	466
North Gate Passes	43,115	38,839	136,490
South Gate Passes	7,057	7,073	20,840

RMCS D
Board Members:

James Lensch,
President

John Thurston,
Vice President

Don Menicucci

Mary Brennan

Don Cravens

Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Phone: 354-3700 Fax: 354-2082

The Community Services District, your local government, provides water, sewer, drainage, flood control, and security services. If you have any questions about the services, staff members will be available to assist you.

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 Greg Hall Director of Administrative Services . ghall@ranchomurietaacsd.com
 Lee Lawrence Director of Field Operations llawrence@ranchomurietaacsd.com
 Jim Noller Chief of Security jnoller@ranchomurietaacsd.com
 Karen Meredith Executive Asst./District Secretary kmeredith@ranchomurietaacsd.com

The District is governed by a five person Board of Directors elected by registered voters at Rancho Murieta. Monthly board meetings are on the third Wednesday of every month at 4:00 pm at the District office. All meetings are open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend. The agenda for the meeting is available at the District office.

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