



Rio Alto Water District

22099 River View Drive • Cottonwood, CA 96022

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

September 22, 2022

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Billing Updates: Unpaid metered billings for the period 05/3/22 to 7/5/22 that remain unpaid will be scheduled for lock-off on October 5, 2022. New metered billings for the period 07/05/22 – 9/6/22 were mailed out on September 7, 2022, and are due by October 10, 2022, to avoid delinquent charges. Availability lot billings will be mailed out on September 30, 2022 and will be due and payable on November 3, 2022 to avoid delinquent charges. Payments can be made by check or cash, and credit card payments can be made on our website at 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 severity of the drought can be seen in the last three years of precipitation and lake levels:

Year	September Precipitation Received	Average Precipitation to Date	Percent of Average	Shasta Lake feet from Crest
2022	19.75	33.34	59%	139.49
2021	14.19	33.26	43%	169.12
2020	23.70	34.59	69%	95.95

The storms of last weekend brought a nice reprieve, but barely made a dent in our drought. As a reminder, the following water conservation measures were placed into **permanent law and are fineable offenses**:

1. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes run off such that water flows onto adjacent property, non-irrigated areas, private walkways, roadways, parking lots or structures;
2. The use of a hose that dispenses potable water to wash a motor vehicle, except where the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle or device attached to it that causes it to cease dispensing water immediately when not in use;
3. The application of potable water to driveways and sidewalks;
4. The use of potable water in a fountain or other decorative water features, except where the water is part of a recirculating system;
5. The application of potable water to outdoor landscapes during and within 48 hours after measurable rainfall.

There is still no word from the state on the turf removal funding. Our aquifers remain very healthy with the most recent static water levels taken in September reporting an additional approximate two-foot decline (not unexpected at this time of the year.) The following chart shows current levels as compared to levels at construction for the last water year:

Static Water Level Dates	Well# 5 Level at Construction 205' in 2005	Well#6 Level at Construction 277' in 2009
September 2021	209.11	283.00
January 2022	206.49	280.58
June 2022	207.98	282.58
September 2022	209.81	284.33
Draw down	4.81'	7.33'

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS -Around the House

Fill Bathtub Halfway or Less

Filling up your bathtub halfway or less can save 12 gallons of water per bath



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Install Aerators

Installing aerators can save 1.2 gallons per person per day.

Recycle Indoor Water and Irrigate Your Garden

Recycling indoor water to use outdoors can cut water use by 30%.

Turn Off Water When Brushing Teeth or Shaving

Saves 10 gallons per person per day.

Fix Leaks

Fixing leaks can save 110 gallons of water each month.

Install High-Efficiency Toilets

Installing high-efficiency toilets can save 19 gallons per person each day.

Take 5-minute Showers

Keeping showers under 5 minutes can save 12.5 gallons per shower using a water-efficient showerhead.

Wash Full Loads of Clothes and Dishes

Washer: saves 15–45 gallons per load. Dishwasher: saves 5–15 gallons per load.

WATER CONSERVATION TIPS -Around the Yard

Use Water-wise Plants

Check with your local water agency on the best plants for your area. It is best to use water-wise, California-native plants when possible.

Use Drought-resistant Trees, Plants

Using drought-resistant plants and trees can save 30–60 gallons per 1000 sq. ft. each time.

Adjust Sprinkler Heads & Fix Leaks

Saves 12–15 gallons each time you water & a leak about as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month!

Install Drip Irrigation & Add a Smart Controller

Installing a drip irrigation system and a smart controller can save 15 gallons each time you water.

Use a Broom to Clean Outdoor Areas

Using a broom to clean outdoor areas can save 8–18 gallons every minute.

Set Mower Blades to 3”

Setting mower blades to three inches encourages deeper roots and saves 16–50 gallons per day.

Use Mulch

Using mulch can save 20–30 gallons of water per 1000 sq. ft. each time you water.

Wetlands Update: The new gate has been fabricated and installed. Cameras will be installed soon and the key card reader should be hooked up next week. Residents will need to complete an agreement stating they will follow the rules and provide a deposit for the access card. I will send an alert from our website announcing the date to apply for a card. If you are not already signed up for alerts go to our website at www.RAWD.org and sign up. We are still seeking information on who lit Chinese lanterns at the wetlands. This was an extremely irresponsible act that could have started a major fire in this community. The wetlands is private property of the District and anyone caught in the act of reckless behavior endangering this community will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

Board Elections: We will be having an election in the November General Election. The candidates are incumbents Craig Weaver and Ginny Mercer and candidate Clay Lowrey.

Board Meeting Date: The Board Meeting for October will be held on Wednesday, October 19th, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the District Board Room. Agendas, Minutes and Resolutions can be accessed at 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.