

Spring 2009

# RIPERLE

A quarterly newsletter published by the  
Rancho Murieta Community Services District

## Rancho Murieta's Water

In the early 1970s the Operating Engineers Pension Trust Fund (PTF) needed a site on which to operate a school to train heavy equipment operators. After a diligent search, approximately 2,200 acres was purchased from the Granlees brothers – land adjacent to the Cosumnes River. Since the goal was to train people to build things, a plan was developed to construct a Planned Unit Development (PUD) where people could live and work. The Operating Engineers would build the roads, dig the reservoirs, and construct the necessary infrastructure.

To make the project viable, additional land was purchased, ultimately totaling 3500 acres. The existing ranches had water rights granted by the State of California to divert water from the Cosumnes River; PTF applied for and was granted additional water rights to meet the needs of the new community.

Sacramento County ultimately approved the PUD for a population of 12,500 people (approximately 5,000 homes). The water rights permitted diverting a total of 6,368 acre feet of water annually, provided the flows are high enough. Although only 3,900 acre feet can be diverted to storage annually, over 4,600 acre feet of storage is available in our reservoirs.

Obviously, development of the community occurs over an extended period of time and the water rights allows time for development. If, at the end of development, the total requirements are less than originally planned, the State may reduce the quantity of water diverted. Currently, the time to perfect the water rights has been extended to 2020.



*Granlees Dam and Diversion Station.*

In the late 1970s California suffered several years of severe drought; as a result, the Operating Engineers enlarged Lake Calero to dramatically increase the amount of storage. Dedication of the lake occurred in late 1982.

Rancho Murieta's only water source is the Cosumnes River – there is no pipeline from Folsom Lake or any other source. The river water is pumped to Lake Calero, located at the highest elevation of the reservoirs. Water is then siphoned into Lake Chesbro where it is drawn into the water treatment plant located at the base of Ches-

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## Water (continued)

bro Dam, treated and distributed within the District. Lake Clementia is also filled during the diversion season (November 1-May 31).

Over the years, several water studies have been made and adopted, including a master plan for coping with drought. The water storage reservoirs, Calero, Chesbro and Clementia, are designed to provide

water for “municipal type” usage. They can also be used for recreational purposes such as fishing (no live bait is permitted); boating (no gasoline engines); and swimming in Lake Clementia. During severe drought, Lake Clementia would be closed to swimming, as it would be used to supplement the drinking water supply.

As future growth occurs, developers will pay for an expansion of the water treatment facilities. Additional drought year supplies will be required either through an additional reservoir, in ground storage, recycled water, or groundwater. Since 1992, the District has been collecting fees from developers for this purpose as each new lot is sold.

## Golf Course Irrigation

As many parts of California are in the third year of low precipitation, some people are concerned about the use of water for irrigation of golf courses. Rancho Murieta is unique -- disposal of wastewater is purely a local problem or opportunity! There is no pipeline connecting the sewage treatment facilities to the Sacramento County Regional Wastewater system.

The original planning for Rancho Murieta envisioned using recycled water for irrigation of the golf courses and that has been very successful. The District coordinates efforts with the Rancho Murieta Country Club (RMCC) to provide treated wastewater for the North Golf Course through Bass Lake and for the South Golf Course through lakes 16, 17, and 11.

Traditionally, RMCC uses approximately 500 to 600 acre feet of water annually for golf course irrigation. The District delivers irrigation water between April 15 and October 15 each year. The recycled water is treated to high standards and delivered to an equalization basin at the entry to the wastewater facility before sending it to RMCC. RMCC controls the timing and the quantity for golf course use.

If necessary to augment the quantity of irrigation water, RMCC can pump directly from the river early in the season when the river

is flowing at high levels. During extreme dry and hot periods late in the season, if necessary, water can be diverted from Lake Clementia to irrigate the South Golf Course. Balancing the supply and demand for recycled water requires close cooperation and coordination between the District and RMCC.



*Recycled water being pumped into Bass Lake.*

## Conservation Pricing In The Future?

The District’s Board of Directors is investigating the possibility of conservation pricing for high water usage – the more water you use, the more you pay. In an effort to reduce water waste, the Board

may consider adding charges for various volume levels.

The fiscal year is from July through June, and the annual budgets are prepared well in advance. If rate increases are approved, the

public will be notified of hearings. The 2009-10 budget does not contemplate conservation pricing, but additional investigations and discussions are possible next year.

# Governor Takes Action on State Water Shortage

Recently, in response to California's third year of low rainfall, Governor Schwarzenegger proclaimed a state of emergency and ordered immediate action to manage the crisis. Although the water supply at Rancho Murieta is normal, the Governor is calling on all Californians to conserve water.

He requests that all urban water users immediately increase their water conservation activities in an effort to reduce their individual water use by 20 percent. Since more

than half the water consumed at Rancho Murieta is for outdoor use, there are many methods that can reduce the quantity of water and still maintain the health, appearance and function of the landscape. Here are a few water efficiency methods:

- Water-efficient landscape designs using low water-use plants
- Efficient irrigation systems
- Minimized turf areas
- Soil improvements and mulch
- Regular maintenance of irriga-

tion systems

- Regular adjustment of irrigation controllers
- Scheduling irrigation during early or late hours
- By "cycling" your irrigation timer to turn on for the suggested number of minutes an hour apart, you reduce runoff and gain deeper watering and healthier root growth.

Here are some suggestions for the amount and frequency of both spray and drip systems.

Month	Spray Systems	Drip Systems	Notes
April	System turned off if raining, twice a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 1 to 2 start times.	Twice a week. Soak the root Zone.	It's time for fresh mulch.
May	Two to three times a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 2 start times.	Two to three times a week. Soak the root zone.	Is your irrigation system watering what it's supposed to?
June	Three to four times a week, 3 to 5 minutes, 2 to 3 start times.	Three to four times a week. Soak the root zone.	Once a week check for soil moisture using a screwdriver or soil probe.

## Late Payment Procedures

The procedures for late payments of District bills has been modified. A bill becomes delinquent if not paid by the due date noted on the monthly billing statement. The new procedure eliminates the current 15-day notice letter and changes the time frame of the final notice from one day to three days. Under the new procedure, **a 10 day delinquency letter will be mailed 15 days** prior to water being shut off.

If payment is not made, a **shut-off notice will be hung on the door three days** prior to shut-off. If payment is not made prior to the deadline provided on the three day door tag, service will be discontinued. Service will be restored upon full payment of all monies due plus a \$75.00 restoration fee. Service is not disconnected on Saturdays, Sundays, or legal holidays. The new procedure will go into effect July 2009.

## Keep Drainage Inlets Clear

It is the responsibility of the residents and homeowner associations to keep the drainage inlets cleared of yard waste and debris. If the inlets in the curbing are clogged with leaves and branches, water backs up in low-lying areas and can create flooding and inconvenience.

If you take care of your own lawn and garden maintenance, or have a maintenance service, it is important to see that clogging does not occur. Heavy downpours in a short period of time can overwhelm culverts. Your cooperation is appreciated.

RANCHO MURIETA  
Community Services District

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*rmcsd.com*

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SECURITY DEPARTMENT  
PHONE NUMBERS

NORTH GATE GUEST CALL-IN:  
354-3742

SOUTH GATE GUEST CALL-IN:  
354-3743

SECURITY DISPATCH:  
354-CARE(2273)

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## Report a Water Leak or Waste

Occasionally you see sprinklers watering landscaping during a rainstorm or you note water running down the street from a broken sprinkler head or a hose. We are conscious of water waste during California's third year of low rainfall, so the District has a new tool to help conserve.

On the District's website at [www.rmcsd.com](http://www.rmcsd.com), in the upper right hand corner of the home page, you will find a form to report water waste, anonymously if desired. Please

note the address, date, time, and type of waste. There is space for any additional information that you would like to provide.

When you have completed the form, click "contact us" and your information will be sent to the Director of Field Operations. He will have staff check into the situation, repair the problem if it is the District's responsibility, or notify the homeowner to make the necessary adjustment or repair. Efficient water use is the right thing to do!

## Fight The Bite . . .

Of mosquitos carrying the West Nile Virus by recalling and applying the 5 Ds:

**DRAIN** any standing water that may produce mosquitoes.  
**DRESS** in long sleeves and pants when outdoors.  
**DAWN** and **DUSK** are when mosquitoes are most active.  
**DEFEND** yourself by using mosquito repellent, such as DEET.  
**DOOR** and window screens in good condition will keep mosquitoes out.

If you find a dead bird, call the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District at 1 (800) 429-1022 for assistance.

CSD BOARD MEETINGS  
THIRD WEDNESDAY OF EVERY MONTH @ 5:00 PM  
CSD ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
15160 JACKSON RD., RANCHO MURIETA, CA