



**May 2022**

**Serving the Community**

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

**District Meeting Schedule For May 2022**

**Committee Meetings Will Be Held Via ZOOM**

**May 3, 2022**

Personnel-7:30 a.m.  
Improvements @ 8:00  
Finance @ 10:00 a.m.

**May 5, 2022**

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

**Board Meeting Will Be Held In the Board Room**

**May 18, 2022**

**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!**

**SACRAMENTO TREE FOUNDATION**

**Join us to plant 145 seedlings in Rancho Murieta!**

**Saturday, May 21, from 8:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

The Sacramento Tree Foundation will provide all the necessary tools and supplies to care for trees. Participants will receive a short, hands-on training on site. After learning the tools and techniques, participants will split up into groups and begin planting trees throughout the site.

**Register now!** The week before this event, we will send a logistics and directions email with detailed information about how to get to the site. You will receive this email ONLY if you are signed-up for this planting.

**Who should attend?**

Anyone, but those who live or work nearby are especially encouraged to attend! This event is open to the general public, you do not need any prior experience to join us and on-site training will be provided. Families with children are welcome.

**Requirements**

**Register in advance:** Space is limited. If your plans change prior to the event, please update your registration status so we are sure to have the necessary number of volunteers. Go to <https://sactree.org/event/rancho-murieta-native-tree-planting/> and scroll to the bottom of the page to register.

**Youth volunteers:** Volunteers under 18 years of age must have their parent or legal guardian sign their consent form during registration. Volunteers under 16 years of age must be accompanied and supervised by an adult. One adult chaperone is required for every 6 youth under 16, or for every 2 youth under 10.

**Waiver:** All volunteers must pre-register and sign a completed volunteer waiver form during registration and BEFORE participating in the event.

**COVID safety:** Although we encourage attendees to be fully vaccinated, all attendees can choose to wear facial coverings at their own discretion. Anyone who has tested positive for COVID should not attend, unless more than 5 days have passed and they are asymptomatic and have tested negative on day 6 or later – please provide advance notice of cancellation when possible.

**Clothes and shoes:** Closed toed shoes are required. Long sleeves/pants and rain gear are recommended. Dress comfortably and appropriately for the weather, and plan to get a little dirty.

**Arrival:** Arrive on time. Check-in begins at 8:45 AM and volunteers must be present for the tool safety demonstration at the start of the event.

**Food and drink:** Bring a refillable water bottle; light snacks and water will be available on site if needed.

**Skills:** No specific skills or tools required. Each event starts with a tool safety and planting demonstration. Volunteers work alongside experienced planting leaders and staff.

**Questions? Need help registering?** Email [volunteers@sactree.org](mailto:volunteers@sactree.org)



## GM CORNER

### Budget Update—Proposed Rate Increase

The District recently sent the Proposition 218 Notice of a Public Hearing. The notice defines the PROPOSED increases in rates for the July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023, fiscal year. By law, CSD provides this notice and sets a maximum amount ratepayers may be charged for each service that comprise the total utility bill. The primary rates are Water, Sewer, Drainage, Security and Solid Waste. In compliance with the provisions of Proposition 218, the District will conduct a public hearing on June 1, 2022. Based on internal review of public input, 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.

The proposed increase is 19%, up 2% from last year's Prop 218 notice. This increase has drawn a significant amount of public concern. The District understands that the increases may seem "out of the ballpark", however, there are several reasons that make this increase necessary.

At the Special Board meeting on March 28, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the first year of a five-year plan to fund the District's reserves at 60%. This decision shifted the focus from short term needs to long term planning for the District's future. This difficult decision was necessary to improve the District's capability to repair, replace and improve upon existing infrastructure. The goal is to maintain the District's financial stability. Until last year, District Boards minimally increased reserve contributions, if at all, and District staff did not have the funding for the tools and resources necessary to be proactive, but rather reactive when addressing infrastructure needs. The lack of a stable reserve fund not only prohibited the ability of the District to attend to aging infrastructure, but left District staff tackling emergency repairs with aging equipment while trying to provide the best quality of service.

At the April 18, 2012 District Board meeting, staff reported the reserve totals at \$8,493,125. At the time, the District's total infrastructure was valued around \$30 million. Ten years later, at the April 20, 2022, District Special Board meeting staff reported the unaudited reserve totals at \$11,808,618 and per the March 28 Special Board meeting on reserves, the total infrastructure was valued at \$50 million. This is not nearly enough reserve funds to accommodate a major catastrophe nor be proactive in preventing them.

The proposed budget includes a \$21.00 increase to be collected each month for water and sewer reserves that we will use for long term repair, replacement and upgrades to our water and sewer infrastructure. By law, every penny we collect for reserves is placed in a restricted fund that may only be used for that purpose. As your water and sewer systems provider, it is important for you to know that we are only collecting for water and sewer infrastructure that is currently in use. All the infrastructure installed and modified for the new developments is completely paid for by the developers.

Additionally, staff had to take into consideration the rising inflationary costs that have impacted everything from electricity and gas to chemical and industrial costs. Unfortunately, the District is not immune to the rising costs of operating and needed to increase the base charge for both Water and Sewer to maintain regular operations. These increases allow the District to maintain the existing service levels and continue to provide the District residents with high quality water and sewer services, while continuing to balance reactionary responses to crises against proactive long-term solutions.

Without these increases, the District will need to cut services where possible in order to prevent going over budget. This means the service levels residents are accustomed to may decrease over a period of time and already aging infrastructure will continue to erode due to lack of funding availability. The longer deferred maintenance stays deferred, the costlier it becomes, especially in the era of high inflation and prevailing wage costs.

The District welcomes active participation in the process. 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.

## Board of Directors

**Tim Maybee**  
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tmaybee@rmcsd.com

**Randy Jenco**  
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rjenco@rmcsd.com

**Linda Butler**  
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**John Merchant**  
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**Martin Pohl**  
Director  
mpohl@rmcsd.com



## A Monthly Newsletter

**May 2022**

**Serving the Community**

### BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Thursday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.  
*Friday—Closed*

### DISTRICT STAFF

**Tom Hennig**  
General Manager  
[thennig@rmcsd.com](mailto:thennig@rmcsd.com)

**Paula O’Keefe**  
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District Secretary  
[awilder@rmcsd.com](mailto:awilder@rmcsd.com)

**Recruiting  
Accounting Manager**

**Travis Bohannon**  
Chief Plant Operator  
[tbohannon@rmcsd.com](mailto:tbohannon@rmcsd.com)

**Ron Greenfield**  
Utilities Supervisor  
[rgreenfield@rmcsd.com](mailto:rgreenfield@rmcsd.com)

### April 20, 2022 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Discussed Results of Security Opinion Poll relating to Security Services and tax revenue, authorized GM to proceed with actions necessary to initiate placing a Special Tax Proposal onto the 11/8/2022 Ballot, and to hire consulting firm to educate the community and to hire a tax consultant
- Authorized GM to enter into a contract with Robert Half Technologies for recruitment services
- Approved Contract with California CAD Solutions to continue building the District’s GIS System
- Approved Resolution R2022-08 authorizing District to enter into an agreement with the State Department of Water Resources to Receive \$1.3 million (SB170)
- Approved Resolution R2022-09 appropriating funds from Sewer Replacement Reserves for the purchase of lift station 6A pump
- Approved Resolution R2022-10 appropriating funds from Sewer Replacement Reserves for the purchase of lift station 6A wiring

### FEBRUARY 2022 COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

#### Improvements Committee

- Discussed contract with CalCAD Geographical System

#### Security Committee

Discussed Safety Center Building Upgrade

#### Finance Committee 4/5 and Special Finance Committee 4/14

Discussed Security Opinion Poll

#### Communications & Technology Committee

### FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULED

The 2022-2023 fiscal year for the District begins July 1, 2022. The budget, including Capital Projects and the proposed service charge increases and special tax adjustments is scheduled for the District’s June 1, 2022 special meeting of the Board of Directors.

Directors and staff have been reviewing data and have capped the projected increase for residential customers to 19 percent. The rate could be reduced during these hearings, but not increased. Notices to customers regarding the rate increase were mailed on April 13, 2022 in compliance with Proposition 218. The proposed rate hike would increase the average residential bill \$41.44 per month.

You can protest the rate increase. Protests must be submitted in writing. Written letters of protest must be received at the District prior to the close of the June 1, 2022 public hearing. Email protest letters will not be accepted. Protests must contain your name and a description of the property in which you are the owner of record or tenant (customer of record). 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.

### DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

**Riverview:** Phase 1b utility installation has continued with sewer lines and storm drain lines being installed.

**Retreats:** Grading has begun on the north section of the retreats. There is a significant amount of spoils being transported off site (and imported) which was previously created a lot of truck traffic and dirt being deposited on the haul route in Rancho Murieta. The District is working with the Developer to reduce the impact of the truck traffic and resulting soil sloughing on the road. Currently the developer is running 2 street sweepers.

**Taco Bell:** Building construction has continued for the new Taco Bell which is slated to open in May of this year.

**Circle K/Shell:** Most utilities have been tied in and the developer is working on extending a fire service line to the property.

## COMMUNITY FAQ's

### RESERVOIR LEVELS

We understand that the Community is very interested in the levels of the Reservoirs, so we plan to update you monthly on those levels through the winter and spring. As March 2, 2022, all of the Reservoirs are full. The District has added the stoplogs to the spill ways, which will effectively allow us to raise the level of the Reservoirs to their maximum capacity.

### SB1383: Using Recycled Organics Products

*As part of our continued partnership with the Community of Rancho Murieta, Cal-Waste wants to share some information regarding solid waste mandates and programs and their effects on services in your community.*

As planning continues across the state for implementation of programs in accordance with Senate Bill 1383 (Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Act), the various components of the bill need to be addressed. Per CalRecycle, "SB 1383 requires cities and counties to procure annually a quantity of recovered organic waste products to meet their annual procurement target."

The new products that must be procured annually from organic waste processing are listed as compost, mulch, biofuel, and electricity on CalRecycle's website. Of course, compost and mulch are easily acquired and utilized, while biofuel and electricity are not as accessible for most jurisdictions.

The state is hoping that the mandated procurement of these products will fund more infrastructure development, in turn making biofuel and electricity more readily available for all communities.

In reality, infrastructure development takes time, and ultimately, it's up to private entities across the state to choose to invest in those systems. Thankfully, compost and mulch are encouraged for a variety of uses by CalRecycle, which include soil water retention, erosion control, fire remediation, storm water management, agriculture, and rangelands among other uses. Many jurisdictions have existing projects in these categories, so we expect this requirement to be one of the more easily achievable measures of compliance in reference to SB 1383.

The layers of this new legislation can be daunting, but as always, Cal-Waste is here to share in the knowledge and resources available to achieve compliance with Senate Bill 1383 (Short-Lived Climate Pollutants Act).

### BE CAREFUL THIS SPRING/SUMMER!

The weather is beautiful, and there are many opportunities to enjoy the fabulous parks and recreational facilities in our Community, but please be mindful of dangers that can ruin your fun!

1. **SNAKES**—this is the time of year when rattlesnakes are becoming active. Avoid thick brush when hiking. Work outside and hike during the coolest part of the day. Stick to the trail.
2. **FIREWORKS**—this will be a particularly dry year, and fireworks can be very dangerous! If you have some, please save them for the 4th of July!
3. **PREPARE FOR WILDFIRES-**
  - A. Create a 100 foot defensible space around home
  - B. Use ember-resistant building materials to protect your home
  - C. Create your own emergency supply kit
  - D. Create your family communication and evacuation plans
4. **BE WATER SAFE—**
  - A. Always swim in a safe place
  - B. Always have a sober adult with you
  - C. Watch for hidden debris, rapid currents and slippery rocks
  - D. If some else is in trouble, call 911

### HAVE A GREAT SEASON!!

## 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.*