

# The Rio Linda / Elverta WaterWays

A Publication of the Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District  
P.O. Box 400, Rio Linda, CA 95673  
916-991-1000  
www.rlecwd.com

## 3/20/2021 – 5/20/2021 Billing Period



Bills will be mailed no later than May 31, 2021 for the period of 3/20/2021 to 5/20/2021. The fee free date is on **June 22, 2021**. \*\* Late fee of \$5.00 will be applied to all outstanding bills on **June 23, 2021**. Also, please note that there is \$50.00 charge for any afterhours turn on. \*\*Payment arrangements can be made in the District Office or found on the District's website. Office hours are Monday thru Friday, 7:00am to 4:00pm. Payment arrangements must be made at least one day before the Free Fee Date. For this billing cycle, payment arrangements must be made by June 21<sup>st</sup>. Payments can be made online, via postal service, and at the District Office's night depository slot located next to main door for checks and money orders. Reminder, the District Office does **Not Accept Cash**.

## Conservation - State of Emergency

On 5-10-2021, in response to the ongoing drought, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency for 41 of the 58 California counties including Sacramento. As such, it is appropriate to review the RLECWD policy established in Ordinance 2015-01. The entire Ordinance 2015-01 can be obtained at <http://www.rlecwd.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/2015-01-Water-Shortages-Ordinances.pdf> relevant excerpts shown below:

### **Section 5. Water Conservation – Normal Water Supply.**

"Normal Water Supply" applies during periods when the District is able to meet all of the water demands of its customers. Water is a limited natural resource and must be used efficiently and economically to meet the health and safety needs of the community. All normal water efficiency programs and water conservation regulations of the District will be in full force and effect during Normal Water Supply conditions. All water conservation measures and elements of Water Conservation Stage 1 "Water Alert", as defined herein, shall apply on a voluntary basis during Normal Water Supply conditions.

(a) It is unlawful for any person to make, cause, or use or permit the use of water from the District for residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural, governmental, or any other purpose in a manner contrary to any provisions of this Ordinance, or in an amount in excess of that use permitted by the following water conservation stages which are in effect pursuant to action taken by the Board in accordance with this Ordinance.

(b) It is unlawful at any time for any person to wastewater or to use it unreasonably. Unreasonable uses of water shall include, but are not limited to, the following practices:

1. Allowing water to leave the customer's property by drainage onto adjacent properties or public or private roadways or streets due to excessive irrigation and/or uncorrected leaks.
2. Failing to fix leaks or faulty sprinklers within 7 days of detection: and
3. Discourage using water to wash down sidewalks, driveways, parking areas, tennis courts, patios or other paved areas, except to alleviate immediate safety or sanitation hazards.
4. Decorative water features (water fountains) etc. must recirculate water and shall be leak proof.
5. All landscape shall be watered during cooler morning and evening hours to reduce evaporation and minimize landscape runoff.
6. No landscape watering shall occur while it is raining or snowing or for 48 hours thereafter.
7. Use a shutoff nozzle on hoses.

8. Unauthorized use of hydrants is prohibited. Authorization for use must be obtained from the District.
9. Commercial industrial, institutional equipment must be properly maintained and in full working order.
10. Encourage customers to wash only full loads when washing dishes or clothes.
11. Encourage customers to use pool covers to minimize evaporation.
12. Encourage restaurants to serve water only on request.
13. The washing of automobiles, trucks, trailers, boats, airplanes, and other types of mobile equipment is permitted at any time with a hand-held bucket, or a hand-held hose equipped with an automatic, positive shut-off nozzle for quick rinses. Washing may be done at any time on the immediate premises of a commercial car wash or commercial service station, or by a mobile car wash or on-site car wash using high pressure washing equipment. Further, such washings are exempted from these regulations where the health, safety, and welfare of the public is contingent upon frequent vehicle cleanings, such as garbage trucks and vehicles to transport food and perishables.

(c) A water conservation stage shall be determined by the Board in accordance with the provisions of this Ordinance and shall remain in full force and effect until otherwise determined or discontinued by the Board. The provisions of sections 4.14.010 thru 4.14.200 of Chapter 4.14 of the District Policy Manual are hereby incorporated by reference into this Ordinance and are applicable during any water conservation stage.

(d) During Normal Water Supply conditions, the water conservation and drought response measures are voluntary and will be enforced through local and regional public education and awareness measures by the District.

## The District Office lobby remains CLOSED until further notice due to COVID-19

The District is following the public gathering restrictions associated with the tiered restrictions for Sacramento County (red tier). The District currently anticipates reopening the customer service lobby on or after June 15<sup>th</sup> pursuant to the Governor’s projected lifting of restrictions.

Rio Linda/Elverta Water District’s top priority is to ensure safety for the community we serve with respect to the COVID-19 virus. Customers should be assured that our water supplies are not affected by the COVID-19 virus, and the District will continue to serve our community 24/7. District staff continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as needed.

During this time, customers can take advantage of our online bill pay <https://rlecwd.epayub.com/> by logging into your account or using the quick pay option. The District cannot take payments by phone, but our staff is here to help. The District has a drop box located next to the front door. (NO CASH)

To reach a Customer Service Representative call the District office at 916-991-1000 during business hours.



## Public Hearing to Consider Rates Restructuring

As published in the newspaper of general circulation and described in more detail in the Proposition 218 Notices mailed out to every customer, the District will hold a public hearing on June 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 P.M. to consider authorizing water rates adjustments. The public hearing at the regular Board meeting will be both in-person (subject to changes and precautions in announced public gathering restrictions) and virtual (Zoom).

### Public Hearing on Proposed Rate Adjustments for RLECWD Water Service

The Rio Linda Elverta Community Water District (RLECWD or District) will conduct a public hearing on Monday, June 21, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. to consider recommended adjustments to water service rates. These rate changes are necessary for compliance with water use efficiency mandates adopted by the State of California (SB 606, AB 1668 and SB 555), and for funding ongoing operation, maintenance, repair costs. If adopted, the proposed new rates will take effect July 1, 2021, with annual increases each July 1, up to and including July 1, 2025. This notice also describes how to file a protest to this proposed action. All property owners, tenants directly liable for the payment of water service fees, and other interested parties are invited to attend the public hearing and be heard on the matter. The public hearing will be held Visitor’s / Depot Center, 6730 Front Street, Rio Linda, CA 95673. The public may also participate virtually:

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83898491066?pwd=ZWp0cm9kaU1lRlR5aUlnSmhVVG5xaEJGdGd0>  
 Meeting ID: 839 8640 5060  
 Passcode: 129406  
 Dial by your location  
 (408) 638 0988

Depending on Governor announced timing and changes to public gathering guidelines, which may increase the scope for allowed indoor gatherings, in-person attendance may be accommodated in the Visitor’ Depot Center at 6730 Front St., Rio Linda, CA 95673.

The District Board of Directors will hear and consider all testimony as well as all protests against the proposed rate adjustments. At the close of the public hearing, the District’s Board of Directors may adopt the new rates if protests against the proposed rate adjustments are not presented by a majority of identified accounts upon which the rates are to be charged (a “majority protest”).

#### A valid protest must contain:

A description of the property (such as address, or accessors parcel number, APN) that is sufficient to identify the property.

- Written evidence that signer(s) is/are the customer of record for the account (provide copy of utility bill or a statement that the signers are the property owner)
- Only one protest per parcel will be counted.
- Written protests should be mailed or delivered in person to: RLECWD, PO Box 400 Rio Linda, CA 95673. Protests must be received prior to the close of the public hearing on June 21<sup>st</sup> and can also be delivered to RLECWD staff at the public hearing.

If a majority of water customers submit protests, the proposed rate changes will not be put into place.

A notice was mailed to the District’s water customers pursuant to California Constitution Article XIIIID (also known as “Proposition 218”). If you have any questions regarding the notice, the rate adjustment or the public hearing - please contact the District’s General Manager at [GM@RLECWD.COM](mailto:GM@RLECWD.COM) or phone (916) 991-8891