

Fall 2005

RIPPLE

A quarterly newsletter published by the Rancho Murieta
Community Services District

New Beginnings: CSD Provides Garbage Collection

Starting the first of November, residential garbage collection and removal will be provided by CSD through contract services with California Waste Recovery Systems (CWRS). This new service, replacing Sacramento County as the provider, is the result of a community survey and several years of study, discussion, and negotiations. The contract provides for additional services at reduced rates and will control anticipated rate increases in the future.

Collection days will be Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday, depending on street address. RMA and Murieta Village rules allow placement of carts curbside the day before pick up and returned to the storage area no later than the following day. The midweek collection day will avoid having containers left out by those traveling over the weekend. The new routes will be set up to minimize the visual esthetics of carts along the streets even though collection will be done over three days.

Green waste and recyclables will be collected in alternate weeks, as is the current practice. Garbage will continue to be collected weekly. Enhanced services include bulky waste pick up as many as four times a year when arranged with CWRS. The collection includes electronic waste (computers, televisions, recorders, etc.) Used oil collection is also available, using oil containers provided by CWRS, on request. Christmas trees will be collected for three weeks beginning December 27. Also, additional bagged green waste will be

collected at no charge from January through April.

Residents have a choice of cart sizes, ranging from 38 to 96 gallons for garbage and 64 to 96 gallons for recycling and green waste. Costs for these services range from \$14.64 to \$23.67 per month, depending on selection.

In order to reduce the amount of garbage going to Kiefer Landfill, residents are encouraged to use green waste and recyclables options. Residents currently receiving a County green waste exemption will continue to receive that exemption.

Billing will be included in the monthly CSD bill, along with charges for water, sewer, drainage, and security. If you have any questions, please call (916) 354-4154. CWRS and CSD will soon be providing additional information regarding garbage collection services, the switchover of current carts to your new carts and your new weekly service date.

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Using Water The Smart Way

Rancho Murieta has been the leader in Northern California for over twenty-five years in using recycled water for irrigation purposes. During this entire period, there have been no health-related incidents linked to the use of recycled water. New communities throughout California, such as Sun City Roseville, Serrano

Here's how it works: wastewater leaves homes and businesses through sewer pipes and ends up at the treatment facility. There, the process removes solids and organic materials; next the residual organic matter and suspended materials are removed through a biological process involving microorganisms.

The recycled water is then stored in one of the two large reservoirs near Highway 16, until the Country Club is ready to irrigate the golf courses in the spring. At that time, the recycled water is then processed, using a combination of chemical, physical and/or biological processes to further remove suspended and dissolved material.

The disinfected recycled water (superchlorinated to kill bacteria, viruses and other pathogens) is then delivered to Bass Lake for irrigation of the North course and to Lakes 10 and 11 for irrigation of the South course. The wastewater plant ceases to deliver irrigation water on October 15th, as directed by the State of California, to insure there is no overflow into the river, should the rainy season begin early.

Customers of the District can take comfort in knowing that the recycled water system is operated by trained, certified personnel operating in compliance with the regulatory agencies.



Left to Right: Sean Montgomery (Plant Operator), Charles Hofacker (Plant Operator), Steve Twitchell (Treatment Plant Supervisor). Kneeling: Joe Majarucon (Director of Field Operations). Not pictured: Darwin Dick (Plant Operator).

No Gasoline Engines Allowed On Lakes

Although plastic wrapped gasoline engines have been allowed on the community's lakes in the past, the District now enforces a strict prohibition against gasoline motors. The danger of fuel leaking into the only source of drinking water is too great. It isn't possible to drain the lakes and replace the water, should it become contaminated.

Members of the local Fishing Club enthusiastically support the action to ban gasoline engines. Residents and their guests may continue to use electric motors. Anyone observing violation of the ban should call Security at 354-2273 (354-CARE).

El Dorado and Elk Grove/Laguna are also using recycled water, as will future developments.

Rancho Murieta is a unique community, in that it is not connected by *pipeline* to any other water supply or to the Regional County Sanitation District. By law, it is required to dispose of its recycled water without discharging into the Cosumnes River. The water rights issued by the State are conditioned on using recycled water to irrigate the golf courses.

The treatment facility, which provides tertiary/advanced treatment, is operated by CSD employees who are state certified, and is regulated by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board and the State Department of Health Services. New, evolving regulations require the District to adapt to these new requirements. California's regulations are some of the most stringent in the world!

Proposal to Resolve Bridge Construction Liability Issues

At a special meeting of the CSD's Board of Directors, action was taken to resolve bridge liability issues between Rancho Murieta Association and the Pension Trust Fund of Operating Engineers. The proposal is that the PTF will convey a narrow strip of land slightly wider than the planned bridge to the CSD at no cost. Upon completion of the bridge construction, the CSD will convey the property to RMA as

part of the community's park trail system.

This resolution satisfies the concerns of the PTF about liability issues and will allow the Parks Committee to proceed with the necessary easements for construction to occur in 2006. Sacramento County passed an ordinance to cover additional costs to the developers for bridge construction as a condition of approval for building permits.

Protect The Cosumnes River

When you see water running down the street and into drainage inlets, do you consider what happens to that water? Ultimately, that water goes back into the Cosumnes River.

You might think that by flushing that water down the storm drain inlets you're "recycling", which is a good thing. However, that runoff is not just water that has come through the tap. It may contain fertilizers, pesticides, phosphates, nitrates, and road tars, to name just a few. This "nutrient loading" fosters algae and weed growth in the natural runoff areas of undeveloped lands.

When you drain water from your swimming pool, it contains acids and chlorine which have been used to shock-treat the pool to control

algae, but these materials can be **harmful to fish and wildlife.**

Construction projects which involve earth movement require wattles to be placed to collect sediment and keep it from entering the drainage inlets.

The District drainage plan utilizes gravity flows from higher elevations, through natural drainage channels (for the most part) and into water quality settling basins, such as Laguna Joaquin and Detention Basin No. 5 on the south. After a period of settlement, the water flows back into the river.

Everyone wants to enjoy the natural setting that exists at Rancho Murieta, so be aware that **whatever goes into the drainage inlets eventually gets into the Cosumnes River.**

Cooking Oils Can Cause Big Problems

Did you know that putting the byproducts of your home-cooked meals down the kitchen sink can cause sewer overflows? Pouring fats, oils and grease down the drain can cause buildup in pipes resulting in blockages, leading to sewage backups and overflows.

Here are a few steps to help prevent this problem:

- Do not put dairy products, fats, oil, grease or greasy foods down the garbage disposal or drain.
- Freeze small amounts of fats, oils and grease in a lidded container and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- Mix small amounts of cooking oil with an absorbent material, such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place it in a lidded container and dispose in a trash receptacle.
- With the holiday season fast approaching, remember this advice to keep your pipes clear and avoid unnecessary catastrophes.

SECURITY COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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HELD THE FIRST
TUESDAY EACH MONTH
AT 8:30 A.M.
AT THE CSD BUILDING.

THE PUBLIC IS WELCOME
TO ATTEND.

RANCHO MURIETA
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Bass Lake Improvements Underway

Joint efforts are underway for modifications to Bass Lake in an effort to bring back beauty and improve the functionality of the recycled water storage lake.

The Country Club has already begun their long range plans to improve the esthetics of Bass Lake along the golf course. They are in the process of regrading the area at the north end of the lake, removing tules, adding soil, irrigation, grass, trees and boulders to improve the visual scheme, while expanding the playability of the fifth hole. The Operating Engineers' Training Center is providing the equipment and manpower to accomplish this work.

During the month of October, the CSD will undertake shoreline improvements to install cobbles in

some of the areas where tules were removed by the Country Club. In addition, RMA plans to use some of the area around Bass Lake as a tree removal mitigation area.

The long term maintenance will address issues such as:

- Shoreline tules. These are difficult to manage because of constant changing of lake levels. In the winter the level rises and tules grow in this area. Then in the summer the water recedes (as much as a two-foot drop) and the dying and dead tules are an eyesore.
- Floating weeds such as Eurasian water milfoil (the light green weeds floating on the surface of the lake).



- Algae growth which is affected by temperature and nutrients in runoff into the lake. Due to golf course irrigation needs, restraints such as chemicals cannot be used to control the algae.
The CSD's lake improvements are scheduled to be completed this fall.