



Rosamond Community Services District

Official Newsletter of Rosamond Community Services District - May 2021

Rosamond Water Reclamation Plant: One Solution To Several Problems



We believe that in every challenge, there is an opportunity to grow and improve. RCSD has shown this to be true in their approach to solving three different problems with one single solution: the Rosamond Water Reclamation Plant (RWRP).

Problem 1: The Evaporation Ponds

Nothing lasts forever. Even things that can last a long time, like roads, buildings, and other infrastructure, have a finite, useful lifespan. At the end of that lifespan, they need to be refurbished or retired.

RCSD has used the evaporation ponds on 10th Street West near Patterson Road as the final step of our wastewater treatment for the last 50 years. Now at the end of their useful lifespan, these ponds represent an outdated and wasteful approach to wastewater treatment that literally lets one of our most precious resources, water, evaporate into the desert air.

Because of this, RCSD needed to retire the evaporation ponds. Before that could happen, a new wastewater treatment option would need to be approved and developed.

Problem 2: Growing Needs

Rosamond continues to grow, develop, and expand. While this is great news overall, it can strain older infrastructure systems designed with a smaller community in mind. While RCSD's current wastewater treatment plant has been sufficient, our community continues to grow and produce more wastewater. RCSD needed to start working today on tomorrow's wastewater capacity problem.

Problem 3: The Adjudication

The Antelope Valley groundwater basin has been in overdraft for decades. This means that more water has been pumped out of the ground than has been put into the ground. Just like an overdraft bank account, the result is a diminishing water supply. The impacts of this overdraft can be felt across the valley as ever-lower groundwater levels require deeper and deeper wells to reach water and as the valley floor sinks in places in a process called subsidence.

More than a decade ago, our water basin began a legal process known as an adjudication. When the dust settled from the decade-long legal battle, limits were imposed on all entities who rely on and pump the Antelope Valley's groundwater. Traditionally, RCSD has relied heavily on groundwater pumping to provide safe, healthy water to the community of Rosamond. The adjudication limits RCSD to pumping just 404 acre-feet of water, a far cry from the 2,600 acre-feet needed annually.

The Solution:

The Rosamond Water Reclamation Plant

The RWRP project was a colossal undertaking that broke ground in November 2019 and was anticipated to take 18 months and \$15 million to complete. Included in the project are the refurbishment of the existing aeration basin and the new construction of a much larger clarifier and aeration basin, as well as sludge ponds,

percolation ponds, and an emergency overflow pond. The project has stayed within budget is being completed without any significant delays, despite the global pandemic.

Once complete and operational, the RWRP will take Rosamond's wastewater, remove any solids, use bacteria to treat and denitrify it, and sanitize it using ultraviolet (UV) light. The treated water will then be pumped into three large ponds, where it will percolate back into the groundwater basin.

The new percolation ponds are replacing the evaporation ponds. The refurbishment of existing equipment and the construction of new equipment is vastly enlarging RCSD's capacity for wastewater treatment. And the percolation of treated water back into the groundwater basin will earn RCSD a pumping credit of 1,200 acre-feet annually.

Seeking to limit the cost of the RWRP on our ratepayers, RCSD applied for and received \$880,000 in state funding for its construction. The project's cost is further offset by the groundwater pumping credits, which are valued at up to \$8 million.

All benefits considered, the RWRP is an excellent investment by the community of Rosamond that will help provide water security for decades to come.

For more information, visit rosamondcsd.com, hover over 'Customers,' and click on '[Rosamond Water Reclamation Plant](#).'

Rosamond Schools Arsenic Levels

Many Rosamond residents were recently concerned when they received a notice warning that arsenic levels in the water were above the standard set by the California State Water Resources Board. These notices were sent out by the Rosamond High School water system and only apply to their water, which is entirely separate from the RCSD water system. Arsenic is a naturally occurring mineral commonly

found in groundwater in the southwest United States. The California State Water Resources Board and the United States Environmental Protection Agency share a standard of 10 parts per billion or 0.01 milligrams of arsenic per liter of water.

While it is true that the amount of arsenic in the High School system's water is higher than the state and national standard, it is safe for drinking in the short term. Long-term exposure could pose certain health risks, like increased cancer risks. For this reason, Rosamond High School is investigating a way to bring the arsenic levels down. One of the most promising solutions is having the Rosamond High School system physically consolidated into the RCSD system. This would allow the water from their well to be mixed with other water until the arsenic levels are diluted down below the state standard.

RCSD is working with the State Water Board Drinking Water Division and Rosamond High School to implement a solution. We will keep you updated on the situation and our involvement in its resolution.

Household Bulky and Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events

Still working on your spring cleaning? Waste Management is hosting a bulky waste dropoff event, and Kern County Public Works is hosting a hazardous waste dropoff event. Both are on Saturday, June 5th. Info below!

Household Bulky Waste Drop Off

8am - 12pm, Saturday, June 5, 2021
1731 Sierra Hwy
Rosamond, CA

No hazardous waste, contractor waste, or tires.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off

9am - 1pm, Saturday, June 5, 2021
12001 Tehachapi Blvd
Tehachapi, CA

Please do not mix waste. Label all containers and ensure they do not leak. Only transport 15 gallons or 125 pounds of waste per trip.



50 LBS. PER

DANGER
NO
SMOKING

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

TEHACHAPI



SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021

12001 TEHACHAPI BLVD

9 AM - 1 PM

Accepted Materials

Batteries | Motor Oil | Paints | Light Bulbs |
Sharps | Pool Chemicals | Automotive Products |
Cleaning Products & more!



**TOO TOXIC
TO TRASH!**



**RULES
TO
FOLLOW**

- Label All Containers
- No Leaking Containers
- Do Not Mix Wastes
- Transport no more than 15 gallons or 125 lbs of waste per trip

Business Waste **NOT** accepted

*Collection event may be cancelled due to weather conditions

 KernPublicWorks.com

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