



# Rio Alto Water District

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February 21, 2019

## **Billing Updates:**

**Metered billings will be going out again the first week of March** for the period 1/2/19 through 3/3/19. Availability lots for the quarter 1/1/19 through 3/31/19 will be mailed on March 29, 2019. Payments can be made by check or cash and credit card payments can be made on our website at [RAWD.org](http://RAWD.org). Customers can sign up for auto draft payments by completing the form found on our website or at the District office.

## **Drought Updates:**

Applications for turf removal rebates can still be found at [turf@saveourwaterrebates.com](mailto:turf@saveourwaterrebates.com). The precipitation total for the new water year beginning Oct. 1, 2018 is 25.87" with a normal season to date being 22.79". The distance from the crest of Shasta Dam is now 42.72 feet from the crest, up 29.45 feet from what was reported last month due to the recent rain and snow. The current snow pack level ranges between 107% - 141% of the state average.

## **Sewer System Overflow:**

As most of you are aware now, we had a sewer system overflow on February 13, 2019 when power was lost to the whole community at 3:28 a.m. A 50 year snow event caused the power outage. The wet snow broke large limbs and downed trees which brought down power and phone lines. When two of our field crew attempted to respond, Lake California Drive was closed for a period of time. Our back up portable generator used to run our lift stations during power outages failed and our redundant backup 6" trash pump failed also. The field crew attempted to secure other generators and most distributors did not have phone service and/or had no generators left. We finally got ahold of Munson Pump Services who brought out a generator and a large trash pump. In addition to providing the equipment, Pete Elliott from Munson Pump Services (who happens to live in this community) assisted our field crew in setting up and dealing with the emergency at hand, restoring a source of power to the lift stations 6 hours before PG&E did. Many kudos go to Pete, who without his assistance, our spill would have been much greater. Unfortunately the spills from manholes occurred down by the lake and the flows did reach the lake. The spills were reported to the necessary regulatory agencies, signs were posted at the lake, an alert was posted on our website, and clean up procedures were started. All field crew operators were on site and worked continuously between 24 hour and 37 hour shifts. Laboratory tests have been performed in-house and sent to an outside lab. Results of the in-house tests indicate the dilution and vegetation provided by the lake itself reduced contaminants down to acceptable levels by Monday December 18<sup>th</sup>. The signs will be removed after we receive the outside lab results and can collect a sample to be used as a baseline. We thank the community for their patience and want to let you know that we did our level best to prevent this from happening. Our generator and trash pump have been repaired and the District Board is addressing the need for more redundant back up to prevent any future spills.

## **Board Meeting Date:**

The March Board Meeting will be held on March 20, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the District boardroom. We welcome the public to attend. Agendas, Minutes and Resolutions can be accessed at [www.rawd.org](http://www.rawd.org) under News & Notices.

Rio Alto Water District is a Special District governed by California Water Code and not affiliated with the Property Owners Association.