



November 2020

Serving the Community

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

District Meeting Schedule For November 2020

November 3, 2020
Personnel @ 7:30 a.m.

Improvements
@ 8:00 a.m.

Finance
@ 10:00 a.m.

November 5, 2020
Communication &
Technology @ 8:30 a.m.

Security @ 10:00 a.m.

November 18, 2020
District Board Meeting @ 5:00 p.m.

The public is invited to attend.

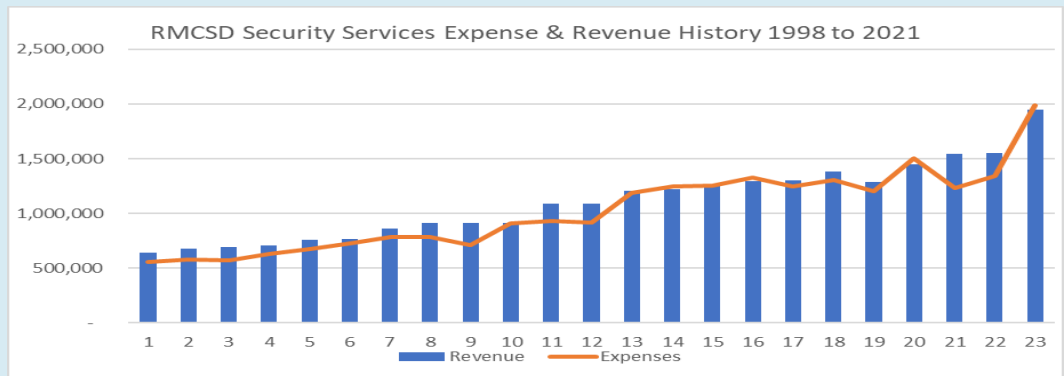
All meeting dates and times are subject to change. Be sure to check our website, www.rmcsd.com for any changes

BE SURE TO LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

A BRIEF HISTORY OF SECURITY IN RANCHO MURIETA

Security services at Rancho Murieta are funded by Measure J Special Tax, as approved by the voters in 1998. When the voters approved Measure J, they established methods for setting monthly rates to provide Security Services for commercial, residential, and undeveloped property. Measure J provided funding for two (2) gate officers and one (1) patrol officer working 24/7/365. Initially, the base-year rates provided sufficient funds to support the twenty-four hour per day operations. During the first few years, rates were set below the baseline due to lower budgetary needs. Approximately ten years later, the rates needed to increase to keep up with rising costs. As the years progressed, costs caught up and then surpassed the available rate increases, which are capped at 2% per year.

Over the past five years, the District began to supplement Security Special Taxes with general-purpose property taxes. This practice became necessary as the cost of security services has outpaced revenue growth (see chart below). For fiscal year 2020-21, the District has allocated sixty-five percent (65%) of property tax revenue to support Security. Without a significant change in the level of services or an influx of new ratepayers, the District cannot sustain the practice of spending property taxes on Security.



At the request of the Board, District Admin staff researched the options for going back to the voters to determine what level of Security would be best suited to serve the majority of Rancho Murieta ratepayers. We have decided to conduct a voter opinion survey to assess voter awareness, perceptions, and priorities for the District’s public safety services, including how, and at what level, the District should provide Security services in the future. We hope that you will participate in the Survey and refer to agendas posted at www.rmcsd.com for Board and Committee Meetings in the upcoming months to attend meetings that will discuss this topic. Your input and feedback are very important to us, and you can contact the District at info@rmcsd.com

VOTE HERE

RMCS D is your local polling place, and you can drop off your mail in ballot Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

We will also be open for in person voting in the Board Room the following dates and times:
Saturday, October 31, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, November 1, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Monday, November 2, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday, November 3, 2020 from 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.



GENERAL MANAGER'S CORNER

KEEP HOLIDAY F.O.G OUT OF YOUR KITCHEN SINK



Turkey Day is just around the corner and Rancho Murieta Community Services District encourages you to keep your sink **fat-free** this holiday season.

Throughout the year, especially during the holidays, people pour the by-products of cooking down the sink drain. Fats, oils and grease (F.O.G) can coat and clog pipes which can cause sewer lines to back up into homes. That could mean costly clean-up and repair costs.

F.O.G can also cause blockages further down sewer lines. And that can result in overflows or sewage back-ups into yards or streets, creating a public health risk.

Oil making its way to wastewater treatment plants can disrupt the treatment process and increase the need for maintenance.

To prevent these problems, the District encourages you to dispose of your leftover F.O.G properly. Here are some suggestions that many of your neighbors may already be following:

- Do not put fats, oil, grease or greasy food down the garbage disposal.
- Place small amounts of fat, oil, and grease in a container with a tight-sealing lid, put the container in a trash bag, tie the bag shut, and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- Mix cooking oils with an absorbent material such as coffee grounds, place in a lidded container, and dispose of in a trash receptacle.
- If you are soaking a greasy pan, first pour off grease into a container. Then place paper towels over the drain basket to catch grease and food as you pour the soaking water down the drain.
- Deep fat fryers for turkeys leave a large amount of oil. Solidify the grease by mixing it with an absorbent material such as cat litter. You can also soak up excess oil with newspaper and then place it in the trash.



OCTOBER 2020 BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Adopted Policy P2020-02 Updating Vendor Insurance Requirements
- Adopted Resolution R2020-07 to sell Surplus Property
- Discussed Director input on the Pipeline
- Discussed reinstatement of Late Fees and Interest on Delinquent Accounts with the January 25 bill
- Authorized the purchase of a new Ford F-150

OCTOBER 2020 COMMITTEE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Communications & Technology

- Tom Hennig, discussed current projects that Staff is working on
- The District has hired WECybr to monitor the District for Cyber-attacks

Security Committee

- Angie Avila will act as Interim Security Chief while Chief Werblun is out on Personal Leave
- The Surveillance Camera Policy is being prepared
- A letter to a resident who was asked to stop building Mountain Bike Trails was discussed
- The Committee discussed issuing a Survey to Residents about Security Services

Improvements Committee

- The Wooden Bridge Conveyance was discussed as the title report came back. Staff is continuing the conveyance

Finance Committee

- The Committee recommended reinstating Late Fees and Interest on Delinquent Accounts
- A letter was sent to RMCC and Rancho Murieta Properties denying their Tax Appeal
- Changes to the presentation of the Security Budget were presented to the Committee
- Allocation of the \$851,000 payment on the CFD 2014-1 Bonds was discussed
- The Potential Reorganization of 1984 Agreement related to the CIA Ditch was discussed
- Staff presented a breakdown of Security Special Tax Estimates
- A Security Service Survey was discussed to determine if the Community will vote to raise Security Taxes

Board of Directors

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A Monthly Newsletter

November 2020

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

Tom Hennig
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DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Retreats East and North extended their tentative maps.

Rancho Murieta North—The project reports they are continuing work on a traffic study, greenhouse gas study, and schedule and notice of preparation.

MG—Lot 4 - requested water and irrigation services.

MG – Lot 11 (Circle K Gas Station/carwash) - Has provided plan comment revisions.

Riverview— Coastland is reviewing the Phase 1A plans, water study and storm drain study.

Rancho Murieta Airport - has added two storage Buildings and requested plan review.

Murieta Business Park—District staff is installing meters. The Developer is planning to complete the project by the end of the year.

Legacy Villa's & Suites project – The Developer has provided deposit funding and Coastland has provided comments on the plans.

Detailed Updates can be found on our website:

<https://www.ranchomurieta.com/development-projects>

RIPARIAN RIGHTS

What is a riparian right?

A riparian water right is a right to use the natural flow of water on riparian land. Riparian land is land that touches a lake, river, stream, or creek. Land that is in the public domain does not have riparian rights. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management manages public domain land.

Most eastern states recognize riparian rights. Most western states either never recognized riparian rights or no longer do so. California and Oklahoma are the only western states that continue to recognize riparian rights. The California Legislature has enacted very few laws regarding riparian rights. As a result, riparian rights have been frequently litigated. As a result of these lawsuits, the courts have clarified rules that apply to riparian rights.

Water can only be diverted under a riparian right when that water is used on land that drains back to the lake, river, stream, or creek from which the water was taken. Only the natural flow of water can be diverted under a riparian right. Water that is imported into a watershed from another river, stream, or creek cannot be used under a riparian right. Water cannot be stored during a wet time for use during a drier time under a riparian right. Neither can water released from an upstream storage reservoir be used by a downstream user under a riparian right. Because a riparian right only allows the use of natural flow, it is possible to have water available under a riparian right during wetter years or months and not during drier years or months. This is common in California, because of the presence of many ephemeral streams.

A riparian right exists on the smallest piece of land that touches a water source. If riparian land is subdivided so that some parts of the land do not touch the water, those lands will lose their riparian rights unless steps are taken to preserve them when the subdivision takes place. Riparian rights that attach to a small parcel cannot be used on adjacent parcels, even if those parcels touch the riparian parcel. Water obtained through a riparian right must be used on the parcel connected to the riparian right.

Riparian rights usually come with owning a parcel of land that is adjacent to a source of water, and the rights remain with the parcel when it changes hands. However, a riparian right can be lost even if land is not cut off from the water source. This can happen when the owner of the riparian land sells or transfers the land to someone but explicitly separates the riparian right from the parcel. Once it is lost, a riparian right can almost never be restored. Riparian water rights cannot be sold or transferred other than with the riparian land.

However, riparian rights are not lost by non-use. A person who has a riparian right, but is not currently using water, has a "dormant" riparian right. He or she can begin using water under that dormant right at any time. If the new riparian use results in a junior water right holder not having enough water, the junior water right holder must decrease his or her diversion and use of water until the senior water right holder has enough water to meet his or her reasonable needs. Riparian right holders on a stream course all have the same priority. If there is not enough water available for competing riparian users, they must share the available supply according to their needs. Generally in this situation, water used for interior domestic purposes, such as drinking, cooking and bathing, has the highest priority.

What happens if I take water without a water right?

The use of water without a water right is a trespass against the State of California and can lead to fines of up to \$500 per day of use. If you are using water illegally, you can be required to stop taking and using water.

What should I do if I think I have a riparian or pre-1914 appropriative water right but the courts have not decided my right?

You must file a document called a "Statement of Water Diversion and Use" with the State Water Board's Division of Water Rights if you divert surface water or water from a subterranean stream unless your diversion meets the requirements for one of the exemptions.

COMMUNITY FORUM

Last month the Pipeline received a facelift. You may have noticed we've rearranged some things and added some new features. Each month there will be updates and changes as they are available. Most importantly we are making every effort to offer the community transparent information that is accurate and truthful.

Each Section has a focus:

Front page – Issues that are happening now, that are significant and that are being currently addressed. Items that can answer and clarify ongoing questions and where you will find alerts to the community.

Page Two – Managers Corner - Tom Hennig the new General Manager will be “speaking” to the community in this column.

Also on Page 2 – Recaps of the general RMCS D monthly Board meeting and Committee meetings. Joint Projects with HOA's in the District.

Page three –Development - Information on development as it relates to Water, Sewer, Drainage, Security and other pertinent development issues.

Also on Page 3 – Water- Riparian Rights, water Quality and Quantity any current water issues.

Page 4- brings us to this column: We have already given it a new name - RMCS D Community Forum. The intention of the Forum is to present information about the Rancho Murieta community that affects you daily, that gives you an insight into our history, “Did You Know”, understanding CC&R's*, or any topic that we hope you will find interesting and helpful.

Page 4 – bottom— Whatever we missed in the rest of the newsletter –Events, Cal Waste, Fire, etc. We may move some of this around depending on space and time.

Thought for the month: Become familiar with your CC&Rs -Follow them, they are there for your safety, to promote harmony among the Residents and to assure Security for all.

PLEASE NOTE: THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF THE PIPELINE STATED THE SPEED LIMIT WAS 25 MPH, WHICH IS CORRECT BEHIND THE GATES IN RMA. THE SPEED LIMIT IN THE VILLAGE IS 15 MPH. PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY!

Daylight Savings Time comes to an end at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 1, 2020 Be sure to set your clocks **back** one (1) hour.



EXPECTING GUESTS THIS HOLIDAY?

Be sure to call in your guests! It is important that you notify the District Security Gate Officers if you expect service personnel or guests at your home in order to avoid delays and traffic congestion. North Gate: 916-354-3742. South Gate: 916-354-3743. You can register guests yourself at www.gateaccess.net. Using www.gateaccess.net you can then send your guests the electronic Fastpass that will get your guests through the gate even faster. The Fastpass is only available at the North Gate.



**The District Administration Office will be closed
November 26 & 27, 2020 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.**

CAL WASTE UPDATE

Paints – Oil & Latex – Aerosol Cans -Where do they go?

Oil and Latex Paints are considered ground contaminants, and they are to be disposed with other Hazardous Household Wastes (HHW) at Kiefer Landfill, 12701 Kiefer Blvd., Sloughouse, CA 95683.

Aerosol cans that are not empty must also go with Hazardous Household Waste (HHW) to Kiefer Landfill. If aerosol cans are empty then they can be placed in trash bins.

Extra Green Waste Pick-Up

Remember Cal-Waste will pick up EXTRA GREEN WASTE in **November, December, January and February!** Place green waste in a plastic bag next to your regular gray container on your green waste pick up day!



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.*