



Rosamond Community Services District

Official Newsletter of Rosamond Community Services District - November 2025

The Problem with Our Old Evaporation Ponds

Water treatment has made significant progress in recent decades, shifting its focus from waste management to resource reuse and recovery. RCSD is leading the way in water treatment with its new wastewater reclamation plant, which opened a few years ago. However, before the new plant opened, RCSD, like many water agencies, treated wastewater using evaporation ponds.

Evaporation ponds are more or less what they sound like: large ponds that are filled with wastewater that is left to evaporate. Once the water evaporates, the concentrated organic waste is collected and disposed of. While inexpensive to operate, evaporation ponds carry the cost of wasted water. All the water that evaporates is gone and unavailable for future use.

RCSD's new plant utilizes cutting-edge biological treatment to clean and clarify water, making it suitable for natural filtration by percolating it back into the aquifer. Organic solids, known as sludge, are still concentrated and collected, but without the use of large evaporation ponds. This method is still cost-effective, but adds the benefit of returning around 90% of the water to the aquifer for future use.

RCSD left the old evaporation ponds to safely dry up after transitioning to the new plant. However, the Lahontan Regional Water Board, which has jurisdiction over RCSD, has ordered RCSD to mitigate all the dried-up sludge from the old evaporation ponds. This is much easier said than done.



This 2021 drone shot shows some of the old evaporation ponds when they were still in use. Each side of the square ponds visible in this photo measures about 500' long.

Three years ago, RCSD surveyed the old evaporation ponds and calculated that they contained around 575,000 cubic yards of dried sludge. If piled onto a football field, the sludge would stand almost 270 feet high, including the end zones. This equates to more than 57,000 dump truck loads.

The RCSD team has investigated other options, such as partnering with other agencies to rehab and reuse the old evaporation ponds. While the plan would have helped save money, it was a bad fit for the community.

Ultimately, RCSD will need to pay to have the dried-up sludge removed from the old evaporation ponds. With no other options available, the Board of Directors began planning efforts for the project in October. This includes investigating how to finance the project with the lowest impact on ratepayers.

Continued on next page

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RCSD's construction and operation of the new plant was and still is the best choice for Rosamond, despite the unexpected cost to remove the dried sludge from the old evaporation ponds. The new plant ensures the community of Rosamond has a local and reliable source of healthy water that is not subject to the huge price fluctuations of the water market or unreliable production of the state water project. This means greater financial stability and water security for Rosamond today and for the foreseeable future.

Upcoming Blood Drive

We are continuing our partnership with the American Red Cross by hosting another community blood drive. Reserve your donation time slot at redcrossblood.org using sponsor code RCSD.

Blood Drive

Thursday, December 11th
12pm to 6pm
RCSD Offices
3179 35th Street West
Rosamond, CA 93560

Holiday Closures

RCSD will be closing the front office during the upcoming holidays. Please mark these closures on your calendar so you can schedule any necessary business around them.

Holiday Office Closure

Office closed
December 24th through January 1st
Office reopens
Monday, January 5th

You can view upcoming closures on our website, rosamondcsd.com, under Customers, by clicking on [Calendar](#).

You can request the help you need even when our office is closed by using the contact information below. Keep in mind that non-emergency requests will not be processed until the next regular business day.

Routine Business

Use one of our self-service forms on our website under the I Want To... menu
Email customer service anytime at customerservice@rosamondcsd.com.

Emergency Issues

Call 661-816-5345 anytime
This number is for after-hours emergencies only. Non-emergency after-hours service calls may be charged a \$120 fee.

Full Machines Are The Dream

Washing machines and dishwashers can be real lifesavers when company shows up during the holiday season. Newer appliances are more water-efficient than old and outdated ones, and all washing machines and dishwashers tend to use water more efficiently when they are fully loaded. Combine smaller loads to make full loads in washing machines and dishwashers whenever possible. Go ahead and put off doing the dishes another day in the name of conserving water. Anytime is a great time to upgrade to a newer, more water-efficient dishwasher or washing machine, and holiday sales can help you save even more money, though we don't recommend giving them as holiday gifts.

