

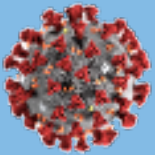
URBAN WATER INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

Provide timely, compelling, and diverse discussion of water policy, economics and resource management.



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In Focus: Rancho California Water District



Rancho California Water District (Rancho Water) is staffed with 150

employees who are responsible for providing water and wastewater services to nearly 150,000 people in the Temecula Valley.

The COVID-19 crisis has tested every organization's emergency response effort and Rancho Water is no different.

The District is however, using a unique level of ingenuity, flexibility and tenacity to meet these challenges head-on while keeping employee safety and continued operations the top priority.

From the very start, Rancho Water's COVID-19 response was flexible and skillful. On March 16, the District activated their emergency operations center (EOC) and initiated their pandemic staffing plan a day... *(see page two for more)*

Sacramento Update

Normally, the month of April is a very busy time of year in Sacramento. The Legislature is ordinarily active hearing and amending bills.

This year, however, is different. On March 16, the California Legislature recessed the 2020 legislative session in response to COVID-19. They originally suspend the session until April 13 and then extended the suspension until May.

The Assembly plans to return and resume... *(see page two for more)*

Facemasks

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through a joint effort with the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the National Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN), and the American Water Works Association (AWWA) are providing a limited supply of cloth... *(see page three for more)*



Material Provided By California - Nevada Section AWWA

California Climate & Hydrology Outlook

California Drought Monitor

<https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>

Daily California Statewide Hydrology Update

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/floodER/hydro/>

Daily Reservoir Storage

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=RES>

Colorado River Reservoir Levels

<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g4000/hourly/hourly.html>

Sacramento Update



(from page one) ...legislative activity on May 4. The State Senate currently plans to return on May 11, although that date may be extended. While both houses will resume their normal legislative activities soon, the process will be by anything but normal. Both houses are in the process of developing procedures on how they will resume legislative activities while ensuring social distancing and encouraging remote public engagement.

One of the COVID-19 impacts on the legislative session is the fact that the Legislature will only be dealing with urgent and time sensitive matters this year. Leadership in both houses have asked their members to limit the number of bills moving through the legislative process and to limit active bills to those that must be acted upon this year. It seems that urgent bills are those that deal with COVID-19 response, wildfires, homelessness and housing.

While the Legislature has been quiet for the past month and a half, State regulatory agencies have continued to move forward with key water-related regulations and the establishing the Safe and Affordable Funding for Equity.... (see page three for more)

Rancho California Water District



(from page one) ...later. This involved sending as many employees home as possible, rapid decisions from management and extensive IT involvement were required to accomplish this feat.

Employees were encouraged to take the equipment they needed, in some cases bringing their entire desktop work station home.

As the situation evolved, it became clear the District needed to send more employees home for their safety, including customer service staff. Access to the lobby was completely restricted, all meetings moved online and the IT department developed a remote call-in queue so customer inquiries can be handled from home. Of the over 90 employees who work in the office, only 10 are regularly coming in.

For the employees who have to report to work, Rancho Water is accelerating practices that put their safety first. All of the field crews are reporting directly to their job sites each morning and bringing their District vehicles home each night. They are using those vehicles as their office, completing all computer work on laptops. Rancho Water has instituted a buddy system. When employees have to rideshare, they are required to only ride with that same person each time to help minimize potential exposure.

To reduce virus spread via surface contact, the District has also requested employees disinfect hand tools after each use and is isolating all incoming documents from the public for a minimum of 24 hours. Social distancing measures are being practiced whenever possible, crews are maintaining their space from each other and the public. The District created truck magnets and construction signage to remind the public to maintain their distance while employees work in their neighborhoods.

Rancho Water is also thinking creatively about how to best support employees during this time. They are encouraging employee communication and engagement by sending out updates to all employees each time their EOC team meets.

They are hosting weekly conference calls with all-staff to address the latest safety measures and challenges. They are checking-in with each department individually to garner personal feedback on any work-related issues while soliciting ideas from employees on how to improve. (see page three for more)

#InThisTogether

Facemasks



(from page two) ...The State Water Resources Control Board adopted its proposed Urban Water Report

Regulation on April 22.

The State Board also continues to move forward with face masks to the California water and wastewater utilities.

These cloth face masks are being received by California WARN (CalWARN).

Although the distribution is being handled by CalWARN, you do not need to be a CalWARN member to request and pick up the cloth face masks.

CalWARN is working to distribute the cloth face masks with the assistance of CA-NV AWWA and the SWRCB-Division of Drinking Water (DDW), and other stakeholders.

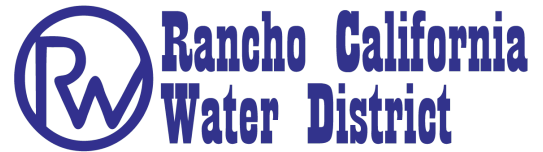
About the cloth face masks:

- Single size (one size fits all)
- Fabric touching skin is 100% cotton
- The cloth facemasks are reusable and machine washable
- NOT for use with chemicals or in hazardous environments where N95 or other respirators are required

To request these cloth facemasks through CalWARN, please follow the detailed instructions found on the CalWARN webpage – <http://www.calwarn.org>.

Rancho California Water District

(from page two) ...The District is also using Call-Em-All, a mass text messaging and automated calling system, to update staff on emerging District policy changes. And, of course, using videos to send messages to staff in an effort to boost morale.



By swiftly executing these initiatives along with the many more adjustments each employee is implementing while at work and at home, the District has successfully reduced potential exposure and risk.

Rancho Water employees are safely working each day; ready to help customers, fix leaks, treat wastewater, deliver clean water, and provide the same level of service they always have.

In addition, Rancho Water has found more techniques and efficiencies that will continue to be utilized even after stay-at-orders are lifted.

Employment Opportunity: Amador Water Agency

Employment Opportunity: General Manager

General Description: In accordance with policy direction of the elected five-member Board of Directors, the General Manager is the executive officer of the Agency responsible for the total operation of the Amador Water Agency. This position is employed under contract with the Board of Directors.



For a complete job description, please visit the Amador Water Agency Website for more information: <https://amadorwater.org/careers/current-job-openings/>

Applications must be received on/before 5:00 p.m., May 22, 2020

Sacramento Update

(from page two) ...adopting a definition of microplastics in drinking water and Resilience (SAFER) Program, which is the implementation of SB 200(2019)'s safe drinking water fund, along with many other regulator items.

