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RIVER VALLEY TIMES

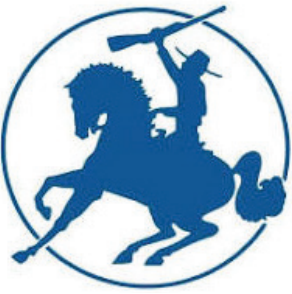
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WATER VISION
MATRIX ADVANCES



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AGENDA DISPUTE
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PAGE 5



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CSD Sued Over Water,
Development Agreements



More than 200 residents attend a February hearing on Rancho Murieta's water supply. The issue remains in the spotlight following Rancho Murieta Properties' lawsuit against the Rancho Murieta Community Services District. File photo by Gail Bullen

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Rancho Murieta Properties and four affiliated companies have sued the Rancho Murieta Community Services District, alleging the district has violated decades-old agreements requiring it to pursue additional water supplies, provide water service for specified development and reimburse the developers for improvements they helped finance.

The lawsuit comes as the district is also attempting to resolve a separate water-related legal challenge with River Canyon Properties through mediation after that developer filed a

Government Claims Act claim earlier this year. (See related story.)

Carol Anderson Ward is the primary investor in RMP, which has filed an application with Sacramento County to develop the Rancho North subdivision. It has yet to be approved.

The complaint, filed Aug. 3 in Sacramento County Superior Court, alleges breach and anticipatory breach of contract and seeks several court declarations regarding the developers' rights.

Among other things, RMP wants a judge to order the district to diligently pursue an additional 1,400 acre-feet of water, provide the water and sewer connections required

under its agreements, reimburse RMP for water-treatment improvements, and invalidate a 2025 district resolution that gives priority to establishing a one-year emergency water supply.

Asked who should be contacted for the district's response to the lawsuit, CSD Interim General Manager Amelia Wilder replied, "The District does not have a response at this time."

Decades-Old Agreement

At the center of the lawsuit is an agreement dating to 1986, amended in 1991, between CSD and the predecessors of the current developers.

Under the 1991 amendment, the

Continued on page 5

River Canyon,
District Head
to Mediation

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - The Rancho Murieta Community Services District faces another potential legal dispute over water service, although that case has not yet reached the courthouse.

River Canyon Properties, developer of the 198-lot Residences of Murieta Hills subdivision, filed a Government Claims Act claim earlier this year, a step generally required before suing a public agency.

The claim alleges CSD breached or threatened to breach a 2014 Financing and Services Agreement by placing additional conditions on the issuance of water meters.

Owner Bob Keil said on Aug. 12 that River Canyon Properties and CSD have agreed to mediation, which will likely take place in September.

The district has already agreed to provide water hookups for all 68 lots in the subdivisions first phase.

The 130 lots in Phase 2 remain in contention, he said.

River Canyon's dispute is substantially narrower than the lawsuit filed Aug. 3 by Rancho Murieta Properties and four affiliated companies. River Canyon's claim primarily concerns CSD's conditions for providing water hookups to an already-approved subdivision.

The RMP lawsuit is a broader contract action challenging CSD's water-supply policies and asserting long-term water-service, water-augmentation and reimbursement rights affecting several RMP-affiliated properties.

The two disputes also approach developer reimbursements from opposite sides of the same 2014 financing arrangement. River Canyon is a "Reimbursing Landowner" under the 670 FSA and disputes, among other things, CSD's demands that it secure reimbursement obligations as a condition of receiving meters.

RMP, meanwhile, contends it and its affiliates helped to finance improvements to Water Treatment Plant 1 and are entitled to receive reimbursement payments collected from River Canyon and other developers.

The RMP complaint says River Canyon tendered a disputed payment under protest and alleges CSD is obligated under the separate Rancho North FSA to pass reimbursement funds owed by the 670 owners on to RMP and its affiliates. ★

Pera Drive Sinkhole, Wastewater Surplus
Top Improvements Committee Updates

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A growing sinkhole beneath Pera Drive, millions of gallons of excess treated wastewater and several other infrastructure projects were highlighted at the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvements Committee meeting on Aug. 4.

The committee also received updates on wastewater treatment plant repairs, a planned manganese study, the nearly completed MEC culvert project and a proposed new fee for fire-flow letters.

The committee also spent considerable time debating the proposed third water storage tank, disputes over who controls committee agendas, and a Water Vision Working Group project matrix intended to assign responsibility for long-term water supply projects. Those discussions are covered in separate stories in this edition.

Pera Drive Sinkhole

The committee's most urgent infrastructure discussion centered on a sinkhole that has developed on Pera Drive after storm drain culverts beneath the roadway began failing.

District staff said deteriorating culverts have created both a public

Continued on page 2



Aerial view shows the location of a recently discovered sinkhole on Pera Drive. Photo courtesy of Rancho Murieta Community Services District

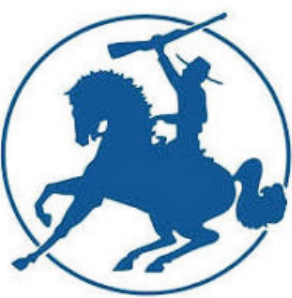
Ten Seek Four CSD Board Seats

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Ten Rancho Murieta residents have filed to run for four seats on the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board of Directors in the Nov. 3 general election, according to Sacramento County Voter Registration &

Elections. Eight candidates are seeking three four-year terms. Listed in the order provided by Sacramento County Voter Registration & Elections, they are: Tom Shewchuk, retired engineer and volunteer member of the CSD Board's Water Vision Working Group. Jeffrey Berkheim, electric utility director.

Catherine Marie Silvera, retired attorney. Maria Caudill, retired. Peter W. Reagan, engineering consultant. Timothy Joseph Dec, technology coach. Stephen Booth, retired and former CSD director who served from December 2022 until resigning in May 2025. William Gere, the appointed incumbent



director who joined the board in July 2025 following Booth's resignation. Two candidates are seeking a separate two-year term to complete an unexpired term: John Van Doren,

attorney and current Rancho Murieta Association board member, whose term expires in 2027. Michael Martel, community volunteer and former member of the CSD Board, RMA Board, and Rancho Murieta Country Club Board. Three current directors whose terms expire this year did not file for reelection: Randy Jenco, Linda Butler and Tim Maybee. Maria Caudill was the only candidate to file a candidate statement with

Sacramento County. Her statement will be included in the county voter information guide mailed before the election. CSD directors serve staggered four-year terms, and there are no term limits. The River Valley Times plans to invite all candidates to participate in a pre-election question-and-answer feature. Each candidate will receive the same questions and the same word limit, with responses published prior to the election. ★

Pera Drive Sinkhole, Wastewater Surplus Top Improvements Committee Updates

Continued from page 1

safety hazard and a threat to the roadway if repairs are delayed until the rainy season. CSD Utility Supervisor Cory Carskaddon presented a \$42,613 proposal from Domenichelli & Associates to perform a site survey, hydraulic analysis, evaluate three repair alternatives, prepare preliminary cost estimates and develop conceptual plans for repairing the storm drain.

Staff emphasized that the proposal covers only the engineering phase. They said the eventual construction project – including replacement of large storm drainpipes, pavement restoration, traffic control and construction – will likely cost several hundred thousand dollars.

The committee directed staff to move the Domenichelli engineering proposal to the Board of Directors for approval at the Aug. 26 meeting.

The committee also directed that Domenichelli expand the proposal into a “cradle-to-grave” agreement that would include final engineering, bidding assistance and construction management. Members agreed the project should be expedited because the roadway cannot safely wait until winter rains arrive.

Wastewater Surplus Continues

While the district has spent much of the past year debating future drinking water supplies, Utilities Manager Travis Bohannon reported the wastewater treatment plant continues to face the opposite challenge: disposing of excess treated



Image shows a damaged culvert under Pera Drive. Photo courtesy of Rancho Murieta Community Services District

wastewater before winter storms reduce disposal options.

Bohannon said the district currently has about 138 million gallons of secondary-treated wastewater in storage. Although that is down from approximately 166 million gallons at the same time last year, it remains about 60 million gallons more than the district had two years ago. Meanwhile, the treatment plant continues to produce approximately 2 million gallons of wastewater each day.

To reduce storage levels, the district continues to deliver recycled water to the Rancho Murieta Country Club for irrigation and to pump water to Van Vleck Ranch three to four times a week after repairing pipeline breaks that had interrupted the program. Bohannon said the repaired line has recently remained in service for about two weeks at a time.

He said he hopes dry weather continues

through the end of September – and ideally into October or November – to allow additional reductions before rainfall curtails golf course irrigation and discharge permit restrictions tighten.

Bohannon also evaluated trucking treated wastewater to the Sacramento Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant but concluded the option is not cost-effective. Bohannon said using two tanker trucks for two months would remove only about 2.4 million gallons at an estimated cost of \$140,000, making only a small reduction in the district's inventory. He said APS Environmental has indicated it could assist if conditions worsen during the rainy season, and he plans to continue closely monitoring storage levels and to explain the district's strategy in an upcoming report to the Board of Directors.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Repairs

The committee also reviewed two significant wastewater treatment plant repair projects.

One involves emergency replacement of electrical wiring and a transformer after a 480-volt power feed burned out. A temporary hard-wired repair has kept the plant operating, and the approximately \$13,100 emergency expenditure will be presented to the Board of Directors for ratification.

The second project involves rehabilitation of the plant's tertiary filter panels, which have suffered extensive corrosion following the district's conversion to hypochlorite disinfection. Preliminary estimates place the work between \$250,000

and \$300,000, and the committee directed staff to seek proposals outlining repair options and recommendations.

Manganese Study Delayed

Bohannon reported the district has completed a request for proposals for a manganese study but he plans to wait until November or December to issue it because manganese concentrations are currently at seasonal lows.

The delay would allow a consultant to be selected and under contract before manganese levels typically increase in hot weather. The committee agreed with the proposed schedule.

Equestrian Center Culvert Nearly Complete

The committee also learned that repairs to the Murieta Equestrian Center culvert are approximately 99.5% complete and on schedule. The only remaining work is installation of railings, after which staff plans to provide photographs to the board.

Fire-flow Letter Fee Proposed

Staff recommended creating a \$396 fee to recover district costs for preparing Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District fire-flow letters required for new construction and some accessory dwelling units.

The proposed fee would cover both staff time and engineering services provided by Domenichelli & Associates. The committee agreed to move the fee to the board, with the understanding that district counsel would first review the legal authority for the charge. ★



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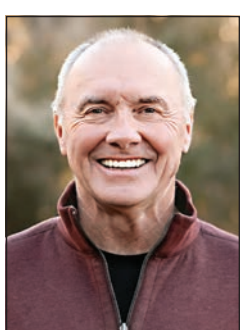


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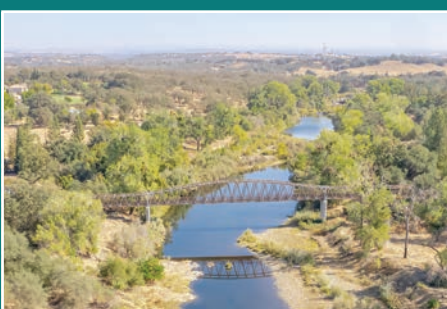
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By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

Jacobs described this year's tournament as one of the best yet.

Jacobs said hospitality has become one of the tournament's trademarks. Every hole was staffed by an ambassador to greet golfers, explain contests, keep play moving and make sure participants had whatever they needed. Many holes also featured their own refreshments or specialty treats, ranging from root beer floats and Hawaiian sandwiches to tacos, hot dogs, skewers, Un crustables and other snacks, creating a different



The tournament featured about 21 sports and entertainment celebrities. Jacobs said some of the crowd favorites included former baseball player Bryan Hunter, Harlem Globetrotter Pee Wee Harrison and artist David

Jacobs said community sponsors remain the backbone of the event because they underwrite celebrity travel, lodging, transportation, meals and other tournament expenses. Among those he highlighted were Rancho Murieta Homes & Land, Planned Solutions, Elk Grove Chevrolet, and Murieta Inn and



Looking ahead, Jacobs said planning for next year's tournament has

He said organizers also plan to continue expanding community participation while preserving the hometown atmosphere that has become a hallmark of the Gold Rush Classic. ★

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Water Vision Matrix Advances, Debate Exposes Competing Views on Stalled Water Planning

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - A proposal assigning responsibility for Rancho Murieta Community Services District’s major water-supply projects moved closer to the Board of Directors on Aug. 4. Still, the discussion exposed growing frustration over why many of the district’s highest-priority water initiatives remain stalled.

The discussion before the Improvements Committee centered on a revised “matrix” that tracks major water projects, identifies obstacles to progress and assigns responsibility for moving each task forward. The document grew out of two unanimous board actions approved May 27: one by Director Tim Maybee to document the Water Vision Working Group’s assignments and accomplishments, and another by Board President John Merchant directing the development of a broader matrix to track the district’s major water projects.

Matrix

Tom Shewchuk, a member of the Water Vision Working Group who condensed the original staff-prepared document, which incorporated both directives, into a shorter working version, repeatedly emphasized that the presentation reflected the



Tom Shewchuk presents the Water Vision Working Group’s proposed project matrix during the Aug. 4 Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvements Committee meeting. File photo by Gail Bullen

group’s work rather than his own.

“This is our Water Vision Working Group’s proposal of ownership,” Shewchuk said as he concluded the presentation, adding that he would be willing to present it to the full board if requested.

Shewchuk said the original matrix, prepared by Interim Board Secretary Dyanne Fleet using artificial intelligence, board transcripts, staff reports and historical records, had grown to 18 pages before being condensed. After confusion over who was responsible for further refining it, he volunteered to prepare the latest version and circulate it to the Water Vision Working Group.

The matrix is organized into three categories: wells, Lake Clementia and other issues. Shewchuk said many of the group’s assignments have stalled because they are awaiting board direction, responses from the district’s water

attorney or staff action.

For example, Shewchuk said the group completed its review of Water System Consultants’ groundwater report, evaluated past proposals and developed questions for the district’s newly retained water attorney. Those questions were forwarded through Interim General Manager Amelia Wilder several months ago, but the group has yet to receive any answers.

“We get a black hole of what’s happening with the water attorney,” Shewchuk said. “We’re stuck. We can’t make any more progress until we talk to the water attorney.”

Director Randy Jenco responded that the latest delay resulted from the board’s June 27 decision to create a matrix, following a discussion about whether the Water Vision group should even exist.

“The whole process has been on hold waiting on this matrix to be completed with names next to

Wells Items	Task	Status	Owner	Next Action
Well #5	WSC Final Report	Received	WVWG	N/A
Well #8	Schneider/private-well free-water proposal	Agreed not to pursue	Operations	N/A
Wells #1 & Other #4/#8/#13	WSC - Water/Wells Assumptions/Strategy	WIP	WVWG + Operations + Finance + Legal	Gated by Attorney
Well #2	Explore groundwater recharge / water banking partnership	Not Started. Coordinate with Sloughhouse Resource Conservation District on potential recharge project using permitted water, grant opportunities, and recovery/credit rules.	WVWG + GM + Legal + Sloughhouse RCD	Gated by Attorney
Well #7	Dunn Geo-Physics Proposal	Board voted No	WVWG + Operations	N/A
Wells#3/#10 & Other #14	WSC-Potable & Non-Potable Wells Site Summary	30% Completed	WVWG + Operations + Finance + Legal	Gated by Well #7
Well #4	WSC - Wells Bid Package	Not Started	Operations	Gated by Wells #3/#10
Other #5/#9/#11	Test / Production Well Agreements	Not Started	Legal	Gated by Attorney
Well #6	WSC- Well Plan & Bids to IC	Not Started	WVWG + Operations	Gated by Wells #3/#10 & #4
Well #9	Dunn - Well Site Acquisition	Board voted No/Not Started	WVWG + Operations + Legal	Gated by Well #6
Clementia Items	Task	Status	Owner	Next Action
Clementia #1/#5	Re-permitting Strategy	Not Started	WVWG + GM + Operations + Legal	Gated by Attorney
Clementia #2	Testing Strategy	Not Started	WVWG + GM + Operations + RMA	Gated by Clementia #1 & #5
Clementia #3A	Re-permitting Plan	Not Started	Operations + Legal + Engineering + Consultant	Gated by Clementia #1 & #5

The first page of the Water Vision Working Group’s two-page project matrix assigns responsibility for major water-supply initiatives. Courtesy photo

each task of who’s going to do what,” Jenco said. Once the board approves the matrix, he said, the designated individuals can resume work and follow up with the water attorney where needed.

Shewchuk also said the group has been unable to move forward on Lake Clementia because the board has not yet decided whether the reservoir should be pursued as an emergency drinking-water source or primarily for irrigation. Until that policy decision is made, he said, further technical work remains on hold.

Committee Chairman Bill Gere praised the work that went into condensing the matrix but argued the district first needs to establish priorities while coping with limited staffing.

“We’re hiring a new general manager and director of operations, Gere said, adding that the district also needs to determine project costs, funding sources, grant opportunities and land acquisition before advancing multiple engineering projects

simultaneously.

Gere said existing staff members are already working long hours to keep the district operating and acknowledged widespread frustration over the slow pace of progress.

“I sense the frustration from everyone in the room,” Gere said. “Things are moving way too slowly.”

Shewchuk agreed additional staff would help but argued the district already has experienced volunteers who are ready to assist at no cost.

“We have people on the Vision Group that are free, and we’re sitting idle,” he said. “If you want free labor, we’re here.”

Water Audit

Another example of stalled work involved the Water Vision Working Group’s water audit. Shewchuk said he identified about 100 homes earlier this year that appeared not to be paying incremental water charges. Still, follow-up work has not occurred because staff has not yet completed its review of the residential

data.

“For six months I’ve done nothing on the water audit,” he said, explaining that he is waiting for staff to finish resolving residential issues before beginning a commercial water-use review, which he expects will be even more complicated.

Throughout the discussion, Shewchuk stressed that the matrix is intended to assign responsibility for projects rather than determine district policy.

Water Tank Exception

He also noted one notable omission: the proposed third water tank.

“The Vision Group has never talked about tanks,” Shewchuk said. “We’ve never been chartered with tanks. If you want us to work on tanks, we’ll work on tanks. But that would be a new charter for the working group.”

Committee members seemed to agree that the revised matrix should be forwarded to the Board of Directors for consideration, although no formal vote was taken during the discussion.



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Agenda-Setting Dispute Sparks Debate at CSD Improvements Committee

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- A dispute over who controls the Rancho Murieta Community Services District’s meeting agendas overshadowed the opening of the Aug. 4 Improvements Committee meeting, with directors, staff and several members of the public questioning whether important water-supply issues were being delayed by the agenda-setting process.

The discussion began after several speakers complained about repeated meeting rescheduling and last-minute agenda changes, then quickly shifted to a broader disagreement over why major water issues – including the proposed third water storage tank, groundwater development and Lake Clementia planning – had not appeared on recent agendas.

Rancho Murieta resident Tom Shewchuk first criticized the district’s handling of meeting schedules after the committee meeting



Former CSD board member Mike Martel challenges the district’s agenda-setting process during the Aug. 4 Improvements Committee meeting, saying he is concerned that board members may not be able to bring forward topics for public discussion. File photo

was moved multiple times, forcing him to cut short his vacation to attend. He urged the district to adopt a more consistent policy for scheduling meetings and notifying the public of changes.

Committee Chairman Bill Gere agreed the district needed to do better but said Brown Act notice requirements govern agenda preparation and that agenda items need to be submitted well in advance.

Rancho Murieta Properties representative Jeff Pearson responded that, while he agreed with the need for an orderly

process, the district’s actual practice had often differed from it.

“I’ve had to get in the habit of checking committee meetings or board meetings the night before because it’s frequent that there are changes to the agenda the day before and the night before,” Pearson said.

Pearson said he was disappointed that discussion of the third water storage tank had disappeared from the agenda after initially appearing in a draft version. Gere acknowledged that the item had been included briefly before being removed, saying it

could not legally be added because the change was made less than 24 hours before the meeting.

The disagreement intensified when committee member Randy Jenco, the committee’s other board representative, said he had asked that discussion of the tank be added to the agenda after receiving the draft agenda. He said Gere later informed him that only Gere and Interim General Manager Amelia Wilder controlled the committee agenda and that his request would not be honored.

“It was absurd,” Jenco said, noting it was the first time in six years he had requested an agenda addition and been denied.

Developer Bob Kyle questioned why Lake Clementia, groundwater wells and the third water tank had not “shown up” on the agenda after Director Tim Maybee told him at the previous board meeting “to send a list to Amelia of things he wanted to be considered for the agenda.”

“Bob, these are huge issues,” Gere responded.

“They all take a huge amount of work, and we’re very short-staffed. So, to think that we’re going to stop doing everything to attend to your list is a bit much.”

Former board member Mike Martel then questioned whether one committee member could prevent another from placing an item on the agenda. Wilder said her review of the district code indicated that directors may make suggestions, but she found no provision requiring that requested items be placed on an agenda.

The district’s 2016 Board Guidelines state that the general manager, in consultation with the board president, sets board meeting agendas. The guidelines also provide that committee recommendations and requests from individual directors are submitted to the general manager for consideration and allow directors to request future board or committee agenda items. However, the guidelines do not specify whether such requests must be granted or establish standards

for when they must be scheduled.

Martel said he had asked a government agency to determine whether the district’s practice complies with state law and the Brown Act.

“I think this is getting my hair on the back of my neck really concerned,” Martel said. “I don’t mind having a difference of opinion and not voting on stuff, but not to bring a topic up that concerns a board member ... I’m not sure that’s how America is supposed to work.”

The agenda dispute resurfaced later during discussion of the Water Vision Working Group’s proposed project matrix. Shewchuk said the group had completed a revised matrix assigning responsibility for water-supply projects and hoped it would be forwarded to the board.

Jenco argued the board had directed the committee to complete that work and send it back for approval, but said progress had repeatedly stalled because projects were not being added to committee agendas.

The committee took no action on the agenda-setting issue, leaving unresolved the differing interpretations of how directors may bring matters before the public for discussion. ★

From Moratorium Talk to Courtroom

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- The water issues at the heart of Rancho Murieta Properties’ lawsuit have played out publicly for more than two years, beginning before current CSD Board President John Merchant was elected to the board.

The CSD board discussed declaring a water-shortage emergency at its July 17, 2024, meeting. Such a declaration under California Water Code Section 350 could provide the basis for restrictions on new water connections.

The board discussed the proposal but took no action after District Counsel Patrick Enright explained the legal and procedural requirements that would have to be met.

Merchant, then vice president of Save Our Lakes & Open Spaces and a member of the public, supported a moratorium.

More Than 2,000 Sign Petition

Following the meeting, Merchant initiated a SOLOS petition drive seeking a moratorium on future development. The drive, formally launched in August, eventually collected 2,025 signatures from residents. SOLOS President Cheryl McElhany presented the petitions to the CSD board Dec. 18, 2024.

McElhany said the request was based in part on findings in CSD’s draft Integrated Water Master Plan indicating that Rancho Murieta could face future water-supply and storage problems. She argued that the augmentation alternatives identified in the plan were not viable solutions and urged CSD to declare a water emergency.

She also pointed to the board’s August 2024 approval of will-serve letters for 240 lots in the already approved Residences, Riverview and Retreats developments, saying the

decision jeopardized a reliable water supply for existing residents.

The board took no action on the petitions that night because the issue had been placed on the agenda for discussion rather than action. Then-Board President Steve Booth said the board should consider bringing the matter back before a committee or the full board.

Merchant was elected to the CSD board in November 2024 and later became board president.

Emergency Water Policy

In March 2025, Merchant began advocating for a separate but related policy to maintain a one-year emergency water supply.

At the March 11, 2025, Improvements Committee meeting, Merchant said the district should establish a requirement to maintain no less than a one-year supply of water in gross storage for emergencies. He identified obtaining state approval to use Lake

Clementia as drinking water as a possible first step.

Merchant’s proposal was discussed at subsequent district meetings before coming before the full board as Resolution R2025-03.

On May 21, 2025, the board unanimously adopted the resolution, which makes establishing and maintaining a one-year emergency water supply a district priority when allocating any secondary or mitigating source of water. Rancho Murieta Properties CEO Greg Dyer objected to the resolution at the May 21 meeting, arguing that it was vague and did not accurately reflect state water-code requirements.

That resolution is now one of the targets of RMP’s lawsuit.

Board Moves Toward Moratorium

The moratorium issue returned Sept. 17, 2025, when the board voted 3-2 to begin the formal process of considering a

water-shortage emergency.

Merchant and Directors Linda Butler and Bill Gere supported beginning the process. Directors Randy Jenco and Tim Maybee opposed it. The vote itself did not impose a moratorium.

Under Water Code Section 350, the board would have to find after a public hearing that ordinary water demands could not be satisfied without depleting the supply to the point that there would be insufficient water for human consumption, sanitation and fire protection.

Packed Hearing Ends Without Action

That hearing was held Feb. 10, 2026, at the Rancho Murieta Country Club and drew about 230 residents.

The nearly three-hour hearing included arguments on both sides. Ten speakers opposed declaring an emergency, several warning about potential litigation and financial consequences. Nine supported it, citing drought risks,



John Merchant advocated first as a community member and later as a CSD director for policies emphasizing emergency water supplies. Rancho Murieta Properties now challenges some of those policies in its lawsuit against the district. File photo by Gail Bullen

limited storage and the lack of a confirmed backup water supply.

The board ended the nearly three-hour hearing without declaring a water-shortage emergency or imposing a development moratorium.

RMP now points to that history as part of its claim that CSD has indicated it may withhold water service from future development despite contractual commitments the developer says prohibit the district from doing so. ★

CSD Sued Over Water, Development Agreements

Continued from page 1

district agreed to pursue an additional 1,400 acre-feet of raw water for specified development and to continue “diligently, conscientiously, and expeditiously” pursuing alternatives until an augmentation project sufficient to serve the designated properties was approved.

The agreement also states that the district “will not refrain, on the basis of water supply considerations, from issuing will serve letters” for developments covered by the agreement.

RMP alleges CSD has failed for decades to fulfill that obligation.

The complaint points to earlier efforts to develop groundwater that were never completed, a later groundwater program that was abandoned in favor of recycled-water planning, and unsuccessful efforts to obtain authority to use Lake Clementia as an emergency drinking-water source.

More recently, although not reported in the lawsuit, the CSD Board has been investigating groundwater as a potential secondary water source. It hired Water Systems Consultants to identify potential well sites, and it formed the Water Vision Working Group to help evaluate and refine those locations.

The working group subsequently

recommended additional geophysical evaluation to help determine the most promising locations before test wells were drilled. The board rejected that proposal. RMP cites the rejection in its lawsuit as further evidence that CSD has failed to diligently pursue additional water supplies.

Emergency Water Resolution Challenged

The lawsuit also challenges Resolution R2025-03, adopted by the board May 21, 2025.

The resolution directs CSD to allocate any “secondary, mitigating source of water” on a priority basis toward establishing and maintaining a one-year emergency water supply.

RMP argues that policy conflicts with the 1991 agreement. According to the lawsuit, the earlier agreement requires CSD to obtain additional water for specified development and gives those developments priority to water obtained through the augmentation program.

The lawsuit contends CSD cannot instead give newly obtained water priority for an emergency reserve while citing inadequate water supplies as a reason to withhold service from development.

RMP is asking the court to declare the

resolution invalid, alleging CSD exceeded its legal authority in adopting it.

The lawsuit also cites the district’s repeated consideration of a development moratorium as evidence supporting RMP’s claim that CSD may not honor its contractual obligations to issue future will-serve letters. (See accompanying sidebar on the water policy decisions leading to the lawsuit.)

Reimbursement Dispute

A separate portion of the lawsuit involves money RMP says it is owed under 2014 agreements used to finance improvements to the district’s water-treatment facilities.

RMP and related companies helped to finance the improvements. Under the agreements, other developers benefiting from them were required to pay proportional shares as their projects proceeded, with CSD collecting the money and reimbursing RMP.

RMP alleges those developers currently owe at least \$863,997 in base construction costs. With adjustments for construction costs, RMP calculates the reimbursement at least \$1.2 million.

The issue overlaps with a separate dispute involving River Canyon Properties,

developer of the Residences.

According to the complaint, CSD demanded reimbursement from River Canyon for the water meters for the development. River Canyon paid under protest, and CSD subsequently indicated the money would be held in a segregated account rather than immediately turned over to RMP.

RMP contends its agreements require the district to collect the payments and reimburse RMP.

What RMP Wants

Rather than simply seeking monetary damages, much of the lawsuit asks the court to require CSD to perform obligations RMP says the district has already undertaken.

RMP seeks an order requiring the district to diligently pursue the additional 1,400 acre-feet of water, provide water and sewer connections required by the Rancho North agreement, and pay reimbursement funds it alleges are due.

It also seeks court declarations that CSD cannot withhold will-serve letters for the covered developments on the basis of water-supply considerations and that the district’s emergency-water resolution is invalid. ★

Kings Korner

By V.G. Harris

Culture

By V.G. Harris

Well, Kings fans, while the NFL is already in preseason mode and only weeks away from regular season games, the NBA is not far behind. In less than 60 days your own Sacramento Kings will once again be gracing the hardwood, and many are asking what can they expect? Ask any 10 people and you'll get 10 different answers. That would not be true of many organizations that have developed expectations based on recent successes and possibly on additions that were made to the team during the off season. The Sacramento Kings made the post season just four years ago and appeared to be on a roll. So, what happened that brought them to a paltry 22 wins last year? Injuries certainly played a critical role, but it is much more than that. I took a look at the most storied franchise in the NBA with a total of 18 championship rings. The Boston Celtics were once almost invincible, putting together eight straight championships, and sending a message that you may compete with us, but don't expect to win. What made the Celtics such a dynasty? One word describes how Boston got there. Culture. The Celtics developed a culture that didn't just spell team, it defined it. Led by legendary Red Auerbach, the Celtics coach developed a team culture that many have tried to emulate but few have been successful. Perhaps the San Antonio Spurs may break into the conversation, as Gregg Popovich led the Spurs to five championships spanning a 29-year run. Gregg Popovich simply had a modality that much like Red Auerbach, not only grasped the attention of his team, but transformed it. So, what you ask, is the culture of the Sacramento Kings? If I had that answer or even a good guess, I would certainly venture it. What I can tell you is that denigrating players and constantly discussing their lack of ability as it relates to defense, or some other basketball related issue, is not something that will ever build a lasting relationship and is conducive to anything related to culture. The Sacramento franchise while extolling

their past two drafts, have become cataleptic in their approach to anything resembling a culture. Whether the national media can see it or not, the Kings have an abundance of talent on the current team, but a culture is badly needed. Something that isn't just lip service but shows up and supports the players in a way that builds confidence and a trust. Domantas Sabonis has bought into what the Sacramento Kings have preached every season he's been here and has been the epitome of a leader literally from the day he arrived. Domantas had to overcome the many fans that were crushed by the loss of Tyrese Haliburton, and all he did was cover his ears and lead the entire league in rebounding three years in a row. Imagine breaking a thumb and playing through the pain to lead the league in rebounding and double-doubles. Not lost in his stellar play has been the attitude of a true leader. Always the first player to help his teammate to his feet, a constant source of encouragement, Sabonis has been the poster boy for what an NBA teammate should look like. But Sabonis isn't the only player to be shopped for a trade and criticized for his perceived lack of defense. Zack Lavine has had to endure constant dialogue about the over inflated salary he is receiving and how he is keeping the Kings from moving forward because of his price tag and lack of defensive skill. After these two have been trashed will no restraint, let's encourage them to be team leaders and approach the upcoming season will renewed enthusiasm. Earth to the Kings. This is not how team culture is taught and developed. Both Sabonis and Lavine have been former NBA all-stars, and contrary to popular opinion they both hit the hardwood with the same acumen that made them all-stars. Let's start but extolling the virtues and building a culture that the glass is half full and not the opposite. I know leaders when I see them, and Domantas Sabonis and Zach Lavine fit the description to a tee. I'm showing up to see them play and I hope you will too! *All the best!*

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Interested in How California Pays for State Government? Here's Where to Find the Data



By Dan Walters, CALMatters.org

The state budget is an obvious source for anyone interested in how California finances its programs. However the budget, including the latest version enacted in June, is only a rough outline, a collection of suppositions and guesses, some educated, others politically motivated. An obvious example is what happened four years ago when Gov. Gavin Newsom declared that California had a \$97.5 billion surplus, bragging “no other state in American history has ever experienced a surplus as large as this.” That number never appeared in the budget, but legislators immediately pumped up spending. The surplus turned out to be a mirage based on what officials later acknowledged was a \$165 billion error in revenue estimates. However, the spending increases were already in effect, leading to chronic, multibillion-dollar deficits ever since. Moreover, one piece of increased spending, the extension of health care coverage to undocumented immigrants, cost \$6.2 billion more than assumed in the budget, resulting in cutbacks of coverage. While the budget itself is an imprecise source of financial information, its addenda provide troves of useful

data for those savvy enough to find them. They reveal such statistics as how many employee positions the state has (482,088), a list of the state's outstanding bond debts (\$73 billion) and how much the state collects from dozens of specific taxes and fees (\$328.4 billion). One particularly interesting chart provides details on revenues and spending year-by-year, dating back to 1975. It reveals that income, outgo and the size of the state payroll remained stable relative to the growth in California's population and personal income, until Newsom became governor in 2019. Since then, the state has added about 100,000 positions to its payroll, increasing it by one-third, relative to population. State general fund spending rose from 7.9% of total personal income in 2019-20 to 9.58% in 2023-24, the highest ever recorded since 1975. It now stands at 9.42%. Those numbers are why Newsom will be leaving his successor a very unbalanced budget — no matter what he claims. In fact, one addendum projects shortfalls lasting through the next governor's first term, even if general fund spending remains virtually static, which it will not. Those seeking an even deeper understanding of the state government's financial position have another source: The 372-page “Annual Comprehensive Financial Report” that the state controller's office files with the federal government. Its numbers are rock solid because they have to be and are backed up by audits. State Controller Malia Cohen issued the 2024-25 report in May, two months after the federal government's deadline — but that

was an accomplishment. The state hadn't issued a timely report since 2018 because it was struggling with a new financial reporting tool, the Financial Information System of California, dubbed FISCal, that was years overdue, many millions of dollars over budget and incapable of generating accurate data. The financial report covers a much broader array of state agencies (201) and programs than the budget, and therefore a much larger financial spread: \$595.5 billion in revenue and \$582.5 in spending — 66% larger than the \$351.7 billion current state budget. Among its revelations is that the state has \$176.5 billion in unfunded liabilities for state employee pensions and retiree benefits, primarily healthcare. The report also contains detailed data about taxable sales, personal income and other economic sectors from which the state derives income. One chart is especially timely, given the current debate over Proposition 40, a ballot measure that would impose a tax on the wealth of California's approximately 200 billionaires. Opponents of the wealth tax argue it could impel one-percenters to leave the state if it passes. A chart on page 322 hints at the ramifications, supporting the oft-quoted assertion that California's top 1% of taxpayers by income — about 175,000 people — generate nearly half its income tax revenues. *Dan Walters is one of the most decorated and widely syndicated columnists in California history, authoring a column four times a week that offers his view and analysis of the state's political, economic, social and demographic trends.*

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Social Security Matters

I Worked for my Ex-husband but Wasn't Paid and now have little Social Security; What are my options?



By Russell Gloor, AMAC Certified Social Security Advisor

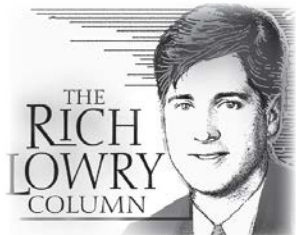
Dear Rusty: Sadly, I was in business with my ex-husband. I'm a nurse and he was a chiropractor. He refused to pay me “on the books” and now, at age 73, after divorcing him due to his financial irresponsibility (I don't want to burden you with the thefts that he perpetrated), I am stuck with a small \$773 Social Security payment each month. At age 73 I am now faced with having to go back into the workforce. Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years for my husband but wasn't paid? **Signed: Distressed Divorcee**

Dear Distressed: We are so sorry to hear of your unfortunate circumstances. Assuming your ex-husband is now collecting Social Security retirement benefits (or is at least eligible to if you are divorced at least 2 years), you should be able to collect an ex-spouse benefit as his former wife. In that case, you would be entitled to receive 50% of the Social Security benefit he was entitled to at his own full retirement age (because he and you were married

for over 10 years). The way that will work is that you would continue to receive your personally-earned \$773 monthly Social Security retirement amount earned from other employment, but you would also be entitled to a supplemental “spousal boost” to bring your payment up to half of the SS payment amount your ex-husband is entitled to at his SS full retirement age. In other words, because you were married to your ex for more than 10 years, you are entitled to the same Social Security benefits as though you were still married. That is true, even if he has remarried and his new wife is also getting a spouse benefit from his record. You will still be entitled to an ex-spouse benefit from your ex-husband as his former wife. And if he dies before you, as a surviving ex-spouse you will get the same Social Security benefit he was receiving at his death, instead of the smaller amount your will get while you are both living. Regarding rejoining the workforce, while you can certainly go back to work at age 73 without it negatively affecting your Social Security benefits, if you are struggling financially, I suggest you visit this website sponsored by the National Council on Aging: www.benefitscheckup.org. At this website, you can enter your zip code and find much information about other supplemental

assistance you may be entitled to where you live, including healthcare and medication assistance, housing, nutritional assistance, etc. Regarding your question: “Is there anything I can do to prove that I worked 40 years and wasn't paid?” Social Security determines benefits based solely on your personal earnings as reported to the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), which is, in turn, dependent on how your joint income taxes were filed over the years you worked in your husband's business. Social Security is unable to assist you with IRS matters. I'm afraid yours is more of a legal matter you would need to pursue by discussing your situation directly with the IRS or engaging an attorney for assistance. *This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

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During the 1979-1980 hostage crisis, a defiant Iran starkly demonstrated the limits of American power. Forty-five years later, it is doing the same thing, although in vastly different circumstances. Back then, when the post-Vietnam military was at a low ebb, we didn't strike Iran, and a long-shot rescue operation ended in abject failure. Now, with the U.S. military at its most proficient and professional in history, we have inflicted punishing blows against the regime but still haven't been able to impose our will, in part because we are running low on the munitions necessary to prosecute the war. Not only is this embarrassing, it is dangerous. If Operation Midnight Hammer -- last year's lightning strike against Iranian nuclear facilities -- demonstrated the prowess of the U.S. military and sent a useful deterrent message to our enemies, the Iran War is now doing the opposite. We're running low on missiles and interceptors in a months-long conflict with a beleaguered second-rate power. What would happen in a drawn-out war with a major adversary? President Trump has posted a thunderous denunciation of leaks to the media about our depleted weapons stocks, and the leaks are indeed irresponsible. But this problem is a matter of public record and has been tracked by outside organizations.

A Foreseeable and Dire Munitions Crisis

At the end of July, the Center for Strategic and International Studies estimated that, out of an arsenal of 2,330 Patriot interceptors before the Iran war, we had roughly 800 remaining. We were down to roughly 250 THAAD interceptors from 450 at the start of the war. On top of this, news organizations are reporting that we are almost out of ATACMS -- a ground-launched precision-strike missile -- and Precision Strike Missiles, the newer, longer-range successor to ATACMS. This isn't comforting at a time when a war with China could be in the offing. Even before Operation Epic Fury, a war game involving a conflict in the Taiwan Strait conducted by CSIS had the U.S. running out of key munitions in days or weeks. What happened? This is a crisis a long time in the making. As defense analyst Mackenzie Eaglen of the American Enterprise Institute has warned for years, skimping on the acquisition of munitions was an easy way to meet constrained Pentagon budgets, and we relied on optimistic scenarios about potential wars to justify chronically insufficient production. For some understandable reasons, we also emphasized sophisticated missiles and interceptors over “good enough” systems. This led to Iran, for instance, forcing us to use highly expensive, difficult-to-replace interceptors against cheap, bulk threats from drones. All this means that we've expended ordnance that it will take us years to build

again. According to media reports, we've used about half our supply of Tomahawk cruise missiles, when we've been manufacturing fewer than 100 a year. We need to put missile production on a wartime footing, and leverage hungry new defense firms to produce cheaper precision missiles and interceptors at scale. In World War II terms, it's the difference between the easy-to-maintain and mass-produced Sherman tank and the exquisite and powerful, but ultimately impractical Tiger. Whatever advantages the Tiger had in armor and punch, you'd still rather be the U.S. with 50,000 Sherman tanks than the Germans with 1,500 Tigers. The Trump administration has been talking the right game, and there have been encouraging moves. It has signed agreements to acquire 10,000 cruise missiles over three years at a cost of a few hundred thousand dollars each, far less than a Tomahawk at more than \$2 million. Wars always bring surprises. It should have been a shock to no one, though, that contemporary military conflict is largely missile warfare, or that we'd have trouble sustaining prolonged hostilities given that we started out with inadequate stocks. The American way of warfare is often to mess it up before adjusting and getting it right. The course correction here should be considered the most urgent priority of U.S. national security. *Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review. (c) 2026 by King Features Synd., Inc.*

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Third Tank Delays Draw Fire as Rio Oso Repairs Loom

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG)

- A long-delayed proposal for a third Rancho Murieta water storage tank took on new urgency Aug. 4 after district staff warned that the Rio Oso tank will need a complete rehabilitation within about 2½ years, potentially leaving the community without one of its primary storage tanks unless replacement storage or a temporary bypass system is in place.

The discussion took place during the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Improvements Committee meeting, where committee members, staff, developers and residents debated why progress on the third tank has slowed despite months of engineering work.

The third tank has become essential not only for future development but also for existing customers. River Canyon Properties says the district will not release water meters for approximately 130 lots in the second phase of its Residences subdivision until additional storage is available, while the district engineer has told the board that a third tank is needed to increase emergency water storage capacity for current residents.

Rio Oso Tank
Interim Director of Operations Travis Bohannon told the committee that a recent cathodic protection inspection found the Rio Oso tank has an estimated remaining service life of about 2½ years before it must undergo a complete rehabilitation. “If we’re lucky, 2½ years,” Bohannon said. “Within the next three



The Rio Oso water storage tank is at the center of a renewed debate over the construction of a third storage tank after district staff said it will require major rehabilitation in about 2½ years. File photo

years, we’re going to have to do something with Rio Oso.”

Rehabilitating the Rio Oso tank would require removing it from service. Unless a third storage tank is constructed before then, the district would likely have to install a temporary bypass system to maintain water service during the work; the last time this occurred was in 2009.

Third Tank Delay
The renewed focus on the third tank came as developers questioned why progress on the project has largely stalled. Rancho Murieta Properties representative Jeff Pearson opened the discussion by asking why an update on the third water tank had been

removed from the agenda after briefly appearing in a draft version. He said the district had already spent considerable time and money on engineering studies and asked for an update on the search for the tank.

Committee Chairman Bill Gere said the item was removed because it had been added after the Brown Act deadline for posting the agenda. He also said the district’s lack of a permanent general manager and director of operations has slowed progress on the third tank and other major infrastructure projects. Gere said the district has already spent about \$376,000 on district engineer Joe Domenichelli and another \$300,000 on legal services over the past year,

arguing that the committee first needs to determine what it wants to accomplish before authorizing additional engineering work.

“We need to figure out what it is that we actually want before we start spending the \$300- to \$400-an-hour consultant rates, Gere said. Pearson rejected Gere’s contention that the district’s staffing shortage was responsible for the slow pace of the third tank project. “I want to remind everybody how we got to this lack of staff,” Pearson said. “This was a decision that was made by the board... This is a self-inflicted problem.” Pearson said the board majority chose to operate

for months without hiring a permanent general manager or director of operations and should not now cite those vacancies as the reason major projects have stalled.

Progress Stalls in May
The disagreement follows a contentious debate at the committee’s May 6 meeting. Before that meeting, district engineer Joe Domenichelli had identified Site 4 as the preferred location for the third storage tank. Gere instead advocated evaluating a site near the water treatment plant because the district already owned the property, potentially avoiding significant land acquisition costs. Developer Bob Keil accused Gere of reopening

an issue the district’s engineer had already spent months evaluating. Since then, the committee has not publicly discussed whether Gere and Interim General Manager Amelia Wilder have identified a new location or presented any engineering analysis to support one. Keil said the continued delays have tangible consequences because the district has informed River Canyon Properties that no water meters will be issued for approximately 130 lots in the second phase of its Residences subdivision until a third storage tank is built. “We have all of the information to size the tank, price the tank, build the tank, permit the tank and go forward,” Keil said. Wilder said financing remains the biggest obstacle, noting the district could not commit to a project expected to cost about \$6 million without first securing funding.

Jenco argued that was approaching the issue backward. “You’ve got the cart in front of the horse,” he said, contending that engineering and design should come first to determine the tank’s size, location and cost before financing can be addressed. Gere disagreed, saying the district first needs to determine the tank’s size and location before spending additional money on engineering. The committee took no action on the third tank. As a result, the district still faces decisions about where to build the facility, how to fund it and whether it can be completed before the district takes the Rio Oso tank out of service for rehabilitation. ★

Rio Oso Water Tank Power Outage Causes Temporary Low Water Pressure

By Gail Bullen
River Valley Times Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Residents served by the Rio Oso water system experienced several hours of low water pressure Sunday morning, Aug. 16 after a scheduled SMUD power outage revealed an unexpected failure in the Rancho Murieta Community Services District’s backup power system.

According to Interim Director of Operations Travis Bohannon, SMUD shut off power to the Rio Oso station at about 8:45 a.m. to perform scheduled transformer work. The district had received about two weeks’ notice of the outage and had tested its permanent generator beforehand, discovering it was not operating properly. A rental generator was brought in to provide backup power during the planned outage.

When SMUD cut power, however, the rental generator unexpectedly failed to start, causing the station’s pumps to shut down. As water system pressure dropped, customers in the Rio Oso service area experienced low water pressure until electrical service was restored and the pumps resumed normal operation. District staff later determined the rental generator’s battery had unexpectedly discharged.

Replacement batteries were obtained before the second day of SMUD’s scheduled work, and staff planned to start the generator before the outage on Monday, Aug. 17, to ensure it was operating properly. Bohannon also reported that the district’s permanent generator requires repairs after testing showed electrical panel components had failed. Because replacement parts are no longer available for the aging generator, the district has ordered a conversion kit expected to arrive within three to four weeks. Once installed, the repairs are expected to improve the reliability of the station’s backup power system. ★



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SECURITY LOGS

Following is a summary of activity for the Rancho Murieta Community Services District Security Department for the following dates. Note: these log entries are condensed. For full security log details, go to the CSD website at rmcsd.com.

July 31
4:25 a.m., Patrol observed an occupied black Mercedes parked at Lake Calero after park hours. The vehicle was in violation of Rule IX, Section 2 (Park Hours). The vehicle departed the area without incident.
4:57 a.m., Patrol observed a black Hyundai registered as a guest to Reynosa Drive, parked at Lake Clementia after park hours. The vehicle was in violation of Rule IX, Section 2 (Park Hours). The vehicle departed upon patrol's arrival. Citation documented.
5:10 a.m., Patrol observed an occupied black Mercedes (CA LIC# a guest vehicle associated with Rio Oso, parked at Lake Clementia after park hours. The vehicle was in violation of Rule IX, Section 2 (Park Hours). Patrol made contact via the PA system, and the vehicle departed the area without further incident.
Aug. 3
5:09 p.m., During patrol of Lake Calero, RMCS

white male juveniles swimming near the boat ramp. The group was directed to exit the water and complied without incident. The juveniles stated they were guests of the resident at Terreno Drive, who was not present, placing them in violation of RMA Rule IX, Section 1 (Guest Without Resident) and Rule IX, Section 2 (Swimming at Lake Calero).
The juveniles advised they had no means of transportation after being dropped off at the lake. Resident responded to the location and remained with the group. Citation #21167 was issued to the residence at Terreno Drive for the violations. At approximately 5 p.m., the juveniles were picked up by the parent of one of the group members.
9:38 p.m., Report of a possible grass fire near the 9th fairway of the South Golf Course. The reporting party advised her son observed smoke and smelled smoke while passing through the area. Patrol conducted a thorough inspection from the 9th to the 10th fairway and found no visible smoke, fire or odor of smoke. Unable to locate any signs of a grass fire.
10:57 p.m., Murieta South Parkway, Water Leak: A resident reported a water leak along the side of the residence and requested patrol determine

whether the leak originated on private property or CSD property. Patrol determined the leak was located on the opposite side of the property line and appeared to be on CSD property. Dispatch was notified to contact CSD Water.
Aug. 4
12:03 a.m., Patrol located a vehicle matching the description provided by the reporting party, a white Lexus, observing it fail to stop at the intersection of Murieta South Parkway and Reynosa. The vehicle was later located in the Riverview development area. The driver exited the vehicle and approached patrol, asking why he had previously been issued a citation. Patrol advised the driver he was in a residential development area and needed to leave. The driver responded with obscenities toward patrol before departing the area.
Aug. 6
3:15 p.m., Report of a solicitor in the area of Camino Del Sol and Trinidad Drive. Subject described as a male adult wearing a black hat, white polo, and black pants. Upon arrival, RMCS

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Tickets are \$80 per person. Corkage is \$20 per bottle, including tax and gratuity. Tickets are available online at [rmkiwanis.org](#). Those who would like to contribute to the festive ambiance by providing a table

centerpiece may contact Carol Prinzo at [rcprinzo1962@gmail.com](#). For other questions, contact Jeannette Edwards at (408) 515-2636.

Queen of Hearts Fashion Show Set for Sept. 23

The Rancho Murieta Women's Club will present its Queen of Hearts Fashion Show on Wednesday, Sept. 23 at the Rancho Murieta Country Club.

The event will feature a luncheon, fashions from local boutiques, raffles and volunteer models from the community showcasing the latest styles. This year's Queen of Hearts theme celebrates confidence, style and community spirit, with guests encouraged to wear black-and-white attire to complement the festive décor.

Doors open at 9:30 a.m., lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., and the fashion show begins at 12:15 p.m. Tickets are \$45

for Women's Club members and \$55 for guests.

Reservations are required by Sept. 11. For more information, contact Barbara Armstrong at 916-541-1884 or Laura McAllister at 805-404-7975.

Corvette Club Plans Memorial Poker Run Fundraiser

The Rancho Murieta Corvette Club will host the Jerry McDonald Memorial Poker Run on Sept. 26 to raise money for its annual Thanksgiving Dinner project, which provides holiday meals to families in the River Valley area of south Sacramento County. Named in honor of longtime club member and past president Jerry McDonald, who died in 2024, the event is open to all makes and models of vehicles, including sports cars, sedans, SUVs and trucks.

Participants will follow a scenic route through the foothills and lower Sierra, stopping at five locations to collect

playing cards in hopes of building the best poker hand. The drive concludes with a no-host lunch at Castle Oaks Golf Club, where prizes will be awarded. Written directions will be provided. The \$30 entry fee includes two poker hands: one for the driver and one for the navigator.

Registration is due by Sept. 12. Entry forms are available by emailing [pcargts@yahoo.com](#). Completed forms, along with a check payable to Rancho Murieta Corvettes, should be mailed to the address listed on the form.

CSD Changes August Meeting Dates

The August Rancho Murieta Community Services District Board and the Finance Committee will be meeting later in the month than usual.

The board will meet at 5 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 26 and the Finance Committee will meet on Monday, Aug. 24.

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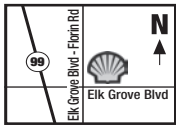
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Titans of Rock Deliver High-Energy Night of Classic Hits

Story and photos
by Gail Bullen
River Valley Times
Reporter

RANCHO MURIETA, CA (MPG) - Even triple-digit temperatures couldn't keep classic rock fans away from the Lake Clementia Amphitheater on Aug. 1, where Entertainment, Theater & Culture for Rancho Murieta's Titans of Rock concert had concertgoers singing, dancing and calling for an encore.

Although Sacramento reached 102 degrees earlier in the day, ETC board members said the amphitheater became comfortable after the sun slipped behind the hill.

"While it was a warm August day, once the sun sets behind us it's always comfortable in the grassy bowl near the water," ETC Vice President Jane Rosetta said. "It was a beautiful summer evening for some classic rock."

ETC President JT Turner said attendance closely matched ticket sales, despite concerns that the daytime heat might discourage concertgoers.

"There may have been a few ticket holders who decided to stay home because of the extreme heat earlier in the day, which would certainly be understandable," Turner said. "But overall, we were very pleased with the turnout and the number of people who came out to enjoy the evening."

The Southern California-based tribute band, managed by Rancho Murieta-based Hip



The Titans of Rock deliver a high-energy performance during Entertainment, Theater & Culture for Rancho Murieta's Aug. 1 concert at the Lake Clementia Amphitheater.



Rancho Murieta Fine Arts Association artists Rebecca Reilly, left, and Pam Szemesi put the finishing touches on paintings they created from brushstrokes contributed by residents earlier in the day. The completed works were given away during the concert.

Entertainment & Events, treated the audience to more than 90 minutes of classic rock spanning several decades. According to the concert program, the group recreates arena-style rock performances with songs from the 1960s through the 2000s, featuring music by artists ranging from Led Zeppelin and the Rolling Stones to Pearl Jam and U2.

Lead singer Brett Copeland immediately

connected with the audience.

"We're the Titans of Rock, and we are so happy to be here on this beautiful Saturday," he said. "You probably already know it, but wow, are you blessed to live in this beautiful countryside."

The band opened with Jimi Hendrix's "Purple Haze" before moving through an eclectic mix that included songs by the Rolling Stones, Creedence

Clearwater Revival, The Doors and Metallica. One of the night's biggest surprises came when Copeland asked whether the crowd wanted to hear Metallica's "Enter Sandman." The dance floor erupted as fans enthusiastically sang along to the heavy metal anthem. Afterward, Copeland told the audience it was the best crowd participation he had ever heard on the song.

Throughout the evening,

Copeland mixed humor with audience interaction, joking about the weather, complimenting Rancho Murieta residents and encouraging requests as the band selected songs on the fly. When the scheduled performance ended, the audience wasn't ready to leave. Turner returned to the stage to tell the band that the crowd wanted one more song, prompting an encore of Hendrix's "Fire."

After the concert, Copeland praised both the venue and the audience.

"I couldn't have been more surprised and more pleased by the beauty, exteriorly and interiorly," he said. "I hope they invite us back someday... We loved being here."

Turner said the enthusiastic audience mirrored the comments he has continued to receive since the concert.

"I thought the band's performance was fantastic," he said. "Their energy was amazing, and the crowd really seemed to feed off of it. The feedback I've received since the concert has been overwhelmingly positive. People loved the energy, the musicianship and especially the nostalgia of hearing so many songs that brought back memories."

The evening also highlighted ETC's broader mission of supporting local arts. Before the concert, Turner introduced Rancho Murieta Fine Arts Association artists Pam Szemesi and Rebecca Reilly, who invited morning arrivals who were laying out their blankets

to add brushstrokes to blank canvases. During the day, the artists transformed those community contributions into finished paintings, which were awarded via a drawing during the concert.

Turner also recognized local sponsors, thanked volunteers, presented volunteer Jeanette Edward with a gift basket from Rancho Murieta Health Club and entertained the crowd by launching T-shirts into the audience with a cannon.

Rosetta said incorporating the artists into the event reflected ETC's ongoing commitment to the arts.

"We are so happy to continue our partnership with the Rancho Murieta Fine Arts Association and keep the arts alive in our community," she said. "Having Pam Szemesi and Rebecca Reilly with paint supplies added lots of fun to the morning crowd waiting to set down their blankets, and lots of people contributed to the canvases. The finished products were just wow!"

Turner agreed that adding local artists strengthened the event.

"One of ETC's missions has always been to support the arts and provide opportunities to showcase talent within our community," he said. "Being able to incorporate local artists into an event like this gives them additional exposure while also adding another dimension to the experience for our attendees."

View more photos at therivervalleytimes.com. ★



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