

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** September 15, 2020  
**To:** Board of Directors  
**From:** Tom Hennig, General Manager  
**Subject:** General Manager's Report

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### COVID-19 RESPONSE

District offices continue to be closed to the public. The latest Sacramento County Health directive has extended the stay-at-home/essential services mandate on August 31, 2020. The order remains in effect until rescinded or amended by County Health Officials. Administration staff continue holding remote meetings three times a week to ensure contact and coordination along with use of other technology to maximize efficiency while working remotely.

The following are the action items for reopening the District office. This list will grow as we get closer to opening, which will need to be reviewed by the District legal counsel.

#### Workplace Safety Preparations:

- Staggering work schedules
- Regular employee screening of temperature
- Sneeze guard to be installed shortly
- The office staff are cleaning all public area surfaces three times daily
- Masks and gloves available
- Wall-mounted hand sanitizers at all entry throughout District offices

#### Transitioning Employee's Back:

- Adopt protocols for employees reporting illness, etc., for potential exposure
- Document measures take to improve workplace safety
- Meet and confer with the OE3 Union representative to review our plans

#### Employee Concerns:

- Train management staff on policies and procedures related to COVID-19 actions
- Address anxiety about returning to the workplace during the pandemic

### LAGUNA JOAQUIN

Over the past four weeks, we have been busy working to improve the water conditions at the retention basin.

- We have increased the frequency of applying chemicals to slow the midge fly hatchings.
- We have also installed two bug attraction devices that should allow us to track the insects and determine the frequency of the hatchings as well as to identify the type and number.

- To improve water quality, which may have avoided another fish-kill, we refreshed the basin with water from Clementia Reservoir. This took place over the weekend of September 12. This action improved oxygen levels, which helps prevent potential fish-kill.

We have released a request for proposal to find a vendor with the expertise to evaluate the entire Laguna Joaquin Basin operations. The focus of the request will be to:

- Evaluate and provide general options for improvement of the Laguna Joaquin basin.
- Evaluate the extent and test silt material to be removed (dredged) and develop an estimate for removal and disposal.
- Potential to review the hydrology related to the CIA Ditch as the means for getting fresh water into the Laguna Joaquin basin.
- Options for remediating the midge fly and other insect issues.
- Provide recommendations for Laguna Joaquin drainage improvements.
- Provide recommendations for algae control and water quality management.

### **COVID-19 CASE UPDATE**

We had two Utility employees test positive for COVID-19. Both employees have returned to work and are healthy again. All employees are reminded of the social distancing protocol and that if they displayed any symptoms, they are to stay away from work until they become symptom-free. As of today, there were no additional suspected cases.

### **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS**

#### **Rachio Smart Irrigation Controller Program – Began April 14, 2020 – While Supplies Last!**

The Regional Water Authority (RWA) Water Efficiency Program (WEP) is sponsoring a partnership with Rachio Controllers to allow RWA member residents to purchase first-come-first-serve smart wi-fi irrigation controllers at a very reduced price. A total of 1,500 controllers will be available across all participating RWA agencies at the reduced price as long as supplies last. Controllers for either 8-zones or 16-zones typically costing up to \$279.99 retail each have been reduced to \$74.99 with free shipping.

#### **As of September 15, 2020**

- 80 Controller Rebates granted to RMCS D residents. This has an estimated value of \$8,000.
- 750 of 1,500 available claimed region-wide.
- Only Folsom and San Juan Water District have claimed more rebates than Rancho Murieta.
- According to Rachio, their system will automatically reduce watering days as a result of the cooler temperatures when the units have the Flex Daily schedule.

Below is the website for the program:

**<https://rwa.rachio.com/>**

Residents will be required to input their name, email, zip code and select Rancho Murieta CSD as the water provider to access the purchase site.

## **Background**

Smart irrigation controllers are the new wave of the Internet of Things (IOT) allowing homeowners to control their landscaping irrigation controller remotely using their smart devices along with other smart features such as rain delay due to actual weather observations and easy scheduling of intermittent watering programs. RWA went out to bid for vendors to participate, and Rachio was the only vendor who responded. The program is only available to residents and not commercial properties.

## **OUTREACH/ADVOCACY**

**CSD/MVA (Murieta Village)** – Met with leadership to discuss the delay in running electricity to the location selected for the camera system.

**CSD/RMA**– Attended the special Compliance Committee meeting to discuss Security Gate and Patrol related issues.

**Sacramento Central Groundwater Authority (SCGA)** – Paul Siebensohn will be attending virtual meetings when scheduled.

**Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District (SRCD) Board Meeting** –Attending virtual meetings when scheduled. Paul is now attending these types of sessions to support the District’s interests.

**Regional Water Authority (RWA) Regular Board Meeting** – Paul Siebensohn will be attending virtual meetings when scheduled.

## **DEVELOPMENT RELATED**

**Murieta Gardens Infrastructure** – I have met several times with District staff, Coastland Engineering, and the Developer to determine how to close this project.

**Residences East – 670 Financing and Services Agreement (FSA)** – No activity since the August Board meeting.

**Riverview project** – No activity since the August Board meeting.

**Legacy Villa’s & Suites project** – Met with Developer at Coastland Engineering to identify any opportunities for moving the project.

## **OTHER DISTRICT BUSINESS**

**Activities related to the Mellow Roos Bond - CFD 2014-1** – In late August, we discovered that the County had elected not to include the unpaid CFD 2014-1 bond payments in the 2018/19 Teeter program. This prompted me to work with the County to pull the debt from the County tax roll, which would allow the District to initiate foreclosure proceedings on the properties used to secure the bond funds. Demand letters were sent to the developer on Friday, September 11,

2020. The staff report to approve this action was agendized for this Board meeting. However, the developer delivered checks to the District office yesterday, ahead of the deadline set in the demand letter. Since the bond accounts are now current, the staff report was pulled from this agenda.

**Conference/Education Opportunities:**

Special District Leadership Academy  
Board Secretary/Clerk Conference

September 27 – 30, 2020, S. Lake Tahoe, CA  
October 26, 2020 Webinar

**EMPLOYEE ANNOUNCEMENTS, PROMOTIONS, COMMENDATIONS, AND KUDOS:** We are sad to announce that Graham Self, a Student Intern from Folsom Lake College, passed away on September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Graham started work with the District in February of this year. He was an inspiration for all of us in the office and we miss his humor and his dignity while he fought his ferocious battle with Osteosarcoma cancer.