

# WATER ISSUES AFFECT US ALL!



A big question our community needs to address, particularly our water district, RMCSD, is will we have enough water in the coming years to sustain our current residents. If you were to ask local developers, they will tell you of course, we will have plenty of water. Plenty to accommodate current residents as well as the 1000+ new homes already approved and/or proposed for building by Rancho North Properties in Villages A-H. However, there are many knowledgeable residents who say our water issues are of **serious concern**, and **conservation restrictions are coming**. We were on 30% conservation

just a few years ago, and the stress on our lawns and trees was significant. Future drought warnings now suggest there could be even higher conservation levels of 50% in many communities across California. So we have to ask the question.....why would we continue to build more houses in Rancho Murieta, if our current residents have to cut back on their water consumption by 50%? But first, we do need to address the above question, **do we have the water to accommodate 1000+ more residents?** We cannot answer that and neither can the local developers or the RMCS D. But, they plan to find out.

There is a document called The Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP) which was first completed in 2006 and last updated in 2010. This document painted our water resources in a more positive position in 2010. However, a lot has happened over the past 12 years, and the RMCS D Board has decided it is important to address those critical questions regarding water for our current residents and for future development, as well as do some planning for the continued drought, climate change, and possible State Water Resouce Board restrictions. Therefore, they are planning to conduct a new IWMP and have sent out a Request For Proposals (RFP) to entertain proposals for a new IWMP. We are not sure why, but we have heard that only one company submitted a proposal for this project. Unfortunately, it is the same company that completed the IWMP back in 2010. The CSD Board has sent this company's proposal to their Improvements Committee to be discussed this Wednesday, Dec. 7 at 3:00. If you can attend this meeting by Zoom, here is the link (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82512951438> Or phone link is 1-669-444-9171). It's open to the public. Here is why your attendance is important.

For a valid RFP process, most government agencies that get only one bidder will issue another RFP a month or two later to get more participation in the process to avoid the possibility of bias and lack of competition. So, we feel CSD should also solicit more participants in another RFP round at the first of the new year, 2023. It is not a good idea to use the same company that did the previous study. Surrounding communities such as Folsom and Elk Grove have completed similar studies and have suggested other companies. So we feel RMCSO should expand their search to include companies recommended by our neighbors. We need folks to attend the meeting and push for a different company to complete the new IWMP. **If you cannot attend the meeting, send a message to RMCSO Board instead to let them know you support expanding the RFP process to encourage more participation to find another vendor to complete the new IWMP. Email your message to the Board Secretary, asking her to relay your message to the respective Board Members at [awilder@rmcsd.com](mailto:awilder@rmcsd.com)**

**Thank you so much!**

**Cheryl McElhany  
SOLOS President**