



A Monthly Newsletter

March 2020

Serving the Community

“Your Independent Local Government Agency Providing Water, Wastewater, Drainage, Security, and Solid Waste Services”

District Meeting Schedule For March 2020

March 3, 2020
Personnel @ 7:30 a.m.
Improvements @ 8:00 a.m.
Finance @ 10:00 a.m.

March 5, 2020
Communication & Technology @ 8:30 a.m.
Security @ 10:00 a.m.

March 18, 2020
District Board Meeting @ 5:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend.

All meeting dates and times are subject to change. Be sure to check our website, www.rmcsd.com for any changes

BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

WATER METER ACCESS

It is important for the District to have access to all water meters for data collection and maintenance. Clear access to the meter box helps to ensure that it can be quickly turned off in an emergency. It is the property owners responsibility to maintain clear access around the meter box. If the meter is obstructed or inaccessible, the District will notify the property owner to either remove the obstruction or clear the area surrounding the meter. See below for examples of inaccessible vs accessible meters.

Examples of Inaccessible Meters



Examples of Accessible Meters



Ways You Can Help with Meter Accessibility

Trees, bushes and plantings

Trim bushes, trees, and grass surrounding the meter. During the growing season, plants can cover a meter box very quickly.

Objects that cover or block meters

Please make sure that no objects cover or block access to the meter box. Items that have been found blocking meters include cars, trailers, construction materials, fences, landscape bark, gravel, and plants.

Per District Water Code section 3.11 -Obstructions Prohibited
No person shall place or cause to be placed on any water line easement any wires, fences, trees, buildings, or other structures, either temporary or permanent, or any refuse, rubbish, debris or other objects which may impede or otherwise interfere with the ready access by the District to any portion of the distribution system owned by the District, unless otherwise authorized by Board action. Any such obstruction, upon the written request of the General Manager, shall immediately be removed by the violator at no expense to the District or shall be removed by the District at violator’s expense, and shall not be replaced. (Amended by Ordinance 2011-04)

GENERAL MANAGER'S CORNER

6 Ways to Reduce Outdoor Watering this Spring

It's spring, which means warmer temperatures and as a result, outdoor water use is on the rise. While it's important to be water conscious throughout the year, the spring and summer require increased attention to irrigation schedules and outdoor water use.

Experts estimate that 50 percent of the water we use outdoors goes to waste from evaporation, wind, or runoff due to overwatering.

While buying a timer for your irrigation system seems like the obvious solution, more times than not the system is installed with set times and never seasonally adjusted; leading to unnecessary water waste during the cooler months.

With that in mind, we've compiled a few tips to help you beat the heat and keep your water use under control:

1. TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Know how much water your landscape actually needs before you set your sprinkler. Your local nursery can offer recommendations for how much water certain plants need in your region and best times to water. Generally, it's best to water lawns and landscapes in the early morning and evening, after the sun goes down, because significant amounts of water can be lost due to evaporation during the heat of the day.

2. TUNE UP YOUR SYSTEM

Inspect irrigation systems and check for leaks and broken or clogged sprinkler heads.

Fix sprinkler heads that are broken or spraying on the sidewalk, street, or driveway.

Did you know? Just one broken sprinkler head can waste up to 25,000 gallons of water over a six-month irrigation season.

3. SEPARATE YOUR PLANTS INTO ZONES

When planting, assign areas of your landscape different hydro-zones depending on sun/shade exposure, soil and plant types, and type of sprinklers, then adjust your irrigation system or watering schedule based on those zones' specific needs. This helps you avoid overwatering some areas or under-watering others.

Even if your property doesn't have a sprinkler system, there are a number of simple steps you can take to promote a healthier lawn and garden with less water this summer:

4. STEP ON IT

Grass doesn't always need water just because it's hot out. Step on the lawn, and if the grass springs back, it doesn't need water. An inexpensive soil moisture sensor can also show the amount of moisture at the plant's roots and discourage overwatering.

5. LEAVE IT LONG

Raise your lawn mower blade. Longer grass promotes deeper root growth, resulting in a more drought-resistant lawn, reduced evaporation, and fewer weeds.

6. GIVE YOUR HOSE A BREAK

Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and steps rather than hosing them off. And don't forget to check for leaks at your spigot connection and tighten as necessary.



FEBRUARY 2020 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- The Board received the Annual Utilities Report
- Bid for Main Lift South Sewage Pump Replacement was approved
- Bid for Bobcat Tractor Replacement, CRP 08-07-1 was approved

Board of Directors

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Randy Jenco
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Linda Butler
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John Merchant
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Tim Maybee
Director
tmaybee@rmcsd.com



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BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon
& 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Closed for Lunch -
12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.

DISTRICT STAFF

Mark Martin
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HELP FIGHT CRIME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

WITH SACRAMENTO COUNTY SHERIFF'S ELECTRONIC EYE (S.E.E.)

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department wants you to join their crime-fighting team by joining their Sheriff's Electronic Eye (S.E.E.) Camera Registry Program. The S.E.E. Program allows citizens and business owners to register the locations of their video surveillance systems with the Sheriff's Department. When a crime occurs, the Sheriff's Department will be able to identify the locations of video surveillance systems and enlist the assistance of citizens to help collect video evidence.

It is important to understand that the Sheriff's Department does not hook up to residents' video cameras so they can use or view video remotely like "Big Brother". The Sheriff's Department takes the information from people that register through the S.E.E. program and puts that information into a database that lists private and commercial video surveillance systems. When the Sheriff's Department is on a crime scene, or Detectives are conducting an investigation, the Officers use the database to look up the neighborhood where the crime occurred and see where registered video systems are located. Then, the Deputies can go to the house, knock on the door, and ask to see any video footage you may have to assist in their investigation.

Residential and commercial video surveillance systems are used to keep your house, family and business safe, but they also can be used to help law enforcement solve crimes. Recently here in Rancho Murieta, a few cars had their windows smashed in during a mid-night vandalism act by two youths. One residence had home video surveillance and the camera captured the act and the suspects on video. Because of that video, a suspect was identified. That information was turned over to the Sheriff's Department for prosecution.



FIX A LEAK WEEK ~ March 16 - 22, 2020

Are you ready to chase down leaks? Household leaks can waste more than a trillion gallons of water annually nationwide, so each year we hunt down the drips during Fix a Leak Week. Remember that you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long.

To check for leaks in your home, you first need to determine whether you are wasting water and then identify the source of the leak. Here are some tips for finding leaks:

- Take a look at your water usage during a colder month, such as January or February. If a family of four (4) exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)



Examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.

The vast majority of leaks can be eliminated by retrofitting a household with new WaterSense labeled fixtures and other high-efficiency appliances.

Fix a Leak Week

PET WASTE DISPOSAL

Did you know that pet waste contains bacteria which can be harmful to people and the environment? Pet waste left on lawns, trails, and sidewalks can wash into the storm drain system and into creeks and rivers.

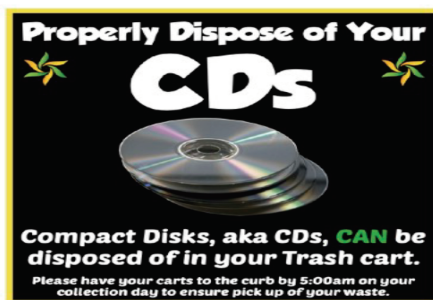
Here are some reminders:

- When walking your dog(s), always carry a plastic bag and pick up after your pet(s).
- Pet waste stations, which provide free plastic bags, are located around the reservoirs for your convenience. Please use them.
- Dispose of pet waste in the trash.
- Never wash pet waste into a storm drain.

We thank you for being a responsible pet owner and helping to keep our waterways clean.



DO YOU KNOW WHERE TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF YOUR WASTE?



You Asked... We're Giving You The Answers!

Every day people search our Waste Wizard Tool to help them determine how to properly dispose of their waste. This month, the Top 3 items searched in Rancho Murieta were Cardboard, CDs, and Paint.

- **CARDBOARD** - Cardboard CAN be disposed of in your Recycling Cart. Please break it down to fit in your curbside cart for collection. If you have too much cardboard to fit in your weekly collection, please schedule a Large Item Pick Up.
- **COMPACT DISKS** - Compact Discs can be disposed of in your Trash carts. Please make sure to have your carts at the curb by 5:00am on your collection day in order to ensure prompt pick up of your waste.
- **PAINT** - Paint CANNOT be disposed of in your curbside collection carts at any time. Please dispose of all paint products at the Special Collection Facility near you.

WHERE IS THE NEAREST SPECIAL COLLECTION FACILITY?

The Information Is At Your Fingertips When You Download Our App, "Cal-Waste Recycles Right"!

Please Take Your Household Hazardous Waste & Special Collection Items to the **Kiefer Landfill Special Collection Facility**

12701 Kiefer Boulevard and Grantline Road | Sloughouse, CA 95683
Tuesday through Saturday | 8:30AM - 4:00PM

Residents can drop off common Household Hazardous Waste at the Special Collection Facility free of charge. Visit their website for HHW disposal more instructions.

<https://wmr.saccounty.net/Pages/KieferLandfill-SWDropOff.aspx>

Our App Is Free For Apple & Android Users!



HOW TO CONTACT THE DISTRICT

Visit us on the web at www.rmcsd.com!

*The District's Administration Office is located at: 15160 Jackson Road, Rancho Murieta

*Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 1050, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683; Main Office: 916-354-3700

*South Gate: 916-354-3743 *Contact the South Gate for after-hours water problems.*