



**April 2023**

**Serving the Community**

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

**District Meeting Schedule For April 2023**

**Committee Meetings Will Be Held in Person**

**April 4, 2023**

Improvements—Canceled Finance @ 10:00 a.m.

**April 6, 2023**

Communication & Technology @ 8:30 a.m.  
Security @ 10:00 a.m.

**Board Meetings Will Be Held In Person**

**Special Board Meeting GM Recruitment**

**April 12, 2023—Time TBD**  
Check the website

**Regular Board Meeting April 19, 2023 @ 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](http://www.rmcsd.com) for any changes

**BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!**

**FY 2023-24 PROP 218 NOTIFICATION**

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023, the District held the annual Prop 218 Budget meeting. The Board discussed and approved proposed rate increases for Water, Wastewater and Solid Waste to be mailed out this week. The Prop 218 notices define the proposed increases in rates for the July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 fiscal year. In compliance with the provisions of Proposition 218, CSD provides this notice and sets a maximum amount ratepayers may be charged for each service that comprise the total utility bill. The District will conduct a public hearing tentatively scheduled for June 21, 2023 for budget adoption. Based on internal review of public input through the Prop 218 process, the District Board members will set the final rates for the coming year through a vote. The utility bill *can* go down, but by law, rates cannot exceed what was provided in the original Proposition 218 notice.

On March 15<sup>th</sup>, the Sacramento County Civil Grand Jury released a report citing several findings in response to community concerns over delayed financial reporting. The District Board of Directors and staff are working hard to bring the District’s accounting systems up to date to ensure accurate tracking and reporting of finances. However, while an audit looks backward at financial activities, the budget reviews trends and provides a plan for the future. In order to understand the future operational needs of the District based on knowns, such as salaries and benefits, chemicals and other water operational expenses, and consideration of rising inflation against two years of stagnant revenues, the District contracted with an external rate consultant to provide a snapshot of the increases the District is experiencing, the impact of the use of the property tax revenue as subsidies and the funds needed to fill those gaps.

The proposed increases are based on the estimated operational needs due to inflationary and cost of services increases. This increase is intended to be a “bridge” budgetary increase to pull the District through the next fiscal year with minimal deficits that negatively impact the reserves while preparing for a capital improvement plan, 5-year rate study and updated cost allocation plan.

Unfortunately, the District is not immune to the rising costs of operating and requires increases within the base charge for both Water and Wastewater. These increases allow the District to maintain the existing service levels and continue to provide the District residents with high quality water and wastewater services, while continuing to balance reactionary responses to crises against proactive long-term solutions.

The last rate increase for Solid Waste occurred in FY 2021-22. Over the last two years, rates have increased due to inflation, contract renegotiation with both Cal-Waste and the Sacramento County Landfill and the mandatory implementation of SB1383 Organics Waste recycling efforts. With the lack of a rate increase, the cost to the District has risen in aggregate of 24%. Over the last two years, the District has absorbed the deficits with a property tax subsidy and reserves.

Looking into the FY24 operational needs, the District, with recommendation from the Sacramento County Civil Grand Jury, determined that the use of Property Taxes to subsidize operational costs prevented the District from using those funds to bolster the underfunded reserves. The Board of Directors intends to utilize no more than \$50,000 of Property Tax revenues to subsidize any operational deficits for the FY24 budget.

Wherever possible, the District has and will continue to evaluate expenses to minimize the negative impact on the reserves. However, without these increases, the District may need to cut services where possible in order to prevent going over budget. The District prides itself in its quality water and wastewater services and will continue to provide these services to the community.

The District welcomes active participation in the process. The District will be holding a Town Hall Prop 218 meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Murieta Room, Rancho Murieta Country Club. Additionally, there will be a budget hearing where your voice will be heard. The owner of record or tenant (customer of record) may protest this rate increase. To protest the increase, you may mail a letter to P.O. Box 1050, Rancho Murieta, CA 95683. You may also hand deliver this protest to the District Office at 15160 Jackson Road. The law requires all Proposition 218 protests to be in writing. We cannot accept electronic (e-mail) letters.

## CHANGES TO CURBSIDE WASTE SERVICES

As part of our continued partnership with the Community of Rancho Murieta, Cal-Waste wants to share some information regarding solid waste with your community.

Changes have been made to curbside collection as of January 1, 2023, to be compliant with California Senate Bill 1383. Organic Waste is the new term that encompasses yard & garden waste and the addition of food waste and food soiled paper.



With the addition of food waste and food soiled paper to the organics cart, people across the state must now decide how to best handle food waste and food soiled paper in their kitchens. As Rancho Murieta's partnered waste provider, Cal-Waste has researched various tips and methods that could help Rancho Murieta residents participate in this new program. These tips and methods are not a one-size-fits-all approach. Each household should decide what method (or method not shown here) best fits their lifestyle to effectively dispose of their food waste in compliance with Senate Bill 1383.

### When to collect food waste...

- Meal prepping
- Left over food scraps
- Cleaning out the refrigerator or freezer



The ideal times to collect food waste at home are preparing meals and meal prepping, cleaning up after meals, and when cleaning out your refrigerator and freezer.

There are various methods to collect food waste in your kitchen. If you search for the term "kitchen pail," on Amazon, you will find hundreds of options available.

### Containers to collect food waste....

- Kitchen pails - countless options available through Amazon
- Old Tupperware or plastic containers
- Home composting system



Although, if you would rather not spend money on a kitchen pail, then there are many options that you likely already have in your home. We have seen various items such as old Tupperware to old peanut jars or coffee cans being used as kitchen pails. Of course, the state is not barring anyone from composting in their backyard, so home composters are okay, too.

Cal-Waste does not allow plastics of any kind in Organic Waste Carts. All plastics, including those marked "bio-degradable," must go in the trash. Plastic bags may be used to collect food waste in your kitchen, but they must be emptied and disposed of into the trash cart.

### NOT ACCEPTED

- Plastic bags are not allowed in organics carts. If you choose to use a plastic bag to collect food waste in the kitchen the bag must be emptied and thrown away in the trash cart.
- Plastics marketed as "bio-degradable", "compostable", or "eco-friendly" are not allowed in organics carts.



The state mandate has its challenges, and Cal-Waste is here to help through the adjustments to meet compliance. For more information about organic waste, please visit [Cal-Waste.com/Rancho-Murieta/](http://Cal-Waste.com/Rancho-Murieta/). To

use the Waste Wizard tool to look up proper disposal of household items and to set collection day reminders, please download the FREE Cal-Waste Recycles Right Mobile App, available on all mobile devices. Also, comprehensive waste collection information can be found at [Cal-Waste.com](http://Cal-Waste.com). Cal-Waste Customer Service is available Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at (916) 354-4154 or at [CustomerService@Cal-Waste.com](mailto:CustomerService@Cal-Waste.com).

## Board of Directors

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## A Monthly Newsletter

**April 2023**

**Serving the Community**

### BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Thursday

8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

*Friday—Closed*

**Michael Fritschi**  
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**Ron Greenfield**  
Utilities Supervisor

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### MARCH 15, 2023 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved Boat Ramp for Calero
- Received updates on contracting emergencies for Lake 11 and Rio Oso
- Adopted Ordinance O2023-01 updating District Code Chapters 14, 15, 16, 21 and 31 regarding Refunds and Collections
- Received update from GM Transition Ad Hoc Committee
- Approved Bid with Prodigy Electric for WWTP Drying Bed
- Adopted Resolution R2023-06 Accepting Riverview Infrastructure

### MARCH 27, 2023 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Adopted Resolution R2023-05 authorizing charges for Public Meeting attendance for Adkins/Maddaus for Integrated Water Master Plan
- Instructed Staff to proceed with Budget process and Prop 218 rate increase notice for FY 2023-24

### MARCH 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

#### Improvements Committee

- Discussed introduction of Blackfish to Calero
- Reviewed WWTP Drying Bed RFP results
- Discussed Boat Ramp at Calero

#### Security Committee

- Received monthly updates
- Received Update on the Safety Center

#### Finance Committee

- Received Audit and Budget to Actual Update
- Discussed Prop 218
- Discussed Tyler Timeline for Training
- Discussed RFP for Five-Year Rate Study
- Discussed Security Staffing

#### Communications & Technology Committee

- Discussed upgrades to the Pipeline
- Added 700+ residents to receive a mailed copy of the Pipeline
- Reviewed the Integrated Water Master Plan meeting March 18th

### RESERVOIR LEVELS

As of March 29, 2023 the Reservoirs levels are:

Calero— 89% Full

Chesbro— 90.8% Full

Clementia— 100% Full

### EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT—Tawanda Mitchell—Acct. Tech.—HR

Tawanda Mitchell joined the District in July as a temporary Accounting Technician, HR. We were pleased to welcome her as a regular employee on October 10, 2022. Tawanda spends her time at the District processing payroll, managing employee benefits, ensuring the personnel files are up to date and coordinating training for District employees. If she wasn’t working at the District she would like to be an elementary school teacher. In her spare time, Tawanda loves to watch movies, mostly comedies and romances! Welcome Tawanda!!





## MARCH 18, 2023 INTEGRATED WATER MASTER PLAN MEETING

The District held a special Communications Committee meeting in a townhall format at the Murieta Room at the Rancho Murieta Country Club on March 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Overall, the goal was to provide a space in which questions and comments could be exchanged regarding the District endeavor to complete an Integrated Water Master Plan. The intent of the first meeting was to introduce what an Integrated Water Master Plan is and what the scope of the study would include.

The event was well attended with likely over 150 people in attendance. A presentation was provided to convey information on how the District plans to proceed with the Integrated Water Master Plan.

There were a significant number of questions generated regarding the District water supply and capacity issues and how the plan will address them. The questions asked will be posted on the District's website on the Integrated Water Master Plan page and, along with additional questions that will be answered in the coming months as the plan develops.

## SPRING TIME IS MOSQUITO TIME



We have all looked forward to those pleasant evenings when we can enjoy backyard and park activities, barbecuing, and socializing with friends and family. Unfortunately, some uninvited visitors also enjoy those pleasant evenings – those pesky mosquitoes.

Now is the time to be sure the mosquito breeding areas are minimized: ensure there is no standing water, such as in bird baths or fountains, empty flower pots or containers, and ditches or other low spots which hold water where mosquitoes can breed.

It is still early in the season for the mosquitoes (which can carry the West Nile Virus) to attack, but as the weather warms, they will be looking for dining sites, preferably on warm blooded mammals. Be prepared by eliminating breeding sites, using repellent, and wearing long sleeves and long pants during the early morning and evening hours

## SECURITY REMINDER

### Rancho Murieta Association Rule Violations

Speeding and stop sign violations by you and/or your guests are subject to Rancho Murieta Association (RMA) fines. *The speed limit for golf carts is 10 miles per hour on cart paths and at the lakes. Golf carts and other vehicles can drive up to 25 miles per hour on roadways unless otherwise posted.* Overloaded golf carts or unsafe usage, such as towing skate-boarders or bikers, are also subject to RMA fines.



## DEER CREEK/SCOTT ROAD CROSSING STREAM GAUGE

Here is the link to check the stream level of Deer Creek and Scott Road due to rains and possible flooding.

[http://www.sacflood.org/sensor.php?site\\_id=1133&device\\_id=7&view\\_id=1](http://www.sacflood.org/sensor.php?site_id=1133&device_id=7&view_id=1)



## HOW TO CONTACT THE DISTRICT

Visit us on the web at [www.rmcsd.com](http://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.*