

# Pipeline

A quarterly newsletter published by the Rancho Murieta Community Services District

## Salmon On The Cosumnes

by Mick Berklich

Barriers in the Cosumnes River have made it difficult for salmon to swim upstream to spawn in the river near Rancho Murieta. Development downstream and upstream makes it hard to maintain adequate wild river habitat for the salmon and the gravel beds they need for spawning. But last summer, an important step was taken to help salmon return to the Cosumnes River.

The Fishery Foundation removed private barriers that were used to divert water for ranch irrigation and built by-pass channels to help salmon navigate upstream during low water flows. With the early rains in October, the fall run of Chinook salmon was able to migrate up into the fish ladders near Rancho Murieta.

The Fishery Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish & Game made daily runs to check on the number of salmon in the river. They all reported that the spawning went very well this year. The first major day the salmon came up the river, spotters saw 30 to 40 fish an hour at the new by-pass structure.

The strong presence of salmon in the upper Cosumnes River is a

(see *Salmon*, page 2)



## North Gate To Be Remodeled

by Ed Crouse

The District is pursuing a partnership with RMA and the developer of North Rancho Murieta to build a new North Gate to replace the existing gate that is architecturally dated and operationally obsolete. The new North Gate will have the capacity to handle traffic at full build-out and will re-brand the community with a more contemporary image. The scope of work will include construction of a new gate building, demolition of the existing building, street improvements on Murieta Parkway to add a third lane, and improvements on Lago Drive, which will have a separate

entrance with monumentation and gates.

The District will be the financial partner, initially providing the money for the remodel. Through a reimbursement agreement with the developer, the District will be repaid over time. Current residents will not pay anything for the new North Gate; costs will be borne entirely by the developer of North Rancho Murieta. The cost of constructing the new facility is expected to be comparable to that of the South Gate, which was more than \$1 million.

(see *North Gate*, page 3)

## Salmon

*(continued from page 1)*

great benefit to the natural environment enjoyed by residents of Rancho Murieta. The Cosumnes River is the only river in California that remains natural over its entire length. The salmon migrating up the river shows that the stream we get our water from is healthy.

The District plans to keep it that way. Our water diversion schedule occurs during high water flows in November through May, after the fall run and before the spring run salmon have spawned. During the summer of 2001, the District will contract with the Fishery Foundation to rebuild our fish ladders, originally built in the early 1920s, to conform to the new design guidelines from the Department of Fish & Game. The ladders were scheduled to be replaced in the summer of 2000, but the permitting process held up construction. Now, we anticipate that construction will begin in the late summer of 2001, when water flows are low.

## Water Storage Expansion Planned

by Ed Crouse

The District currently is in the process of submitting an application to the State Department of Water Resources requesting the right to pump additional water from the Cosumnes River. The idea is to store enough water to withstand a two-year drought of the magnitude

experienced in 1976-77, which is equivalent to a 200-year drought event. To achieve the appropriate level of drought protection, the District needs to store about 1,500 acre feet of water. Obtaining this new water right is especially important, since the CSD has no surface or groundwater to draw upon in a drought and needs additional storage volume to protect existing residents.

The District is asking for a new right, rather than an amendment to its existing water rights. This approach protects and augments the existing water rights. While the District's existing water right has a direct use component and a storage component, the new right will be strictly for diversion to storage at a new reservoir close to the community. Currently, the District is in friendly negotiations to acquire the property where the reservoir will be located.

The additional storage will be funded through new developer fees. The District has collected the Water Supply Augmentation Fee since 1990 to fund this capital expense. About \$800,000 toward the cost of the new reservoir already has been collected. As new development occurs, the augmentation fee will continue to be collected.

The water rights application was submitted in January. The approval process through the Department of Water Resources can take up to five years to complete, but the District anticipates a more expedited process of two to three years. The approval process includes public

notification, public hearings, protest negotiations, environmental documentation, and a hearing of the Water Resources Board.

The District does not expect the application to be controversial. The diversions will be timed only to take water during the wet season, and the storage will be located off-stream, which is preferable from an environmental standpoint. The area proposed for the reservoir has very few, if any, environmental or biological resources and the site's geologic formation is compatible with building a reservoir.

## New Board Members

The Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board of Directors is pleased to welcome Wayne Kuntz and Bill White, who were elected to the Board in November 2000.

**Wayne Kuntz** is retired from a career as an engineer at General Motors in Michigan. He and his wife, Jayne, have lived at Murieta Village for four years. The couple has four children and twelve grandchildren, all of whom live in Northern California.

Recently, Wayne was elected to his second term as president of the Murieta Village board of directors. The emphasis Wayne placed on sound financial planning as president of the Village board is expected to continue on the CSD Board. "With his experience as

## IRRIGATION REMINDER:

Nature is doing its part to water your landscape, so be sure to turn off your sprinklers for winter.

Murieta Village Homeowners Association President, Wayne will bring to the District new insight on the Village homeowners' perspective and good experience in financial planning," said Ed Crouse, RMCS D's General Manager.

**Bill White** and his wife, Colleen, moved to Rancho Murieta from the Bay Area five years ago. Bill is retired from a 30-year career as a pilot for TWA. He also served in the military, where he was on active duty for nine years prior to joining the reserves. The couple's two adult daughters also live in California.

Controlled growth and careful resource management, especially of water, are Bill's key concerns. He plans to draw upon skills learned while earning his master's degree in guidance counseling to serve as a facilitator on the CSD board. "Bill has shown a keen interest in learning the intricacies of the CSD and trying to bring about more efficiencies and effectiveness," Crouse said.

## Farewell to Thurston

**J**ohn Thurston retired from the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board of Directors at the end of 2000, after eight years of service to the community. Deeply involved in all aspects of District operation, John has chaired the Improvements, Finance, Security and Parks Committees, and served on the Joint Security Committee with RMA and the Ad Hoc Gate Committee. He

led the District as vice president and president of the CSD Board of Directors.

"As a retired law enforcement officer, John's interest has always been, and will continue to be, in security," said Ed Crouse. "The type and quality of security in the District has been a consistent theme to John's eight years of service."

## North Gate

*(continued from page 11)*

The developer is a joint venture with the Pension Trust Fund, which owns the property, and Murieta Holdings, which will obtain land use entitlements and make the land available to sell in large pieces. The principals of Murieta Holdings are Bob Cassano and Jerry Kamilos.

The District will increase operational capacity at the North Gate by expanding the number of lanes from two to three. Two lanes will serve residents and one will serve visitors. RMA plans to buy a passive entry bar code scanner that will allow residents to move through the gate more quickly. Only visitors will be allowed to use the visitor's lane, which will ease traffic congestion at the intersection of Highway 16.

A traffic engineering study already has been completed and will be helpful in designing the gate and the lanes to accommodate peak hour traffic in the morning and afternoon. The District currently is working with Murieta Holdings to develop architectural themes for the gate. The architectural theme will tie into

major new landscaping at the entry and be consistently applied throughout the community, uniting existing development with the proposed developments at the north.

A series of town hall meetings will be held to obtain input from residents on the gate's architectural design and layout. The dates for these meetings will be posted on [ranchomurietacsd.com](http://ranchomurietacsd.com) and Channel 5. Following public meetings, the architect will proceed to the design phase, with construction slated for this summer. The new gate is expected to be operational in the fall of 2001.

During construction, the gate will have roughly the same capacity as it has now. The contractor will keep the existing gate in operation while building the new gate. Once the new structure is operational, the old gate will be closed and demolished. Inconvenience to residents should be minimized by the contractor's work schedule, which will run from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. During those hours, most of the resident traffic is away from the community. The contractor plans to be finished with construction each day before the bulk of the commute traffic returns to the community at 5:30 P.M.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Insulating exposed pipes and valves with foam sleeves and insulated bags will keep outdoor irrigation systems safe from a winter freeze.

# Protected Salmon

Fishing on the Cosumnes River from the Highway 16 bridge to Latrobe Road was closed from October 16 to December 31 to protect the fall run salmon spawning grounds. This season, no one violated the closure. The Security Department and the California Department of Fish & Game want to thank everyone for being good neighbors.

	Sept. - Nov. 2000	Sept. - Nov. 1999	Total 1999
Grand Theft	2	3	7
Petty Theft	18	15	39
Robbery	0	0	1
Burglary	7	2	26
Vandalism	24	25	93
Trespass	60	44	251
<i>RMA Rule Violations</i>			
Speeding	44	45	181
Stop Sign	36	22	92
Street/Driveway Parking	94	154	466
North Gate Passes	20,812	32,155	136,490
South Gate Passes	7,275	4,276	20,840

**RMCS D**  
**Board Members:**

*James Lensch,*  
*President*

*Don Cravens,*  
*Vice President*

*Mary Brennan*

*Wayne Kuntz*

*Bill White*

**Rancho Murieta Community Services District**  
**Phone: 354-3700 Fax: 354-2082**  
**[www.ranchohurietacsd.com](http://www.ranchohurietacsd.com)**

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.

- Ed Crouse ..... General Manager/District Engineer .. [ecrouse@ranchohurietacsd.com](mailto:ecrouse@ranchohurietacsd.com)
- Greg Hall ..... Director of Administrative Services . [ghall@ranchohurietacsd.com](mailto:ghall@ranchohurietacsd.com)
- Mick Berklich ..... Director of Field Operations ..... [mberklich@ranchohurietacsd.com](mailto:mberklich@ranchohurietacsd.com)
- Jim Noller ..... Chief of Security ..... [jnoller@ranchohurietacsd.com](mailto:jnoller@ranchohurietacsd.com)
- Karen Meredith ..... Executive Asst./District Secretary ..... [kmeredith@ranchohurietacsd.com](mailto:kmeredith@ranchohurietacsd.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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