



# Rio Alto Water District

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## **Water Conservation**

As of 2/9/17, "State Water Resources Control Board extended the state emergency drought regulations and pledges to revisit them in May, when the states traditional rainy season has ended." Meanwhile we have dam spillways failing and record levels in dams that are requiring increased outflows to insure that the dams do not overflow. Season to date, the North State has received 37.30" in precipitation, almost 15 inches above the normal season to date. Shasta Dam is currently 17.12 feet from the crest. The preferred distance from the crest at this time of the year is about 50 feet. That is why you are seeing such an increase of the releases into the Sacramento River. In speaking with the Bureau of Reclamation (the agency in charge of Shasta Dam) you will continue to see increasing flows from Shasta Dam until that goal is reached. The maximum amount of outflow for "safe channel capacity" is 79,000 cfs. In our area, we receive inflows from Cow Creek, Battle Creek and Cottonwood Creek. They reduce flows at the dam whenever possible to keep the river flow at Bend Bridge no greater than 100,000 cfs. They also assured us that Shasta Dam is inspected annually. If the dam fills to capacity before the rainy season is over we could see uncontrolled releases from the dam creating flooding much more damaging than we are seeing now.

## **Wetlands Update:**

Recently the District received an award for the wetlands project from the California Water Environmental Association (CWEA) Northern Sacramento Valley Section for the Engineering Project of the Year 2016. In addition, the project will be showcased in the USDA Rural and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) March newsletters. District staff has installed two additional outflow pipes from Pond #1 that assisted with maintaining the pond level between 6'1" and 6'3" even during the recent deluges. The other ponds are performing as designed. This is quite a season to test all the improvements made to the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) and so far so good. We have lost power to the WWTP several times during the windy storms and our new generator has kicked on to run the necessary components at the plant. As a reminder, dogs must be on a leash at all times in the wetlands facility. Our insurance carrier insists that if we open the trails to dogs, they must be leashed. We would like to continue to allow dogs in the wetlands, however if the leash requirement is not followed, we will be forced to prohibit all dogs in the wetlands.

## **New Billing Software:**

The District is in the process of upgrading our billing system. The bills you receive in March may be the last postcard billings you receive from our District. We are currently transferring data to the new system and hope to be up and running in April.

## **Reminder:**

Rio Alto Water District holds its Board Meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm at the District Boardroom. Agendas, Minutes and Resolutions can be accessed @ [www.rawd.org](http://www.rawd.org) under News & Notices.