



Rio Alto Water District

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July 24, 2018

Billing Updates:

Availability bills were mailed out on 6/29/18. To avoid delinquent charges, please pay **on or before August 6th**. **Metered bills** were mailed out on July 5, 2018. Please pay **on or before August 9th** to avoid delinquent charges. It has come to our attention there is some confusion regarding the minimum consumption allowance. A Water Rate Analysis & Study was prepared by Bartle Wells Associates in February 2016. A Town Hall Meeting was noticed to all customers and held on March 17, 2016 at the Lake Club to discuss the proposed changes and answer questions. District Staff, Directors, Water Rate Consultant and approximately 30 residents were in attendance. It was explained that the reasons for the rate increase were to: a.) update rates to better reflect revenue requirements and the cost of service, including increasing operational and capital costs; b.) align meter ratios with American Water Works Association (AWWA) recommended ratios, and; c.) eliminate customer classifications and reconfigure the tier break points in response to the San Juan Capistrano court ruling. The District reduced the bimonthly allocation from 2,000 cubic feet of water to 1,500 cubic feet of water in an effort to keep the minimum fixed charge as low as possible only covering 60% of the fixed costs leaving a 40% risk to the District. Most customers do not go over the minimum in the winter, fall and spring. The District felt that this was more equitable to all of the customers. Written notices advising customers of the proposed rate adjustments were mailed to all affected customers on April 1, 2016. A public hearing was held on May 19, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. at the Lake Club. The larger venue was chosen again to accommodate potential customer attendance. Ten residents signed the attendance sheet and we received two written letters of protest. In the absence of a majority written protest, water rates were adjusted in accordance with the rate study. We welcome attendance at our board meetings.

Drought News:

As stated last month, the Governor has signed into law two permanent water conservations bills that will become effective in 2020. These laws will reduce indoor water consumption to 55 gallons per day per person. That is the equivalent of 441 cubic feet per person for a two month period. It will also reduce outdoor irrigation, but the outdoor budget is unknown at this time. While these laws, as written, do not affect Rio Alto Water District at this time, we suspect the smaller agencies will be addressed before 2020. The District will keep you updated as we learn more. A webinar regarding implementation is slated for later this month. It appears that conservation will be the new normal for California. If you are planning any landscaping projects, be conservative by planting drought resistant plants and avoid planting grass. Applications for turf removal rebates can still be found at turf@saveourwaterrebates.com. The precipitation total for the water year beginning Oct. 1, 2017 is 19.70", with a normal season to date being 33.82". The distance from the crest of Shasta Dam is now 46.43ft, down 22 feet from what was reported last month due to increased flows for agriculture and to keep the water temperatures down for fish.

SAVE MONEY- Check out your irrigation system.

Customers with abnormally high usage in the last billing cycle have been contacted and District personnel are trying to assist customers with potential leaks. Isolating leaks and determining proper watering schedules can save considerable amounts on your water bills. Field personnel can show you how to read your own meter and monitor your usage. Take the time to check your timers, turn your systems off during rain events, do not run sprinklers in the heat of the day, adjust sprinklers to avoid runoff, and repair any broken lines or sprinkler heads.

Board Vacancy Appointment:

The District would like to welcome newly appointed Board Member Richard Brubaker and thank the other candidates for applying.

District Elections:

The regular biennial election will take place on November 6, 2018. Directors Craig Weaver and Steve Gibbs' terms will expire in December of this year. Nominations for offices in our District close on August 10, 2018. Applications can be obtained from the District Office or from the Tehama County Elections Department.

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 at 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.