



# Rio Alto Water District

22099 River View Drive • Cottonwood, CA 96022

Phone: (530) 347-3835 • Fax: (530) 347-1007 • Website: [www.rawd.org](http://www.rawd.org)

June 22, 2020

**Covid-19 Updates:** The District has opened the doors to the lobby and installed a safety barrier on the counter for staff and customers. We would still prefer that customers drop their payments through the door to minimize contact. In compliance with the Governor's mandate, customers will be required to wear masks if they enter the facility. In response to the inevitable economic hardships, the District has suspended delinquent charges and lock offs for nonpayment until further notice. It seems that our customers missed the reminder notices, so we have reinstated mailing reminder notices during the pandemic. If you are currently out of work and need a payment deferral plan, please call the District to set up payment arrangements. Please stay safe, we are all in this together.

**Wetlands Updates:** It has come to our attention that some customers do not fully understand that the effluent discharged into the ponds is treated before it is discharged. Our wastewater treatment facility is an extended aeration treatment facility. All biological processes are performed at the wastewater treatment plant 2 ½ miles away from the wetlands. Bacteriological tests are performed on the effluent daily before it enters the wetlands. Our land discharge permit allows a 7day median of 23 MPN and most of our tests are less than 1 MPN. Sewage is received at our wastewater treatment plant at the headworks, then sent to the oxidation ditch where it receives continual aeration which promotes the growth of bacteria that break down and purify the solids. The sludge is forwarded to clarifiers where separation of solids occurs. After the solids have separated, the water on top is sent to a collection pond where it is treated with chlorine then chlorinated a second time in the pipeline before discharging to the wetlands. The solids are removed from the clarifiers and deposited in drying beds, dried and eventually sent to the landfill for disposal. We welcome tours of the wastewater facility, just call the District to get on the list. We would like to thank the residents and wetlands walkers for taking more responsibility with their pets at the walking trails. We have not received any recent complaints of dogs off leash at the wetlands and notice more people taking responsibility for cleaning up after their dogs. Keep up the good work!

**Billing Updates:** Metered billings for the period 3/3/20-5/4/20 were mailed out on May 5, 2020 and are were due on June 8, 2020. Availability lots will be billed on June 30, 2020 and payments will be due for those by August 4, 2020. New metered billing will be mailed out the 1<sup>st</sup> week in July. Payments can be made by check or cash and credit card payments can be made on our website at [www.RAWD.org](http://www.RAWD.org). Customers can also sign up for auto draft payments by completing the form found on our website or at the District office.

**Drought:** The new water year begins October 1<sup>st</sup> every year. As of June 12, 2020, the season to date precipitation was 23.65 inches with the normal average season to date being 33.62 inches (29.65% below the average). Lake Shasta level is 41.08 feet from the crest, down 5.54 feet from what was reported last month. The summer heat waves are upon us now. Remember, increasing your watering time does not necessarily assure a green lawn. Sometimes decreasing the time but increasing the frequency is more effective. Observe your sprinklers for water waste.

**District Elections:** Three Directors seats will be up for election in the General Election held in November. Directors Suggs, Brubaker and Vice-President Wilkinson's terms all expire in December of 2020. Candidate packets will be available at the District and at the Elections Department in Red Bluff on July 13, 2020. Applications must be filed with Tehama County by August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Board Meeting Date:** The July Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 15, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. at the District Board Room. During the Covid-19 Pandemic we are inviting customers to attend via audio. Instructions on how to access to the audio presentation will be printed on the Agenda which is posted to the website. Agendas, Minutes and Resolutions can be accessed at [www.rawd.org](http://www.rawd.org) "Agendas" and under News & Notices.

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