

Janis Eckard's February 18, 2026 Rancho Murieta CSD Board Meeting Speech

There's probably no one who has been more critical of the CSD than me. However, what took place at the Emergency Water Hearing was wrong on many levels.

There was lots of inaccurate information, and in fairness, that came from all sides. However, the claim that grant money was lost because the CSD didn't drill a well, is false. Prop 84 Grant Money was *not allowed* for that purpose, because it benefitted a private entity.

In addition, the reason the well was never drilled had nothing to do with the CSD dropping the ball. The CSD and the landowner simply couldn't reach a financial agreement. Proof of these statements can be found in the Oct. 2, 2018 Improvements Meeting Packet.

Comments that there's plenty of well water are not supported, either. My letter (which is in the Board's packet) lays out facts from the last two well studies.

Now, regarding my claims:

The primary purpose Districts produce Integrated Water Master Plans is to determine how many connections the water supply can *safely* support.

If the CSD hasn't been manipulating their studies to show more water is available for development than exists, then **why is that critical System Capacity Number missing from every Rancho Murieta CSD study, completed since 1990?** Particularly since 1990 is the very year the CSD agreed to alter their study assumptions as a means of ending litigation with the developers.

A working group, consisting of Eric Houston, John Merchant, Jim Farrell and I provided concrete evidence that inaccuracies were found in the Draft 2024 Integrated Water Master Plan, indicating that the water deficit is greater than stated. We didn't just review areas we found questionable, concerns expressed by the rest of the community were investigated, as well.

Previous Boards have created this problem. Unfortunately, the responsibility of cleaning up this mess falls on you.

As a Board member, you have a fiduciary obligation to insure adequate water availability, for the existing community and that minimum legal threshold has not been met. It's critical that you look for additional water. But it's also important that a fact based planning document is generated, with WSC (or someone else) or that work on an Urban Water Master Plan begins, so that the accurate number of connections the existing water supply can safely support, is determined once and for all.