



June 2022

Serving the Community

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

District Meeting Schedule For June 2022

Board Meeting Will Be Held In the Board Room

**June 1, 2022
Special Board Meeting Rate Hearing @2:00**

**June 15, 2022
District Board Meeting @ 5:00 p.m.**

Committee Meetings Will Be Held Via ZOOM

**June 2, 2022
Communications & Technology @ 8:30 a.m.
Security @ 10:00 a.m.**

**June 7, 2022
Personnel @ 7:30 a.m.
Improvements @ 8:00
Finance @ 10:00 a.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!

BUDGET UPDATE

FY 2022-23 Proposed Budget, including Prop 218 rate increase notifications were released to the public on March 30, 2022, at a Special Board meeting. The total proposed revenue budget is \$8,639,229, which is an increase of \$640,241, or 8% over the previous year. To mitigate the impact of the current economic climate and rising inflation, the District took significant steps to contain costs within next years’ budget, understanding that everyone is also experiencing the same increase in costs. On May 10, District staff held a “town hall” meeting that allowed residents the opportunity to ask questions of the District staff about the budget. There were many great questions asked and answered. Some of them are below:

Did the District reject grant opportunities to offset Security costs?

Based on our research, there are no grants available for Security that would offset Security costs. If opportunities were available, the District would research and determine if the cost benefit analysis of any potential grants would be beneficial to the District.

The initial form protest letter stated staff received a 14% pay raise – is this true?

Staff did not receive a 14% pay raise. The 14% salary increase is representative of several things: the addition of 2 Accounting Technicians and the funding of a previously unfunded Security Patrol Officer. Additionally, the Represented staff will receive up to an 8.5% pay increase (3.5% annual COLA through bargaining and 5% annual step increase). These salary increases are built into the current MOU and the District cannot change them. The Unrepresented staff can receive anywhere from a 1% - 8% raise based on performance.

The Prop 218 notices cited a large increase (21%) of Insurance costs – is it true that employee settlements and lawsuit payouts are causing the increase?

While litigation does have an impact on the overall cost of General Liability, it is not the only impact on General Liability costs. General Liability covers items such as flood, building, auto, personal injury and property damage. Insurance costs have risen sharply in the last year because of medical inflation, Covid-19, societal trends towards increased litigation, plaintiff friendly legal decisions and other contributors.

Why isn’t the District releasing its FY 2020-21 audit?

The District reported in several Finance Committee and Board meetings that the audit has not been completed – primarily due to the high turnover in Accounting over several years. The District has contracted with an Accounting Firm to assist with the reconciliations needed to provide the final financial information to the auditor to complete the draft audit. District staff are optimistic that this firm will expedite the process and will have an audit draft for Board review soon.

The District just raised reserve contributions last year, why are they raising them again?

On March 28, 2022, the Board approved the first year of a five year rate increase to reserve contributions after receiving the completed reserve study. The District currently owns \$55 million in infrastructure; much of which is aging, deteriorated or failing regularly. Because prior Boards and District Administration did not gradually increase the reserve contributions or utility rates over the last 20+ years, the District cut corners on maintenance and repairs to continue working within budgetary constraints. More recent examples of “band-aid” solutions are failures of both pumps at Lift Station #6A, failing generators at several Lift Stations and Main Lift South, both pumps at 3B Lift Station, drinking water pumping system at the Rio Oso Tank, chlorinator leaks at both water and wastewater plants and a wastewater plant drying bed panel that is taped together, which has been waiting for replacement for four years at a cost of \$80,000. District staff work tirelessly to ensure that the residents have quality, clean drinking water, however without properly funding reserves, the more deferred maintenance will cost and could potentially lead to disastrous results. If the reserves aren’t increased, the District would need to borrow funds by way of securing financing at higher interest rates (including consultant costs) and/or a bond debt obligation tax measure that would be left to the voters to decide. Ultimately, the District’s 40 year old infrastructure is failing and without the funding to replace the aging pipelines, lift stations, drying beds and more, District staff will continue a reactive “band-aid” approach providing high quality drinking water and a fully functioning wastewater system without the proper tools and resources needed to be proactive and pave the way for innovation in the future.



Residents and Property Owners: We want your input!

WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE in providing customized security services 24/7 to maintain a safe, high-quality of life and protect you and your property. **We need your input on this vital service.**

When **Rancho Murieta Community Service District** was established, it was important for residents that security services be included. Now, after 24 years, our challenges to provide security services are growing, with the costs far outweighing the budget. **Without additional revenue, we will be forced to make painful cuts that will threaten your quality of life and impact community safety.**

To maintain customized Rancho Murieta security services, we are now studying options. One option is asking voters to consider a new parcel tax dedicated to maintaining or increasing current security service levels only. Nothing could be taken away by the State or used for other purposes.

We want to hear from you before important decisions are made. Please visit www.ranchohurietacsd.com to take our **SURVEY** or scan the QR code below for even easier access.

Security Goals:



- ▶ **CONTINUE** staffing both Rancho Murieta security gate entrances 24/7, year-round.
- ▶ **MAINTAIN** a 24-hour mobile patrol of the entire community and its boundaries.
- ▶ **OPERATE** a radio communications system to maintain direct, efficient contact with other emergency service providers, including local police, sheriff, and fire.
- ▶ **ASSIST** first responders when emergency rapid-response is needed—e.g., medical assist calls, first aid, firefighting, etc.
- ▶ **SUPPORT** Sheriff services before they arrive (sometimes 30-40 min.).
- ▶ **COMPLETE** local welfare visits to needed residents.
- ▶ **DETER AND REDUCE** trespassing, burglaries, vandalism, and property damage.



Rancho Murieta
Community Services District

ONLINE SURVEY



SCAN the QR CODE or visit our web page:

www.ranchohurietacsd.com

Please respond by June 30th.



A Monthly Newsletter

June 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

Paula O’Keefe
Director of Administration
pokeefe@rmcsd.com

Michael Fritschi
Director of Operations
mfritschi@rmcsd.com

Kelly Benitez
Security Supervisor
kbenitez@rmcsd.com

Amelia Wilder
District Secretary
awilder@rmcsd.com

Travis Bohannon
Chief Plant Operator
tbohannon@rmcsd.com

Ron Greenfield
Utilities Supervisor
rgreenfield@rmcsd.com

May 18, 2022 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved a proposal from Domenichelli & Associates to for Water Conveyance Options of Design Report in the amount of \$27,970 and approved Resolution R2022-11
- Approved Update to Password Policy
- Approved Updates to Personnel Manual
- Discussed scheduling future regular Board Meetings for 4:00 p.m.
- Approved Resolution R2022-12 for CalPERS 180 day Wait Period Exception for Susan Wren
- Authorized GM to enter into an Agreement for Outsourcing Accounting Services in the amount of \$167,870 and approve Resolution R2022-13
- Approved 8th Amendment to Agreement with Sac Co Waste
- Discussed Implementation of Stage 2 Potable Water Restrictions

MAY 2022 COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Improvements Committee

- Discussed contract with Adkins for Bathometric Study
- Discussed Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2022-23
- Discussed Water Conveyance Options Basis of Design Report

Security Committee

- Discussed Safety Center Building Upgrade

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

- Discussed Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2022-23

Communications & Technology Committee

- Received Update on Reservoir Information and Education Committee
- Discussed update to District Password Policy
- Discussed Sacramento Tree Foundation Planting scheduled for May 21, 2022

Personnel Committee—Cancelled

NOTICE OF DISTRICT ELECTION

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Rancho Murieta Community Services District and are a registered voter within the District, you may obtain the paperwork from the Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections Office at 7000 65th Street, Suite A, Sacramento, or on their website at <https://elections.saccounty.net/CampaignServices/Pages/Election-Documents.aspx> . The filing period is July 18, 2022 through August 12, 2022.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Riverview: Phase 2 and sanitary sewer masterplan update was submitted to the District for review and staff have forwarded comments on to the District Engineer. Lund plans to perform a temporary tie in to the spray park in time for the grand opening for May 21st. The District is having the septic tank pumped at the country club bathroom due to recent construction cuts on the Karsten drive entrance, potentially compromising the leach field. The District is billing the developer for this cost of pumping.

Retreats: KHov was issued a Notice of Violation by the District for failing to prevent sediment from leaving the site and have been fined \$500. KHov has updated their SWPPP to comply with the District requirements.

Taco Bell: Opening soon

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 May 18, 2022, all three Reservoirs were full to spillway level. 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.

Please Note that Everyone Fishing in Rancho Murieta Lakes/Reservoirs

Is Required to Have a Valid Fishing License.



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.

FISCAL YEAR 2022-2023 BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULED

The 2022-2023 fiscal year for the District begins June 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 22.37 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.

Board of Directors

Tim Maybee
President
tmaybee@rmcsd.com

Randy Jenco
Vice President
rjenco@rmcsd.com

Linda Butler
Director
lbutler@rmcsd.com

John Merchant
Director
jmerchant@rmcsd.com

Martin Pohll
Director
mpohll@rmcsd.com

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.**