



**A Monthly Newsletter**

**May 2020**

**Serving the Community**

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

**District Meeting Schedule For May 2020**

**May 5 , 2020**  
Personnel @ 7:30 a.m.  
Improvements @ 8:00 a.m.  
Finance @ 10:00 a.m.

**May 7, 2020**  
Communication & Technology @ 8:30 a.m.  
Security @ 10:00 a.m.

**May 20, 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](http://www.rmcsd.com) for any changes*

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

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE - RMCS D OFFICES ARE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC ALL REGULAR SERVICES CONTINUE AS USUAL**  
The Rancho Murieta Community Services District Buildings are CLOSED to the public until further notice due to COVID-19 best practices. SERVICES, including WATER, SEWER, DRAINAGE, AND SECURITY will continue as usual. SOLID WASTE (Cal-Waste) will continue its TRASH and GREEN WASTE/RECYCLING pick up schedule as usual; however, Curbside BULKY WASTE Collection has been POSTPONED until after May 3rd. Payments can be made online or in our drop box located at the front door. We are not accepting cash payments at this time. For questions - please call 916-354-3700. The Security Department is operating as usual; however the public will not be permitted in the gatehouses.

**RMCS D HELPING TO EASE THE FINANCIAL IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY**  
We understand that many in our Community may be suffering financial hardship from the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) emergency. To help our customers during these uncertain times, the CSD Board of Directors approved suspending service shutoffs and charging late fees starting on March 25. On April 2, Governor Newsom issued Executive Order N-42-20, directing all water agencies to do the same during the COVID-19 emergency. The District will also be waiving late fees until further notice. If you are unable to make a payment, please contact the District directly at (916) 354-3700 to arrange a payment plan, which will reduce or defer monthly payments to residents impacted by the current COVID-19 situation. If you can pay your bill, you are still required to do so, and after the emergency, past-due accounts will still need to be paid in full. We are happy to work with our Community to get through this difficult time.

**FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULED**  
The 2020-2021 fiscal year for the District begins July 1, 2020. The budget, including Capital Projects and the proposed service charge increases and special tax adjustments is scheduled for the District’s May 20, 2020 regular meeting of the Board of Directors.  
Directors and staff have been reviewing data and have capped the projected increase for residential customers to 4.12 percent. The rate could be reduced during these hearings, but not increased. Notices to customers regarding the rate increase were mailed on March 31, 2019 in compliance with Proposition 218. The proposed rate hike would increase the average residential bill \$7.66 per month. Based on direction from the Finance Committee Board members, CSD staff are working to cut the proposed budget. These cuts will be reviewed at the next Finance Committee meeting on May 5, 2020.

Protests must be submitted in writing. Written letters of protest must be received at the District prior to the close of the May 20, 2020 public hearing. Email protest letters will not be accepted. Protests must contain your name and a description of the property in which you have an ownership interest. A street address and/or the assessor’s parcel number are sufficient descriptions. Send your comments to Rancho Murieta Community Services District, C/O Director of Administration, P.O. Box 1050, Rancho Murieta, California 95683 or call (916) 354-3700.

## GENERAL MANAGER'S CORNER

### The District's Annual Budget – Impact of State Regulations/Actions & others

Since we are in the middle of the Board's review and approval of the District's annual budget, I thought it useful to again highlight a sample of regulatory factors and other items that drive our budget's costs. These are just a few of many examples.

Dams. The continuing impacts of backlash from the Oroville Dam spillway incident are continuing to be felt with another rate increase this year by the Department of Water Resources - Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) as they report they're too understaffed to deal with all they are being required to review. They have reformulated their fee, resulting in higher overall costs for our District of approximately 8%. The Chesbro reservoir dam alone costs over \$26,000 a year for annual permitting. As part of the additional requirements by the DSOD to have updated Inundation Mapping and Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), the Office of Emergency Services has expanded the process for presenting and adopting detailed EAPs for dams, resulting in a potential cost impact of \$12,500.

Drainage (stormwater runoff). Like our Security department, the Drainage fund is supported by a special tax which only allows a maximum increase of 2% a year, barely in-line with inflation. This nominally funded drainage department continues to have additional requirements put on it by the State regardless of cost impacts. The new requirement is to test drainage outfalls and receiving water for Pyrethroids, a family of pesticides. Despite requesting what the cost estimate would be to do so, the State Water Resources Control Board responded it is unknown at this time. This will require staffing and consulting time, as well as laboratory sampling and testing to be dedicated to it.

#### Other cost items.

SMUD has rolled out a fee increase schedule noting they will be increasing our commercial power costs an additional 3% in October and another 2.5% January 2021. Thankfully the District completed their solar power projects a few years ago that sets a portion of their power demands at the Water and Wastewater facilities at a fixed purchasing rate, well below SMUDs rates. Other increasing fees are the Sacramento Air Quality Control Board up 3%, CalPERS retirement contributions and workers compensation insurance increases, and Solid Waste fee contract up 4.8%.

Many residents in Rancho Murieta have successfully run a business and understand the cost impacts of new regulations impacting employers. The District is subject to the same State and Federal employment laws as private sector businesses. The District endeavors to do the most possible with its existing staff and to avoid turnover. Avoiding turnover aids in keeping costs down for recruitment, time spent on training, and lost productivity from seasoned staff.

New regulatory costs to the District are not just financial. As new programs and reporting requirements are added, a District like ours is not able to regularly add new bodies to take on the new responsibilities. These programs are typically added to existing staff workload who have already assumed a great amount of added regulatory responsibilities over the years. Although we do our best to accommodate new mandates, at some point the extra time required to meet the mandates can impact existing staffs' ability to focus on and maintain the same level of quality service in what are critical core areas.

## APRIL 2020 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Reviewed a presentation from ClearSource Financial Services on the Cost Allocation Plan
- Received 2019 Security Department Annual Report
- Approved Resolution R2020-02 accepting two Grants of Easement from Murieta Marketplace, LLC.
- Approved Proposal from Tesco to replace 6B Sewer Lift Station Programable Logic Controller
- Approved Proposal from Telstar to replace West Dissolved Air Flootation System (DAF) Electrical Panel
- Approved Proposal from Dominichelli & Associates to complete Dam Inundation Mapping & EAP
- Introduced Ordinance O2020-01 Cleanup of Chapter 21 Security Code Text
- Created Ad Hoc Committee to communicate purpose of Reservoirs to Residents

## Board of Directors

Les Clark  
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lclark@rmcsd.com

Randy Jenco  
Vice President  
rjenco@rmcsd.com

Linda Butler  
Director  
lbutler@rmcsd.com

John Merchant  
Director  
jmerchant@rmcsd.com

Tim Maybee  
Director  
tmaybee@rmcsd.com



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**Serving the Community**

### 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**  
General Manager  
[mmartin@rmcsd.com](mailto:mmartin@rmcsd.com)

**Amelia Wilder**  
District Secretary  
[awilder@rmcsd.com](mailto:awilder@rmcsd.com)

**Tom Hennig**  
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**Cindy Chao, CPA**  
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**Tonya Perez**  
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### READY FOR AN UPGRADE? NEW REBATE PROGRAM AVAILABLE FOR WEATHER-BASED "SMART" SPRINKLER CONTROLLERS

Residents can now save 65 percent on a Rachio 3 Smart Sprinkler Controller through a new rebate program offered by Rancho Murieta Community Services District in partnership with the Regional Water Authority and local water providers.



The Rachio 3 Controller acts like a thermostat for your sprinklers, using local weather conditions to adjust how long your sprinklers run. The controller automatically reduces sprinkler runtimes when the weather is cooler and increases them when the temperatures rise. You can also manage the controller from your smart phone with the Rachio app.

It's estimated that replacing a standard controller with a WaterSense-labeled smart controller like the Rachio 3 can save an average home about 13,500 gallons of water per year.

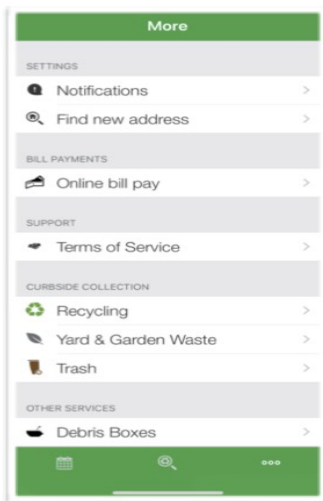
The Rachio 3 Smart Sprinkler Controller typically retails for about \$220 for an eight-zone system but are being offered at a reduced rate of \$75 plus tax. Residents will be responsible for installation.

Rebates are available for a limited time on a first-come, first-served basis until funding is exhausted. Rebate details, eligibility requirements and a link to the application are available at [www.BeWaterSmart.info](http://www.BeWaterSmart.info).



**Do You Have Students Learning at Home?**

**TEACH THEM HOW TO RECYCLE PROPERLY  
WITH OUR WASTE WIZARD!**



1. Download our App "Cal-Waste Recycles Right".
2. Click on the magnifying glass icon at the bottom.
3. Search for a questionable item in our Waste Wizard.
4. Dispose of the item correctly!



## RESIDENT CONCERNS ABOUT COVID-19 ENFORCEMENT

Recently the Security Department has fielded concerns from residents regarding others in the community possibly violating the COVID-19 orders set by the Sacramento County Department of Public Health and the Governor of California. Residents have asked Security to enforce these orders upon people who appear to be in violation for such things as not staying inside, keeping social distancing, and allowing workers into the community that are not providing essential services, such as lawn mowing.

The County Department of Public Health and regular law-enforcement are the enforcement agencies as it relates to COVID-19. If someone believes another person is not adhering to these orders, they have options to report these violations to the proper authorities. Sacramento County has established a complaint line through their 311 system. People are encouraged to use that system to file complaints. One can simply dial 311 on their telephone or file a complaint online through the County's 311 website.

It is important to remember that for now, people are allowed to be outside and participate in exercise activities. If a resident calls Security with a complaint related to a violation of the orders imposed, they will be directed to call the Sheriff's Department or more appropriately, to utilize the 311 system.

Currently there are no restrictions imposed at the gates to enter Rancho Murieta. We remind you that the rules for entry into the gated portion of the community and how gates operate is set by the Rancho Murieta Association (RMA) and carried out by Security.

Ultimately, having a good outcome rests on personal responsibility and good decision-making by each individual in the community.

Everyone please stay safe and stay healthy.

311 Connect

<https://311.saccounty.net>

<https://www.saccounty.net/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>

## SPRING IS HERE! REBATES AVAILABLE!!

To assist in conservation, the District is offering several rebates and free conservation handouts; information is available at the District office and our website <https://www.ranchomurieta.com/rebates>.

- **Toilet Rebate**: You can receive a rebate of up to \$100 when you purchase and install a water efficient toilet.
- **Water Pressure Reducing Valve**: You can receive a rebate of up to \$100 when you purchase and install a water pressure reducing valve.
- **Weather-Based Sprinkler Controller**: You can receive a rebate of up to \$100 when you purchase and install a weather-based sprinkler controller.
- **Rotator Head Sprinkler**: You can receive a rebate of up to \$50 when you purchase and install a rotator head sprinkler system.
- **Drip System**: You can receive a rebate of up to \$50 when you purchase and install a drip system.
- **Hot Water Recirculation Pump Rebate**: You can receive up to a \$100 rebate when you purchase and install a Comfort System UP 15-10 S17P TLC Hot Water Circulation System or equivalent.

## BULKY WASTE COLLECTION *POSTPONED* UNTIL AFTER MAY 3, 2020

For the health and safety of our drivers and your community, Cal-Waste is temporarily postponing any curbside collections of Bulky Waste until after May 3rd. Cal-Waste will continue to collect trash weekly and green waste and recycling bi-weekly. Due to environmental health concerns around COVID-19 and manually handling bulky waste, Cal-Waste is unable to perform Bulky Waste Pick-Ups in Rancho Murieta until after May 3rd. If the state extends its "Sit in Place" order Cal-Waste may extend this postponement. If the postponement will need to be extended, Cal-Waste will inform the Community Services District in writing. We apologize for any inconvenience this causes residence. All Residence with Bulky Waste Pick-Ups scheduled for the upcoming weeks will be notified and rescheduled by the end of day on May 3rd.

## 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.*