

Spring 2006

RIPPLE

A quarterly newsletter published by the Rancho Murieta
Community Services District

Cease and Desist Order Affects CSD and Country Club

In recent months, Rancho Murieta residents may have received conflicting information about the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Board) issuing a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) directed at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District and the Rancho Murieta Country Club regarding recycled water.

The following article will help clarify the four primary issues in the CDO and alternatives being reviewed by the CSD and RMCC. To provide further information, several community meetings have been held at the CSD and a joint CSD/RMCC town hall meeting is anticipated in the near future.

Overflows of Golf Course Lakes

Responsibility: Rancho Murieta Country Club.

Alternative 1: Use enclosed storage tanks instead of golf course lakes.

Pros:

- No discharge (overflow).
- No odor issues because there is no algae growth; fresh recycled water is pumped daily into tanks.
- No oversight from the Regional Board on storage issue.
- Environmentally preferred solution.

Cons:

- Large capital cost for above-ground steel tanks, either at locations in and



Bass Lake combines recycled and river water to irrigate the North Golf Course.

around the golf courses or at the CSD plant. In order to meet daily demand, tanks would need to be approximately the size of the Rio Oso water tank (1.2 mg), or half the size of the Van Vleck tank (3 mg).

- New conveyance pipelines would be needed to withstand the increased flows and pressures of new operating parameters. Existing pipe is at least 20 years old, so it is subject to deterioration.
- RMCC's irrigation pumping system would have to be re-engineered.
- New permits would be required to place new pipelines crossing the river.
- Cost estimated between \$10 – 12 million.

(See Cease and Desist Order, page 2)

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Cease and Desist Order (continued)

Alternative 2: Obtain modified Storm Water Drainage Permit.

Pros:

- Divert storm drainage around Bass Lake and Lakes 10/11 to reduce flows into the lakes.
- Lake levels substantially lowered to accommodate rainfall and runoff from storms into the lakes, approximately 5-6 feet.
- No overflows, except in extreme storms or rainfall season.

Cons:

- Recycled water is still stored in the lakes.
- Potential for odor issues and esthetics related to reclaimed (recycled) water.
- New diversion ditches dug around Bass Lake.
- Lakes must be lowered 5 to 6 feet at the end of each irrigation season to allow for storage of rainfall.
- Still a remote chance for spills or overflows.
- Costs in the range of \$3 to 5 million.

Alternative 3: Obtain National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit (NPDES)

Pros:

- No changes in operation.
- Lowest initial and annual costs.

Cons:

- Spills would still occur to the river.
- Requires monitoring and reporting of spill constituents.
- Could lead to change in the character of all recycled water; examples: dechlorination, reverse osmosis or membrane filtration, removal of metals such as iron and manganese.

- Regional Board would still have oversight and control.
- Subject to third-party lawsuits.
- Permit has to be renewed every five years and each renewal is subject to more stringent regulations.
- Cost: \$300,000 to implement and \$100,000 to \$200,000 annually for sampling and monitoring.

Odor Complaints Related to Golf Course Irrigation

Responsibility: Rancho Murieta Country Club.

RMCC is implementing procedures to reduce the potential for odors. It is important for residents to report location, time, and nature of the odor to the Golf Course Superintendent as soon as possible: Call 354-3490.

Groundwater Degradation

Responsibility: Rancho Murieta Community Services District.

In October 2001 in response to waste discharge requirements of the Regional Board, the CSD implemented an approved monitoring well installation work plan. The monitoring results have been inconclusive and the CDO now requires additional wells to be installed and monitored monthly, rather than quarterly as previously required. Two to three new wells will be installed by the end of 2006. Monthly sampling of an expanded list of constituents will occur through 2007.

In January 2008 the results will be analyzed to determine whether or not the groundwater has suf-

fered degradation. If not, CSD will get a change in our groundwater monitoring constituents to reflect background water limits. If the Regional Board determines that groundwater has degraded, CSD will have to undertake additional studies to determine mitigation. The outcome could result in additional treatment processes to remove the degrading constituent (if it is a metal or mineral), or, in the worst case, lining the ponds with an impervious liner.

Buildout Storage and Recycled Water Disposal

Responsibility: Rancho Murieta Community Services District.

By July of 2007 the CSD will prepare a wastewater facility expansion and financing plan to accommodate full buildout or development through 2019, whichever comes first.

We will identify onsite storage requirements for buildout and redesign of a 100 year rainfall season, plus facilities to dispose of recycled water beyond what the Country Club can use. In the mid-1980s there was a third golf course envisioned which would serve as a recycled water disposal area, but that idea has long since been discarded.

The disposal areas under consideration for recycled water include landscaping, front yards, parks, and medians in new development, and off-site disposal for fodder crop irrigation.

Currently, the CSD has spent close to \$300,000 in hard costs for

Cease and Desist Order (cont.)

available improvements to dispose of the carry-over storage (approximately 400 acre feet of recycled water dating back to 2003). These improvements include evaporation through spraying and aeration at the wastewater treatment plant.

Funding

It is important to note that the funding sources currently available to resolve these issues, including land owners and developers, may not be available in the next five to ten years. As a result, residents would end up being responsible for bearing any financial requirements of a long term solution.

Since early March, we have been meeting with representatives of the



Aeration fountains at the wastewater treatment plant.

Pension Trust Fund and the developers on a bi-weekly basis. On a parallel track, the Country Club has been meeting with their engineers and wastewater advisers.

We will continue to make information available as we make progress on the resolution of these issues. For questions, please call the CSD at (916) 354-3700.

Reminder To Register Guests And Vendors

If you have requested service work at your residence or are expecting guests, you need to contact the Gate Officer to register your visitors, except those on your permanent guest list.

Please call 354-3742 if you reside in the north or 354-3743 if you

reside in the south. You will need to provide your Personal Identification Number (PIN) to the officer. If you have forgotten your PIN or can't remember who is on your permanent list, you may stop by the gate(s) and obtain the information.



Security gate officer, Debbie Corey, inputs vendor and guest registration into the CSD's database at the South gate.

Interested In Becoming A CSD Director?

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Rancho Murieta Community Services District and are a registered voter within the District, you may obtain the requisite paperwork from the Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento.

The filing period is July 17 through August 11, 2006. There are three positions available for the four-year term of office.

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