

## **NOTICE TO CASTLE ROCK COUNTY WATER DISTRICT MEMBERS AUGUST 2015**

Castle Rock County Water District (CRCWD) was formed in 1955 to provide a water source to the Castle Rock and Pine Creek areas. CRCWD purchases canal water from Contra Costa Water District (CCWD). In 1974 the Comistas development was added to CRCWD. In 1989 an assessment district was formed and CCWD offered treated water to all those who lived in CRCWD boundaries.

Today, CRCWD provides untreated water to 56 property owners who live within the district's boundaries. The most common use of this water is for landscape irrigation. There remain 10 CRCWD members who have not "bought in" to CCWD treated water. Instead, these 10 families chemically treat and purify CRCWD water for home use.

In 2014, CRCWD was informed that it is now under the jurisdiction of the Contra Costa Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), a statewide commission charged with the responsibility of insuring efficient management of municipal water districts. Because CRCWD sits inside the much larger CCWD geographical boundaries, LAFCO has determined that over time CCWD should absorb CRCWD. Both CRCWD and CCWD oppose that recommendation.

LAFCO's new oversight of CRCWD has included a variety of requests. First we are asked to set up a website where members can review board member information, board meeting dates, location and meeting minutes. LAFCO has asked for an engineering study of the district's water delivery infrastructure including pumps, water pipe and tanks. LAFCO has also expressed concern about the district's management of untreated water and public health as it relates to those 10 families who use untreated CRCWD water as their primary source of water for home use.

CRCWD's board has met with both LAFCO and CCWD and is working toward compliance with certain LAFCO recommendations. A new CRCWD website ([www.CRCWD.org](http://www.CRCWD.org)) has been created for our members, and the CRCWD board has engaged the consulting services of a local industry professional to perform an infrastructure engineering study, which is expected to be completed by October 2015. We are concerned about the additional requirements and the added expense.

All this activity has brought up issues that have been brewing for some time. CCWD sells untreated water to CRCWD, Boundary Oaks and Diablo Hills Golf Courses by operating the Ygnacio spur of its county irrigation canal. Our pump station is at Oak Grove Road near the traffic circle. Each winter, during January, February and March, CCWD shuts down their entire canal system for maintenance. During that time treated water is added to the Ygnacio spur serving CRCWD and the two golf courses.

CCWD keeps the Ygnacio canal spur operational in the off-season for the 10 members that rely upon CRCWD as their primary home water source and the two city golf courses. CCWD finds this necessity for off-season canal water service inconvenient and expensive. CCWD is planning for a long-term solution to discontinue canal water service in the Ygnacio spur during the winter months.

Toward CCWD's long-term goal, CCWD has proposed connection incentives for the 10 CRCWD members not connected to CCWD treated water service. These incentives are conditional upon all 10 members agreeing to pay for a new meter connection to CCWD treated water. Each member's connection fee varies based on the size of their lot and any requisite main line water extension, if necessary for service. CRCWD board members were asked by CCWD to solicit the 10 members interest for the proposed treated water connection incentives. There appears to be unanimous interest if a substantial price discount is offered. Any future discussions and final agreement for connection fees will occur between CCWD and the 10 individual homeowners. If all CRCWD members accept the proposed connection incentives and are connected to treated CCWD water service, the board expects that CCWD will then turn their attention to water supply alternatives for the two city golf courses with a goal to discontinue canal water delivery during the off-season.

In any event, if CCWD discontinues water service during the off-season, all CRCWD members will need to identify alternative water sources (such as using their existing CCWD service) for irrigation January through March. CRCWD is working to secure a long term commitment from CCWD for the delivery of irrigation water through the rest of the year, April through December.

It's too soon to know how all this will work out. There are many issues to resolve and it will take some time. CRCWD board members are working hard to insure a cost-effective supply of untreated water to district members for as long as possible. Please look for updates on our member website ([www.CRCWD.org](http://www.CRCWD.org)).