

Pipeline

A quarterly newsletter published by the Rancho Murieta Community Services District

Good News Budget

by Greg Hall

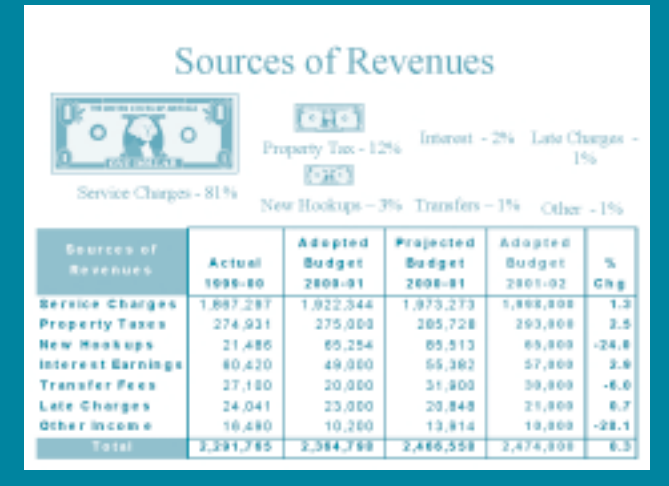
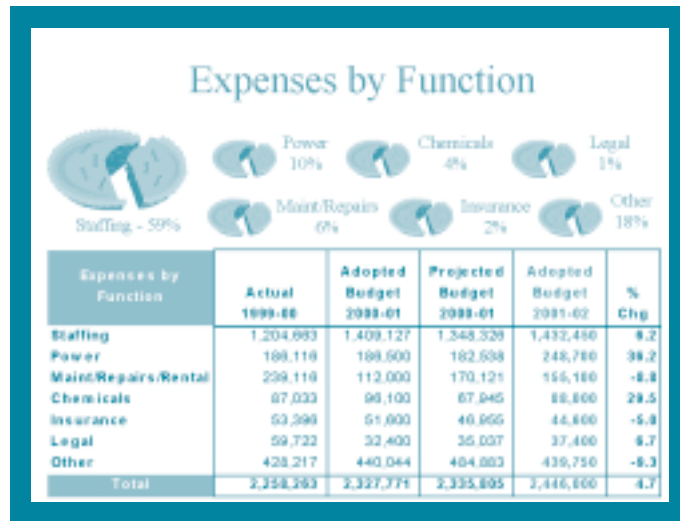
The District's adopted budget for fiscal year 2001-02 has **no rate increases** for our customers. This is especially good news considering that our cost of electricity has gone up and that the State has imposed new wastewater discharge requirements on the District.

Capital projects mandated by the State include a Title 22 Engineering Report, Wastewater Treatment Plant Technical Evaluation, Groundwater Monitoring Well Installation Plan and Report, Groundwater Monitoring Wells, Sludge Management Plan, User Reclamation Plan, and Reclaimed Water Facility Improvement Plan. All of these required measures will be addressed in the first quarter of 2001-02.

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District has increased electric rates to the District by an estimated 15% to 20%. After personnel, electricity accounts for the District's biggest expense to produce water.

The District was able to absorb increased costs for power from increases in new customer revenue, and newly mandated State requirements through the use of sewer capital improvement connection reserves. While total operating

(see **Budget**, page 2)



Highway Construction Alert

The California Department of Transportation will be working on Highway 16 from west of Michigan Bar Road up to the Amador County line over the summer. Construction on the \$3.3 million project begins July 11th and is estimated for completion in the last week of October 2001, accord-

ing to Pete Spector, resident engineer for Caltrans on the project.

The 1.9-mile project will widen, straighten and realign the existing highway. Once traffic is shifted to the newly aligned roadway, the existing highway will be removed, contour graded, and hydro-seeded to blend in with the existing terrain.

(see **Highway**, page 2)

Budget

(continued from page 1)

expenses will increase by 0.3% over fiscal year 2001-02, total revenue will increase by 4.3%.

The proposed budget is posted at the District's web site, www.ranchohurieta.com. If you have any questions regarding the budget, call Greg Hall at (916) 354-3700.

Highway

(continued from page 1)

The new roadway will have 12-foot wide lanes and 8-foot wide shoulders, just like the stretch of Highway 16 that connects Rancho Murieta to Sacramento. New left turn pockets will be added for eastbound Highway 16 onto northbound Michigan Bar Road and westbound on Highway 16 to southbound Ione Road.

A temporary detour will allow 95% of the construction to be completed to the south of the Highway with minimal traffic disruption.

Golf Cart Safety

by Jim Noller

Golf carts are motorized vehicles, although most people think of them as recreational transports. Vehicle code regulations apply to golf carts, just as they do to cars. Golf carts are required to stop at all stop signs and to respect Rancho Murieta's 25 mile-per-hour speed limit. People have a tendency to overload golf carts, which

is a potential hazard. Most carts are designed to carry two passengers and only in the seats. Exceeding that number of passengers can make the cart hard to control or cause it to tip over.

Underage drivers are a problem, especially in the summer when a lot of younger people drive their parents' golf cart illegally. You have to be a licensed driver to operate a golf cart, according to Rancho Murieta's CC&Rs. Even with an adult in the cart, people who don't have a license cannot drive.

Wild Things

by Jim Noller

Summer brings mountain lions into the community to feast on our abundant supply of deer and turkey. The Department of Fish and Game says we could have up to three different mountain lions whose territory could include Rancho Murieta.

If you should encounter a mountain lion, don't run away because that may trigger the animal's tendency to chase you. Bite the bullet and play brave. Try to make yourself look as big as you can. Put your arms in the air and make noise. If you have small children, pick them up off the ground. Mountain lions avoid groups of people, so walk with friends when you go into the back areas of the community. Since mountain lions are nocturnal animals, they are likely to be sleeping in the shade during the day

and prowling for food in the early morning and through the night.

With summer construction underway, the vibration of heavy equipment disturbs and disorients animals like skunks and snakes, so you may see more of these critters around during daylight hours. The rule of thumb is that skunks that are out and about in the daylight usually are sick, but that rule doesn't always apply when construction is in progress.

Rancho Murieta has four varieties of snakes: timber rattlesnake, gopher snake, garden snake and king snake. Only the rattlesnake is poisonous. If you see a snake in your garage or in your house, call Security at (916) 354-2273 and we will remove it. Security responded to 105 total snake calls last year and we expect more this year.

Salmon Update

by Mick Berklich

Last summer, the Fishery Foundation removed barriers in the Cosumnes River that made it difficult for salmon to swim upstream to spawn near Rancho Murieta. As a result, The Fishery Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and the California Department of Fish & Game all reported that the winter spawning cycle went very well. This year, additional work will be undertaken in the river.

The Fishery Foundation will rebuild the District's fish ladders, which originally were built in the early 1920s. The ladders built this summer will conform to the new

**ASSISTANCE FOR
AT RISK RESIDENTS:**

Power outages and rolling blackouts pose a threat for the elderly and those residents with special medical needs. Please contact us if you need assistance.

design guidelines from the Department of Fish & Game. Although the ladders initially were scheduled to be replaced in 2000, the permitting process required before anything can be built in the Cosumnes River delayed construction. Now that the permits have been obtained, construction will begin late in the summer, when water flows are low.

The improvements will be paid for by private sources, not by the District. When the work is complete, the last barriers will be removed from the Cosumnes River, allowing more salmon to return home to spawn.

Water Quality Report

by Ed Crouse

Rancho Murieta has exceptionally pure water, according to the “2001 Consumer Confidence Report,” published by the District.

Water providers are required by the State Department of Health Services and the EPA to test annually for contaminants in drinking water. The water analysis checks for more than 200 contaminants, including pesticides, metals, bacteria and radioactive substances. Specifically, no MTBE, Coliform bacteria, trihalomethanes, copper or lead were detected in our water. No contaminants were identified in the water that exceeded state and federal levels. Only small amounts of fluoride were found, and that is attributed to erosion of a naturally occurring mineral. Chromium-6 and arsenic, which have received

much media attention lately, also are not in our water. Those contaminants occur in groundwater; all of Rancho Murieta’s water is surface water.

The complete “2001 Consumer Confidence Report” is available at the District office on our website under “Brochure Library.” If you have any questions about our water quality, call Mick Berklich at (916) 354-3700, or visit the District’s website at www.ranchohurietacs.com.

Conservation Tips

by Mick Berklich

The decision to run the District’s large diversion pumps for six days this past spring enabled us to fill all the reservoirs, even with the low snow pack in the Sierras. Although the community has adequate water in storage, it is always prudent to conserve water.

Irrigation offers the most opportunities for conserving water, since it accounts for more than 50% of all water use. The soil here only absorbs a limited amount of water before it is saturated. Every day, we see irrigation water running off into the street. By changing the approach to irrigation, residents can water their landscape more thoroughly while using less water.

Take a close look at your irrigation and note how long it runs before you see water running into the street. Just prior to that point, stop watering. If you need to water more, water twice in a 24-hour period - once in the evening and

then a second time in the early morning, keeping the total time as short as possible to conserve water. That allows the soil to absorb as much water as possible each time you irrigate. And remember, watering in the early morning is much more water-efficient than irrigating in the heat of the day.

Whenever a water tap or irrigation system is turned on, electricity is used. To reduce energy costs, SMUD and the Sacramento Area Water Works Association recommend that you irrigate between midnight and 10 A.M., when energy demands are lowest. Since water supplies throughout California are well below normal this year, it is essential for everyone to be water smart and energy wise. For more information on efficient water use, visit www.sawwa.org and www.smud.org/conserve_energy/hometips_water.html.

Fire Safety

by Jim Noller

The catalytic converters on cars are very hot. If you park on grassy surfaces, that heat could spark a fire. For safety sake, only park on paved surfaces.

With fire season looming, residents should make an effort to clear away underbrush close to the house and to eliminate dead wood in trees that overhang the roof. RMA clears dry grasses off vacant lots, which eliminates some fire danger, but residents can improve their security by clearing a fire-free zone around their own homes.

SECURITY REMINDER:

With the summer party season officially here, Security reminds you that no open containers of alcohol are allowed at the gazebo area.

Residents are responsible for the actions of the people who they invite into the community. That means that if your guest gets a violation for breaking the speed limit or ignoring a stop sign, the resident of the community is subject for paying the fine. And the visitor could be banned from the community. So make sure your guests know about and obey the rules at Rancho Murieta.

	Apr. - June 2001	Apr. - June 2000	Total 2000
Grand Theft	4	0	7
Petty Theft	6	7	39
Robbery	0	0	1
Vandalism	21	33	116
Trespass	144	143	347
<i>RMA Rule Violations</i>			
Speeding	94	39	216
Stop Sign	22	67	347
Street/Driveway Parking	144	118	599
North Gate Passes	41,038	38,451	129,084
South Gate Passes	8,204	7,174	27,375

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.ranchoMurietaCSd.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@ranchoMurietaCSd.com
 Greg Hall Director of Administrative Services . ghall@ranchoMurietaCSd.com
 Mick Berklich Director of Field Operations mberklich@ranchoMurietaCSd.com
 Jim Noller Chief of Security jnoller@ranchoMurietaCSd.com
 Camille Tavlian Executive Asst./District Secretary ctavlian@ranchoMurietaCSd.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 5:00 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.

RANCHO MURIETA COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT
15160 Jackson Road, P.O. Box 1050
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683
(916) 354-3700

BULK RATE
US Postage
PAID
Permit #200
R. Murieta, CA

Resident
Rancho Murieta, CA 95683