



December 18, 2024

To: Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) Board

From: Cheryl McElhany, President, Saving Our Lakes and Open Spaces (SOLOS)

I am here tonight to deliver **2,025** signed Petitions which is our current total for the ***Petition for a Moratorium on Future Development***. This Petition is based on the current findings, documented in the **CSD Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP) Draft**, that state we will have a critical water supply and storage capacity shortage in the coming years. The IWMP also lists options to consider that **are not** viable solutions. Rancho Murieta will soon reach the population level of an Urban Water District and will be required by the State Water Resources Board to develop an Emergency Backup Plan. **Before any sort of water augmentation or conservation is considered for the current CSD ratepayers, a Moratorium on future development must be in place.**

The current developments of Residence East, Riverview, and the Retreats received the go-ahead for Will Serve letters (water hook-ups) from the Rancho Murieta Community Services District (CSD) at the August 21 Board Meeting. This 3:2 vote of approval came much to the dismay of the majority of our current water district residents. This Petition has been circulating our CSD Water District to **declare a Moratorium** on development until the Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP), still in draft form, is verified and completed.

This approved action taken by the CSD Board poses a severe threat to our water supply and storage capacity, and jeopardizes access to a reliable water supply for our existing residents. Preliminary review of the IWMP is very clear that our water supply and storage capacity is questionable under current conditions, and likely to get worse in the future.

We are presenting to you our 2,025 Petitions and recommend that the CSD Board do the responsible thing. **Declare a water emergency!** Declaring a water emergency has been mapped out for the CSD Board by your legal counsel. It is the appropriate action to protect what precious water we have and limit the imminent threat until reliable options can be explored and

developed. In particular, any support for future development will impinge on the current residents, and must be avoided, at all costs.

We ask that this Petition for a Moratorium be received in accordance with the requirements of a water emergency as set forth in state code WC 350. We also ask that any forward movement on the IWMP be tabled until this Moratorium request is formally considered by the Board.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

SOLOS represents 1400+ Rancho Murieta residents dedicated to the preservation of our pristine lakes, a safe, adequate water supply, an abundance of healthy wild life, a labyrinth of trails and vista views of the Sierras, low density, quality housing, and maintaining our tranquil communities.

Petition for a Moratorium on Future Development in Rancho Murieta, CA

[Goal: 1000+ Petitions by 9/30/2024]

The signatures on this moratorium petition demand **Rancho Murieta Community Services District (RMCS D)** **impose an immediate MORATORIUM on FUTURE DEVELOPMENT** until such time as the RMCS D can completely assess the risk of water shortages and its catastrophic impacts on the community, both economically and physically, including but not limited to, mandatory water conservation, adverse impacts to the environment and depreciation of home values. As residents and ratepayers, we have grave concerns that our water supply cannot meet the excessive developer demands for potable water while maintaining the current water supply for existing residents. The Cosumnes River is Rancho Murieta's ONLY supply of potable water for a current community of 6,000 people! We have no backup supply! As pointed out by RMCS D's contracted firms, Maddaus and Atkins, who prepared the recent 2024 Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP), **OUR COMMUNITY ALREADY HAS A WATER SUPPLY PROBLEM**. Which begs the question - How can we possibly support another 1000 homes?

The residents of Rancho Murieta depend solely on the Rancho Murieta Community Services District for a reliable and sustainable water supply. Developers have plans which will expand Rancho Murieta from 2,850 to 4,000 residential dwellings and add significant commercial and retail development. Developers presently demand RMCS D provide all the water necessary to grow our community by over 50% to 9,500 people. To assess water availability, RMCS D contracted with two engineering firms to prepare the 2024 Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP). The IWMP presented to the community suggests four untested, unfeasible "options" that RMCS D may ask current residents to bear the cost of implementing. It has been speculated that the four options might provide a pathway to justify planned, but not yet approved houses for developers (approximately 1000). Regardless, the economic impact of the IWMP will fall squarely on the backs of current ratepayers.

The California State Water Resources Control Board and the U.S. Department of the Interior have warned that a warming climate will impact water flows across the entire American River Basin, including the Cosumnes River. Rancho Murieta has experienced droughts during the last 45 years – including more severe conditions in the last two decades. We must acknowledge that another long-term severe drought in Rancho Murieta, will affect the Cosumnes River, which is formed in a fragile and damaged watershed on an undammed river, and will not support the additional development.

As a result of the above critical considerations, we the undersigned members of the Rancho Murieta Community will not support the findings of the IWMP until it is fully audited, fact checked, and peer reviewed for accuracy and viability. We call for a Moratorium of future development to allow this process to take place.

Petition Pickup & Drop box locations: **15043 Magno Ct.** (RM South)
6040 Puerto Dr. (RM North) **15250 De La Pena** (RM North)

-PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY-

(For household residents 18 years or older)

RM Household Address _____ Lot # _____ Phone _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date: _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date: _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date: _____

Name _____ Signature _____ Date: _____

Go to solosrm.org/moratorium for directions on how to return your Petition