

Pipeline

A quarterly newsletter published by the Rancho Murieta Community Services District

CSD Board Sets 2002 Goals

by Ed Crouse

At a mid-January workshop, the Board of Directors, in conjunction with staff, met and established goals for the upcoming year. In addition, progress toward the prior year's goals was reviewed; many were carried over to ensure a 2002 completion date.

The highest priority goal established by the Board of Directors is the pursuit of early North Gate construction, with or without developer participation. While the developer has displayed aesthetic renderings of proposed entrances to the community, the District's primary interest is in the timely completion of the gate facility itself, staffed by CSD security personnel. More information will be shared with the community as it becomes available.

The Board will also pursue installation of new entry landscaping in front of the CSD administrative offices. Recently, when the traffic signal was erected on Highway 16 at the intersection of Murieta South Parkway, we removed our existing fencing to facilitate the traffic signal project and to provide for future landscaping improvements. The Board had set aside funds in the prior year's budget for this purpose. We believe

(see *Board Goals*, page 2)



CSD Board members, L-R, Don Cravens, Bill White, Jim Lensch, Mary Brennan, and Wayne Kuntz prioritize District's 2002 goals.

Early Water Supply This Year

by Mick Berklich

Thanks to a good early rainfall and an early mountain snow pack containing a high water content, river flows reached the levels where we began pumping water from the Cosumnes River into our reservoirs earlier this year than the prior year. Shortly after you receive this newsletter, we expect to have our reservoirs filled by April 15th. Our current water needs have increased as anticipated, due to the growth in Rancho Murieta North and South. Water usage in 2001 was eight percent

more than the prior year.

River flows are checked using a monitoring station at Michigan Bar, via the Internet. In order to divert water from the river, the flow has to be at least 76 cubic feet per second and there has to be a visible flow in the river at the Highway 99 Bridge. Diversion amounts are well ahead of last year when we had to use our large diversion pumps late in the season in order to fill the reservoirs. This year we will not have to use the large pumps, thus saving money on our utility bill.

Board Goals

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these improvements will greatly enhance the appearance of the CSD facilities.

In June, we will begin pursuing the use of solar power at District facilities, as deemed practical. Such power will not be limited to solar panels. By year's end, we should have a plan in place if it appears feasible.

In addition, the Board has asked for a design layout of the existing Board Room with suggested upgrades. In addition to District meetings, the CSD's Board Room is used regularly for meetings of community organizations and service clubs, and also serves as a polling place for both primary and general elections.

The installation of the new gate access system is a carryover goal from last year. We completed the Access System Business Plan and the RMA Board of Directors approved a bar code system to replace the existing card access system. We are working jointly with RMA towards full operation of the new system by early fall.

The District will also continue to pursue alternative water sources to accommodate the build-out of the Rancho Murieta community. Engineering and biological reviews have been completed, as has a groundwater study on the alternatives to the Stonehouse Reservoir project.

A ten-acre parcel adjacent to the north of our CSD facility property along Highway 16 will become

available to the CSD via an earlier agreement with the Pension Trust Fund. While the transfer of this parcel has not occurred, we will pursue PTF approval to map the land for future roads and lots.

Finally, the District is moving forward, with the assistance of the South developers, to refinance CFD #1 (Mello-Roos) bonds in Rancho Murieta South. We anticipate refinancing these bonds by late summer or early fall. As a result, current taxpayers in Rancho Murieta South will benefit from a reduction in the amount of their existing annual Mello-Roos taxes.

Efficiency and New Technology to Your Door

by Greg Hall

Most of you see our water/wastewater workers or our security officers throughout the community during the day providing quality and reliable services to the community. Here in the administration building our goal is to provide that same level of service. To that end, last year we improved some of our operations which we believe allows us to provide more efficient service for everyone in the District.

Your bills always arrive a day or so after the meters are read, but the procedure for getting them—and the inserts contained—to you has changed. We replaced our folding/inserting machine with a newer refurbished model which enables all

bills (about 2,400 of them) to be stuffed, folded and placed in envelopes within an hour. New software enables us to print the billing statements directly from the computer to the copy machine (which prints 65 pages per minute), now taking only 40 minutes for a task that used to consume two-and-a-half hours. This labor-saving time is now spent on more demanding tasks facing us; despite the growth of our customer base, we have not had to bring on any additional office staff.

While we did not come up with this one, recently another company bought out the one that had previously designed our billing software program. The new company is implementing changes and adding new features to our existing program. Keep reading your bill stuffers for notices of future enhancements.

Don't See Your Meter Readers?

by Mick Berklich

If you've been wondering where your trusty CSD water meter readers have been lately, don't worry! We're still reading meters to determine monthly water consumption; however, we've implemented a less labor-intensive process that is more automated.

Beginning with your January reading, District water workers were using a radio transceiver to read all the meters. With a magnetized antenna affixed to a District

Happy 20th Anniversary CSD!
June 29, 2002

vehicle, workers are now able to scan water meters as the vehicle moves through the community, accessing the register affixed to your meter. In fact, before they cross Highway 16, they have already read 150 meters!

The new procedure is more cost-effective than when the meters were manually read. Previously, when District personnel traveled house-to-house touchreading the meters, the time necessary to complete the reads for the community was 16 person-hours (or two people working eight hours each). This new, highly automated system requires only one District employee two to two and-one-half hours to complete the entire process. It would take even less time if it were not for the 25 mph speed limit in the community.

The system also leaves little room for error, as the readings are fed into a laptop computer, then transferred to a District office computer. An exception list is generated, indicating "problem" readings. For these instances, District workers will need to visit the property to physically inspect the meter. Often, in these cases, the cause is merely a non-functional register, which is then replaced immediately on site.

The approximately 16 person hours per month saved from the use of radio-read meters, will be put to far better use for the community, allowing District workers more time to respond to service calls and routine maintenance work.

Laguna Joaquin Update

by Mick Berklich

If you live by or walk around Laguna Joaquin, you may have noticed differing water levels over the course of the winter. We did things a bit differently this year, attempting to increase the clarity of the water that reaches the Cosumnes River.

Prior to winter storms, we lowered the lake level by about a foot in order to leave adequate room to capture any runoff from rainfall, allowing it to settle prior to the next storm. Prior to the next storm, the water was again lowered.

On a side note, there was less sediment in the runoff this year from construction activity as a result of the sediment control that was in place at the various construction sites. We hope you've noticed the results of our efforts.

Website Update

by Greg Hall

For those of you who may not be aware, a wealth of information regarding your Community Services District is available at www.ranchomurieta.csd.com from your home or office computer. Last year we gave the site a facelift, so to speak. We also added district budgets and the most recent district audit. Many useful forms are also available now and can be printed from our website. Just fill in the required information and either mail us the form or drop it in one of

our conveniently located payment boxes.

In addition we have CSD board meeting agendas and board meeting minutes on-line.

Bill-Paying Options

by Greg Hall

We offer several options for paying your monthly district bill including automatic bank account withdrawals or credit card debits. Currently, about 250 customers (11 percent of all) pay either by credit card or automatic withdrawal. In addition, some customers pay through the Internet, utilizing their online financial institution's bill paying programs.

Non-Resident Access Procedures

by Jim Noller

In light of the recent e-mails concerning the gate access procedures, I happily invite anyone who is a resident or property owner within the Rancho Murieta Association to call me at 354-3700 for a complete definition. My response via the Web could give information to non-residents on how to gain access to our community.

The Joint Security Committee is reviewing gate procedures in preparation of the new access control system and the new North Gate. This committee meets the first Tuesday of each month at 8:15 a.m. For information on the location of this meeting, please call CSD at 354-3700 or RMA at 354-3500.

HOME SAFETY: As the weather gets warmer, remember to close and lock your garage doors, don't leave valuables in your vehicles, and keep them locked as well.

R revised maps
of the entire
community are
now available for
pick-up! Get
yours at
either gate.

Security Statistics

	Jan. - Feb. 2002	Jan. - Feb. 2001	Total 2001
Grand Theft	4	0	13
Petty Theft	2	7	49
Robbery	0	0	1
Vandalism	16	12	128
Trespass	21	38	352
<i>RMA Rule Violations</i>			
Speeding	60	25	218
Stop Sign	12	13	74
Street/Driveway Parking	86	77	352
North Gate Passes	23,217	22,449	162,586
South Gate Passes	5,704	4,785	34,644

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.ranchomurieta.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.

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 Mick Berklich Director of Field Operations mberklich@ranchomurieta.com
 Jim Noller Chief of Security jnoller@ranchomurieta.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

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