



Rio Alto Water District

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October 17, 2017

New Billing System Updates:

We want to apologize for a recent delinquency notice that was mailed out with an incorrect shut-off date. The error was found after the notices were mailed and the following day we mailed out revised delinquency notices. Computer conversions are a time consuming, frustrating process, but in the end we are confident that all parties will be happy with the new system. You can now sign up for E-Statements and ACH Bank drafts at no charge to the customer.

Vacancies filled for the Rio Alto Water District Board:

The District is happy to announce we have filled the current Board vacancy with applicant Louise Wilkinson. Applicant Steve Gibbs is slated to fill the second vacancy in February or March of next year. We feel very fortunate to have received two applications from residents who have attended many board meetings and are familiar with District operations.

Drought, Dams and Groundwater Levels:

The New Water Year began Oct. 1st. Shasta Dam is only 47 feet from the crest. This is an unseasonable high level and the Bureau of Reclamation expects we will have high releases into the Sacramento River again this year. Oroville Dam repairs are still on schedule. The lower portion of the spillway will be completed by Nov. 1st and should be capable of handling releases of 100K cft per second if need be. Next year the top of the spillway will be replaced and the entire spillway will be topped with concrete. NOAA is predicting a mild La Nina with slightly above average rain fall. So far it has been a very dry October with rain predicted late this week. If and when the rains come it will be nice to turn our sprinklers off and our customers can save some money on their water consumption. The Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) requires regions to form Sustainable Groundwater Management Plans to protect groundwater in the future. Rio Alto is an active member of the Groundwater Commission and working with Tehama County on the Groundwater Management Plan. Recent groundwater monitoring indicates our sub-basin (Bowman Sub-basin) reached its lowest levels for the year in July and began recharging in September. Our basin is classified as a medium priority basin and will require a plan by 2022.

Wetlands:

Field crew replaced the trees on the island and trails which did not survive the drought. In addition, two redbud trees were added to the island. We hope you all are enjoying the walking trails now that the temperatures are more moderate. Soon the migrating birds should be joining us. We will have the weeds removed from the rocks after fire season is over and the ISHI crew has more time. We would love to see more pictures of the wildlife out there!

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 under News & Notices.