

**Rio Alto Water District
Board of Directors**

Max Richman, President
Joe Adams, Vice President
Don Moitoza, Director
Mark Reese, Director
Dave Anders, Director

Rio Alto Water District Staff

Martha Slack, General Manager
Mike Brown, Operations Supervisor
Dean Sherrill, Regulatory Supervisor
Nick Jones, Certified Operator
Scott Russell, Certified Operator
Terri Taggart, Secretary
Sherry Dial, Bookkeeper

**RIO ALTO
WATER DISTRICT**



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GENERAL INFORMATION

Rio Alto Water District is a California Water District set up under California Water Code as a public service agency; the District is a "Political Subdivision" of the State of California. The District's office is located in the community of Lake California and presently has a service area that incorporates the Lake California subdivision. The District's powers are limited to water and wastewater services. Rio Alto Water District has no affiliation with the Lake California Property Owners' Association except that we share a common service area.

Rio Alto Water District is a resident/voter District that is governed by a Board of five Directors elected from the residential population within Lake California. Directors serve staggered four year terms and select a president and vice president after each election. The District is presently staffed with a General Manager, Bookkeeper, Secretary and 4 Certified Operators. Rio Alto is audited yearly by a Certified Public Accountant and is monitored by the California State Controller.

In addition to a dedicated staff, Rio Alto Water District has the privilege of receiving policy and procedure direction from very qualified Boards of Directors (both past and present) who have volunteered their service to the District and community. Two of our present Directors have served over 30 years. Their commitment to the Lake California community has resulted in the District's evolution to a top rated, first class water district. The accomplishments mentioned in this report are a tribute to their efforts.

WATER SERVICE

Rio Alto Water District provides potable water in two separate pressure zones by way of four groundwater wells that draw groundwater from approximately 420 to 790 feet below ground surface level. Wells #1 and #2 originally supplied the community's potable water needs. Because these two older wells were located in the Sacramento River flood plain and

their construction did not meet the current standards for municipal wells, the District Board of Directors initiated a "Well Replacement and System Reliability Program" back in 1991. This program resulted in the addition of Wells #3 (1994), #4 (1999), #5 (2005) and #6 (2008). Well #1 has been abandoned and Well #2 will soon be abandoned. In addition to the wells, the program resulted in the construction of two additional reservoirs, adding 1.6MG storage capacity. These additions more than doubled the District's demand and fire-fighting capacity. Along with the new wells and reservoirs, the Reliability Program added two pressure reducing down feeding stations which allow every resident in the community access to an adequate water supply even during a period of extended power outage or other natural disaster. The District Board's on-going commitment to the Water System Reliability has been the establishment of rehabilitation funding accounts to maintain these assets.

SEWER SERVICE

Rio Alto provides sewer collection and treatment by means of 7 sewer lift stations, over 18 miles of sewer lines and a tertiary wastewater treatment plant capable of treating approximately 700,000 gallons of waste to near drinking water standards. The District's initial sewage and treatment facilities were constructed in 1969. In 1995 the District's board initiated a "Sewer Systems Reliability Program". Since this program's inception, the District added two new lift stations, rebuilt pumps and motor controls in the remaining lift stations, added additional tertiary filtering capacity and added four new concrete sludge drying beds. In 1997 the District purchased 20 additional acres adjacent to the treatment plant for disposal of solid wastes and the potential for future expansion. The District currently discharges its effluent into the Sacramento River. As a result of the California Toxics Rule and the National Toxics Rule, the current treatment capabilities are unable to meet the proposed final effluent levels and the District was issued a Cease & Desist Order in 2010. The District hired PACE Engineering and after thorough evaluation, embarked on the current "Wastewater Treatment

Plant Improvements & Constructed Wetlands Project. This project is under way currently and at completion will include, construction of an additional clarifier, completely updated electrical, installation of backup generation to run all of the necessary components of the treatment plant, construction of additional sludge drying beds, new RAS and effluent pumps, 2+ miles of recycled pipe, and constructed wetlands for land disposal. The effluent will be piped from the treatment plant to a series of ponds in 78 acres purchased by the District for further polishing through percolation. This project had to be funded by all the current sewer lots and residences. To fund the project, the District formed Community Facilities District No. 2011-1 under the provisions of the Mello-Roos Community Facilities Act of 1982. A two thirds vote in favor of assessing a special tax on all sewer parcels was required to finance the acquisition of real property and the construction and installation of improvements to the District's wastewater system. The District secured low interest loans with the USDA Rural Development and the State Revolving Fund. The project estimated completion date is October 2015. When completed, the District will no longer discharge its effluent into a federally protected river. The ponds and wetlands are being constructed to include walking trails, benches for resting and bird watching, and picnic tables. The District would like to make the wetlands available to local schools for educational tours and anticipates providing a pleasing amenity to the community while resolving a regulatory issue.

CONCLUSION

The District, under the leadership of dedicated Boards of Directors and with the work efforts of dedicated staff, has successfully addressed substantial growing pains within the community to protect and enhance infrastructure to comply with current and future anticipated growth and regulatory requirements in the North State. Rio Alto Water District Board and staff are dedicated to providing the highest quality potable water and wastewater reclamation services to its customers in the most effective manner possible.