



A Monthly Newsletter

September 2024

Serving the Community

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

District Meeting Schedule For September 2024

All Meetings in Person

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

***Thursday September 5th
9 a.m. Communications & Technology***

***Wednesday
September 18th
7:30 a.m.- Personnel
8 a.m. - Improvements***

***BOARD MEETING
Wednesday
September 18th
5:00 p.m.***

The public is invited to attend.

All meeting dates and times are subject to change.

Check our website, www.rmcsd.com for any changes.

MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

September 2024

Dear Rancho Murieta Residents:

In past Messages, I have primarily focused on the finances and security of the District and want to now share information regarding water.

Last month the California State Water Board finalized regulations stemming from 2018 legislation on water conservation. The document, entitled Conservation as a California Way of Life, is part of the state’s “all-of-the-above strategy” to:

- * Expand storage,
- * Develop new water supplies, and
- * Promote more efficient water use

The regulation “seeks to cultivate long-term practices that help communities adapt to California's ongoing water challenges. The proposed regulation is expand storage, develop new water supplies, and promote more efficient water use. The proposed regulation is intended to lessen the need for the emergency water use reduction targets that were important in recent droughts.”

Rancho Murieta is reliant entirely on surface water (river water) for its water and has an impressive system that was ahead of its time and forward-thinking from a sustainability perspective. The plan to use treated wastewater to irrigate the two golf courses that define the community was most likely conceived almost 50 years ago and helped create a water self-sufficiency that is impressive.

The lack of additional sources of supply or supplemental storage, however, leave the community vulnerable. The system is vulnerable when it doesn’t snow in the Sierras or when the snow melts too soon, as it has been in recent years. The timing of the snow melt is an issue because there is no place to store water if the reservoirs are still full. This is not a problem in an average year, but could be a problem in a drought year. This problem exists regardless of whether any more development occurs.

The Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP) is a required planning document to assess the supply and demand for the community and to identify potential solutions to identified vulnerabilities. These assessments should be done every 3 to 5 years so that a community is not surprised by gaps. The last IWMP for the District was 14 years ago. The current IWMP effort has sparked many responses from the community at the three town hall meetings held since 2023. These responses and conversations and questions are important because the community needs to be aware of the system vulnerabilities and be prepared to reduce usage during drought conditions and always conserve this precious resource.

I came across the [District’s Water Shortage Contingency Plan](#) – prepared in 2012 – and recommend that everyone take a look. The document is 20 pages (and might qualify under the TLDR tag that I just learned from my son (Too Long, Didn’t Read)), but it’s worth noting that there are five stages outlined from Normal to Water Emergency (Stage 4). It’s also worth noting that conservation is expected as a normal part of life and more extreme efforts only come into play during drought conditions or other system emergencies.

The District is fortunate to have a beautiful system of water reservoirs and thoughtful preparations today can lay the foundation for riding out difficult dry years.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Mimi Morris
General Manager

LOST AND FOUND

Are you missing an item? Have you found an item? Please turn in all found items to the gate closest to where you found it. If you lost an item, please call or visit the closest gate to your home to see if your item was turned in.

A wide variety of items are turned in to the gates, including telephones, keys, glasses, bicycles, clothing, blankets, etc.,

Storage is limited so the items are donated or disposed of if not claimed after 90 days.



SCHOOL BUS REMINDER

When the **school bus stops** and the flashing **red** lights come on, vehicles must stop and wait behind the bus or facing the bus if the roadway is not divided. Bus drivers must ensure their riders are out of harm's way before moving on.



RECEIVING YOUR BILL VIA EMAIL?

Your RMCS D Bill will be emailed from noreply@incode.tylerhosting.com. Please add this to your address book.

AUGUST 21, 2024 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Presented Longevity Award to Ron Greenfield for 10 years of service
- Instructed Parks Committee Representative to vote yes to updated trail specifications for Residences East Unit 2 Trial
- Approved Will Serve Letters for Residences East and West and Riverview Developments
- Approved changes to the Director of Operations Job Description
- Approved Resolution R2024-09 to Continue Emergency Repair to Leak in Pipe from Granlees to Calero Reservoir
- Approved Contract with Domenichelli & Associates for Engineering and Construction Inspection Services

JULY 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Improvements Committee

- Discussed Repair of Broken Raw Water Conveyance Pipe from Granlees to Calero Reservoir
- Discussed Rio Oso Tank Flow Meter Installation
- Discussed Raw Water Report Methodology
- Discussed Bathymetric Survey of Clementia
- Recommended Contract with Domenichelli & Associates for District Engineer and Construction Inspection Services be moved to the Board for approval
- Discussed Rio Oso Distribution System Storage Capacity Report
- Discussed proposal to Authorize a Comprehensive Distribution System Study
- Received Development Update

Personnel Committee

- Recommended Updates to the Director of Operations Job Description be moved to the Board for approval

Communications & Technology Committee

- Received update on Website and Social Media
- Received Annual Contract Report

Board of Directors

Tim Maybee
President
tmaybee@rmcsd.com

Randy Jenco
Vice President
rjenco@rmcsd.com

Linda Butler
Director
lbutler@rmcsd.com

Martin Pohll
Director
mpohll@rmcsd.com

Stephen Booth
Director
sbooth@rmcsd.com



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BUSINESS HOURS

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Friday
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Mimi Morris
General
Manager

mmorris@rmcsd.com

Mark Matulich
Director of Finance
and Administration

mmatulich@rmcsd.com

Travis Bohannon
Interim
Director of Operations

tbohannon@rmcsd.com

David Labrado
Interim Security
Sergeant

dlabrado@rmcsd.com

Amelia Wilder
District Secretary

awilder@rmcsd.com

Travis Bohannon
Chief Plant Operator

tbohannon@rmcsd.com

Ron Greenfield
Utilities Supervisor

rgreenfield@rmcsd.com

UTILITY NEWS

Water Meter Access

It is important for the District to have access to all meters for data collection and maintenance. Clear access to the box helps to ensure that it can be quickly turned off in an emergency. It is the property owner/tenant's responsibility to maintain clear access around the meter box. If the meter is obstructed or inaccessible, the District will notify the property owner/tenant to either remove the obstruction or clear the area surrounding the meter. The picture below is an example of an accessible meter.



Ways You Can Help With Meter Accessibility

Trees, bushes and plantings

Trim bushes, trees, and grass surrounding the meter. During the growing season, plants can cover a meter box very quickly.

Pets

Keep pets away from the path that leads to the meter. If you have a guard dog for security, please let the District know so that meter readers are aware.

Objects that cover or block meters

Please make sure that no objects cover or block access to the meter box. Items that have been found blocking meters include cars, trailers, construction materials, fences, landscape bark, gravel, and plants.

Locked gates

If the meter is located behind a gate that is normally kept locked, the District will contact you to arrange access to the meter.

WATER LEAKS

The Utility Crews are fixing leaks as quickly as they can. Please call 916-354-3700 if you notice a water leak so that we can assess the leak. Water leaks between the meter and the home are the homeowners responsibility. If the leak is between the meter and the road, or if your not sure, please call the District.

ADJUST YOUR SPRINKLERS

Irrigation systems need regular maintenance and adjustments to keep them working efficiently year after year. Damage from lawn equipment or improper winterization can cause leaks and other serious problems.

Adjust sprinkler heads. Remove or correct obstructions that prevent sprinklers from distributing water evenly. Adjust sprinkler head positions and spray patterns to avoid watering sidewalks or structures and to provide necessary clearance over growing plants.

Check the pressure. Pressure can change over time and negatively affect system efficiency.

Inspect your system. Check for leaks, broken or clogged sprinkler heads, and other problems. Leaks are a huge water waster. A good contractor can perform regular maintenance checks for leaks, broken or clogged spray heads, and other problems. Ask them to show you common problems to watch for between visits.

Install a rain shutoff switch. These inexpensive sensors can be retrofitted to almost any system and help compensate for natural rainfall by turning off your system in rainy weather.

Consider “smart” technology. Climate or soil moisture sensor-based controllers evaluate weather or soil moisture conditions and then automatically adjust the irrigation schedule to meet the specific needs of your landscape.

Consider low volume, micro irrigation for gardens, trees and shrubs. Drip (or trickle) irrigation, micro-spray jets, micro-sprinklers and bubbler irrigation all apply a very small amount of water, slowly and precisely, minimizing evaporation, runoff and overspray.

Have your system audited. Hire a professional to conduct an irrigation audit and uniformity test to verify areas are being watered evenly and appropriately and make necessary adjustments.

WATER EFFICIENTLY FOR HEALTHIER PLANTS

Irrigation water running into a gutter or evaporating in the heat of the day does not get into the root zone of your plants. Therefore, adjust irrigation timers to water after sundown and at short intervals to allow irrigated water to set in to your soil. Two to three short watering cycles are far more efficient than one long cycle. Also, it is best to use drip irrigation systems when possible to target irrigation vs spray which may drift away from the area you want to water. Drip system rebates may be found on our website here: <https://www.ranchohurietacsd.com/rebates>

Runoff water and drifting spray water may also create other issues like unwanted weeds or pooling areas of water in drainage systems where mosquitos may breed. Also, periodically check your irrigation system to ensure there are no leaks and irrigation heads are directed where you want them.

No Wipes Down the Pipes



PLEASE ONLY FLUSH
TOILET PAPER

Even "flushable" wipes
can cause problems to our sewer systems.

Do not flush wipes, diapers, tissues, paper
towels or any other products other than
toilet paper.

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.**