

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 10, 2020
To: Board of Directors
From: Tom Hennig, General Manager
Subject: Sale of Raw Water to Equestrian Center Ag Property Farming Operations

Special Request for Board Review

On Tuesday, August 3, 2021, the District, received a request from John Sullivan requesting the District to sell the Equestrian Center Ag Property (Ag Property) forty-five acre feet of raw water from the Clementia Reservoir for the farming operations at the Ag Property. Since this request is being made in the middle of a State-wide drought, we are requesting Board review this request and give their approval be given before the sale of the water.

Background

The Ag Property is located within the boundaries of Rancho Murieta CSD. The map below highlights the entire parcel. State water Permit 16762 to allows for the use of Cosumnes water on farmed lands within District boundaries. The permit authorizes irrigation use on up to 500 net acres within the District.



Current Situation

There are ninety-two (92) acres of alfalfa in need of irrigation on the parcel #073-0180-027-0000, which has a total of 202.71 acres. This acreage has no other sources of water for the riparian lands. CSD is a partner in the Cosumnes Irrigation Association with this ranch and this property is within the District. If approved, the farmers would utilize District's water right License 16762.

In the attached letter, Carol Anderson Ward has requested to purchase forty-five (45) acre feet of water for the alfalfa crop. As part of her request, Ms. Anderson Ward indicated that the winter of 20-21 was exceptionally dry. She discussed that this is the first time in decades that the CIA ditch has gone completely dry. She also said that only 1908 and 1977 appear to have been as bad as this past winter.

There was 838 acre feet of raw water in Clementia reservoir on August 4, 2021. Selling this water to the ranch will remove 5% of the water from Clementia. We are also estimating that an additional 100 acre feet of water from Clementia will be required to be diverted to the South golf course to fulfill the District's required delivery. These two diversions, along with evaporation, will result in around than 675 acre feet of water remaining in Clementia. While lower than normal, this will not be the lowest on record for Clementia storage.

The District has recently increased the rate we charge for raw water. This water would be sold at the recently increased raw water rate of \$0.44 cents per 748 gallons (748 gallons equates to 100 cubic feet of water). The total cost of this water would be \$8,625.47. The new rate allows the District to recover the full cost of delivering raw water to our customers. As of today, the Rancho Murieta HOA and now the Ag Property are the only two customers for raw water.

After consulting with the District's counsel, and reviewing this matter with other local water officials, a one-time transfer of previously-stored water, made in good faith during a drought emergency to prevent the loss of a crop, is a reasonable use of the raw water stored in Clementia.

Recommended Action

It is recommended that the RMCS D Board of Directors approve the one-time sale of 45 acre-ace feet of raw water from Clementia to the Ag Property, our partner in the Cosumnes Irrigation Association.

**Memo to: Rancho Murieta Community Services District
Board of Directors and General Manager**

From: Carol Anderson Ward/c JMS

Regarding: Raw Water purchase

I asked John Sullivan to contact Tom Hennig and request up to 45 ac. ft. of water from Lake Clementia delivered through the CIA canal to the westerly bottom ground field below the old racetrack where I'm growing alfalfa for the Equestrian Center, to complete this cutting.

I would greatly appreciate water as soon as possible as my tenant farmer Schneider Ranching has no other sources of water for these riparian lands. As you know, CSD is our partner in the Cosumnes Irrigation Association and this property is within the District and part of these CIA lands. We assume that this water can be delivered under the District's main water right License 16762

[Uses for water diverted under 16762 are specified only as municipal, industrial and recreational over the entire 3,600 acres, and irrigation of 500 acres net within the gross area of 2500 acres.]

The winter of 20-21 was exceptionally dry, and this is the first time in decades that we have seen the CIA ditch and canal go completely dry. The Michigan Bar USGS gauge has flatlined at 0.00. Records indicate only 1908, and 1977 may have been as bad.

We understand and acknowledge that the raw water rate of the District was adjusted on July 1, 2021. My Ranch Manager Marc Shinkle will insure that all of the water delivered through the CIA canal will only be used on APN #073-0180-027.

Again, thank you for your timely consideration of my request.

Carol Anderson Ward, Trustee
Carol Anderson Ward Trust