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## City of Rio Dell Newsletter

August 2014

City of Rio Dell, 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, CA. 95562

City Hall: (707) 764-3532

**City Council Meetings:** The City Council meets the first and third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall. The City encourages residents to attend the meetings.

**City Council Members:** Mayor Jack Thompson, Gordon Johnson, Melissa Marks, Frank Wilson and Julie Woodall.

**Planning Commission Meetings:** The Planning Commission recently changed its regular meeting date from the fourth Wednesday of each month to the fourth Thursday of each month. The Commission meets at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

**Planning Commission Members:** Two Vacant Positions, Nick Angeloff, Billy Joe Long and Alice Millington.



## MANDATORY WATER CURTAILMENT FOR ALL RIO DELL WATER USERS



### Background on the Drought and Curtailment Issue

The City of Rio Dell is under a mandated water rationing plan as directed by the State Water Quality Control Board in Sacramento. The State has withdrawn the City's right to divert water from the Eel River, due to record low flows. The use of all outdoor water is now prohibited, unless it is recycled gray water or from a private well. Additionally, water for personal use is limited to 50 gallons or water/day/person.

The City received a letter from the State Water Resources Control Board on July 2<sup>nd</sup> stating that the City's right to Eel River water has been curtailed. The City is a junior water rights holder, and the State has determined that the curtailment was necessary in order to protect the rights of senior water rights holders along the Eel River. The City claimed an exception on the grounds of health and safety and was granted an allotment of 50 gallons per person per day. If the City is unable to meet that water usage ceiling, it can be **fined \$1,000.00 per day, \$2,500.00 per acre-foot, and potentially \$10,000 per day** if the Water Board files a Cease and Desist order. Fortunately, voluntary water conservation measures undertaken by the citizens of Rio Dell have resulted in major water consumption reductions, allowing the City to comply with the State's mandate.

### Update on The Drought Situation

On July 15, 2014 the City Council adopted the Resolution 1234-2014 authorizing the Stage 3 – Serious Water Shortage Contingency Plan. The Stage 3 drought declaration came as a result of July 2, 2014 notification from the State Water Resources Control Board that water levels in the Eel River were inadequate to meet the needs of senior water rights holders and thus, as a junior water rights holder, the City had to immediately stop diverting water, except under certain limited exceptions.

The following water uses will be prohibited for all water users:

- **Landscape irrigation or watering of lawns or gardens;**
- **Washing of cars, boats, trailers or other vehicles;**
- **Filling of swimming pools or hot tubs;**
- **Serving of drinking water at restaurants unless requested;**
- **Filling or operating ornamental fountains, ponds or lakes;**
- **Sewer system maintenance, fire protection training or flushing of hydrants;**
- **Street cleaning or dust control;**
- **Use of hydrants for anything other than an emergency.**

The City's enforcement measures for violation of the above prohibition's are as follows:

- (1) **First Offense.** The water Service Account Holder shall receive a written warning in accord with Rio Dell Municipal Code Section 13.05.460;
- (2) **Second Offense.** The Water Services Account Holder shall receive a civil fine in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) in accord with Rio Dell Municipal Code Section 13.05.460; and
- (3) **Third or More Offenses.** The Water Service Account Holder shall receive a civil fine in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) in accord with Rio Dell Municipal Code Section 13.05.460.
- (4) **Fourth or More Offenses.** The City has the authority to disconnect water services.

The City Council has been considering the addition of civil fines or penalties associated with the excessive use of residential water. At this time, due to the excellent voluntary compliance from members of the community, the Council has opted to not implement any additional civil fines or penalties beyond what already exists. City staff has been directed to continue to monitor water usage Citywide and to potentially revisit the penalty structure should water usage begin to increase.

### **2014 Curtailment Crisis Timeline**

**July 2, 2014** – City of Rio Dell receives correspondence from the State Water Resources Control Board. The letter is titled “Notice of unavailability of water and immediate curtailment for those with post-1914 water rights diverting water in the North Fork Eel River, Mainstem Eel River, and the Van Duzen Tributary.” The curtailment notice effectively halted all post-1914 water diversions from the Eel River, Rio Dell's being such a diversion.

**July 8, 2014** - The Rio Dell City Council held a special meeting to prepare the City's response to the State curtailment notice, which included the implementation of the Stage 3-Serious Water Shortage Contingency Plan effective immediately. Stage 3 is the second highest restriction, followed by stage 4 in matters of system contamination or failure.

**July 9, 2014** – City distributes flyers and door-hangers house-by-house to inform residents and encourage voluntary compliance with state mandates.

**July 10, 2014** – Water use drops by approximately 37.5%

**July 15, 2014** – City Council considers emergency water use penalty schedule for excessive use. The Council formally adopts the Serious Water Shortage Contingency plan through Resolution No. 1234-2014.

**July 22, 2014** – City Council considers emergency water use penalty schedule for excessive use. The City Council also suspends project to liquidate City properties with former well sites and directs staff to reexamine the wells for potential drought related use.

**July 29, 2014** – City Council opts to table the excessive use penalty structure in light of the public's overwhelming voluntary compliance with water use restrictions. The Council directs staff to continue to monitor water use and be prepared to revisit the penalty structure should overall water use levels exceed the State mandated ceiling. It should be noted that the Stage 3 contingency plan remains in effect, including penalties ranging from \$250.00 to \$500.00 up to service termination for outdoor water use including lawn & garden watering or car washing.

### **Potential State Enforcement Actions Against Rio Dell**

If the City is unable to attain compliance with the state mandated reduction to 50 gallons per person per day, the State Water Board may levy **finest of \$1,000.00 per day of violation and \$2,500.00** for each acre-foot diverted or used in excess of a valid water right. **The State Water Board may also issue a Cease and Desist order which could raise the fine level to \$10,000.00 per day.** It is important for all of us to remember that these potential fines would be paid for through City water rate payers. It is not only in your best interest to conserve water; it is also in the community's best interest to conserve water.

### **Strategy Moving Forward**

The water issues are priority number one. Conservation is the most important first step in this process. However, the City is working on other projects to ensure the long-term stability of the system. Those efforts include but are not limited to:

- Continued work to fund the water intertie with Scotia.
- The hiring of a "water lawyer" well versed in the esoteric dealings of the State Water Resources Control Board and general California Water Law.
- Continued work to fund an extension of the City's water infrastructure across the Eel River.
- Continued pursuit of administrative relief from the State Water Resources Control Board through advocacy.
- Exploration into the acquisition of senior legal water rights from current senior water rights holders.
- Improved representation of Rio Dell's water interests at the State level.
- Examination of older City well and spring systems to see if they may still be put into use.
- Examination of a potential new well (new second source).
- Examination of potential water recycling applications.
- Identification of leaks and the pursuit of leak elimination.
- Exploration of potential options with the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District.

### **What Should the Business Community Do?**

The prohibition concerning the outdoor use of water that applies to residences also applies to businesses. However, the reduction of the use of indoor water for production purposes and personnel is basically voluntary, unless the business is a restaurant. The serving of water in a restaurant is to occur only if requested.

Given the situation in the community, the conservation of water by business owners is also important in reaching the 50% water reduction goal mandated by the State Water Resources Control Board.

### **The Progress Made So Far**

Fortunately, the City adopted its Water Shortage Contingency Plan in 2000, so we were ahead of many other communities in implementing a comprehensive strategy in dealing with the State's withdrawal of our right to divert water from the Eel River. Within 7 days after receiving the notice to stop diverting water from the Eel, the City Council scheduled a special meeting and adopted a response, requesting for an exception to the edict and outlining our circumstance and action plan. The SWRCB is using the City plan as a model to other communities.

The citizens of Rio Dell have responded magnificently to the challenge. At last report, the overall usage of water has dropped by 56% (!) Still, there are some who have not got the message and the reading of meters every 2 weeks will help reveal where the enforcement focus must turn. But, the vast majority of City residents are being diligent and responsible, discovering new ways to conserve and reuse water. The Rio Dell City Council thanks the community for their great effort!!

### **Interested in Taking Action?**

The best way to take action today is to take reasonable steps to conserve water. Please visit <http://www.saveourh2o.org/> to learn more about various ways to save water. If you are interested in expressing your opinion to policymakers and administrators who can have an impact on State water regulation, feel free to contact the following representatives:

**Felicia Marcus, Chair**  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100  
916 341-5615

**Tom Howard, Executive Director**  
State Water Resources Control Board  
P.O. Box 100  
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100  
916 341-5615

**Assembly Member  
Wesley Chesbro**  
710 E Street, Suite 150  
Eureka, CA 95501  
Tel: (707) 445-7014

**Senator Noreen Evans**  
710 E Street Suite #150  
Eureka, CA 95501  
Phone: 707-445-6508

**Governor Jerry Brown**  
c/o State Capitol, Suite 1173  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
Phone: (916) 445-2841

## **Frequently Asked Drought/Curtailment Questions**

### **Why the City of Rio Dell? Why are other cities not responding the way we are?**

Rio Dell has one single source of water, an infiltration gallery built on one side of the Eel River not far from the Eagle Prairie Bridge. The infiltration gallery essentially pulls water directly from the river, and legally that water is under the control of the State. The City of Rio Dell also has only a junior water right, acquired after 1914 to draw water from the river. Under California law, senior water rights must be upheld and protected before junior water rights. Fortuna pulls its water from wells and can make an argument that its water supply is not under State jurisdiction. Ferndale's water is provided by a private water company who receives water from mountain springs. Scotia has a similar water setup to Rio Dell, but is currently owned by Marathon Corporation, and to our knowledge they have not yet acted on the curtailment notice. The City of Rio Dell as a public entity has an obligation to follow State law and regulation to the best of its ability.

### **Why doesn't the City have a second water source?**

The City was formerly watered by springs and wells in various locations. The water quality from these locations was generally poor. For public health reasons, the City had to eventually abandon the springs and wells in favor of the newer water infiltration gallery located in the Eel River. Work is underway to reevaluate the City's wells, possibly placing small water treatment facilities nearby to treat the water. Additionally, the City is also investigating the potential of placing a new well located near the existing treatment plant, to cut costs.

### **Why are we restricted to 50 gallons per person per day?**

While the rights of senior water rights holders are higher than the rights of junior water rights holders, under California law water for health and safety concerns trumps all other rights. The California State Water Resources Control Board has determined that the 50 gallons per person per day is the appropriate amount of water to maintain basic health and safety. Since our junior water rights have been suspended, the City's only legal access to the water of the Eel River is through the Health and Safety laws of the State.

### **What is the long-term fix to Rio Dell's water dilemma?**

The City needs a second source of water, and/or to be gifted/sold senior water rights. A second source of water could be from new or old wells. These wells would need to produce between 170,000 – 350,000 gallons of drinkable water each day and the geology of this area can be hard to predict, creating some risk in building a new well. The old wells are unlikely to be able to produce this amount of water during this serious drought without major refitting. There is also a changing State legal environment regarding groundwater, as the State's authority seems destined to control more and more of the groundwater throughout the state. An alternative could be to connect to the Humboldt Bay Municipal Water District which has excess water. This alternative is likely to be extremely expensive, as their closest services extend only to the College of the Redwoods site. It is possible that a State water bond (likely to be issued within 1-3 years) could include some major subsidy for the new infrastructure, but there would undoubtedly be some additional local costs.

## **I heard the City wants me to tell them how many people live in my home and how healthy they are?**

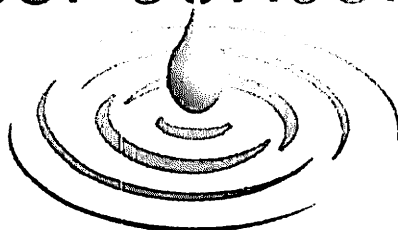
Since July 15<sup>th</sup>, the City Council has considered implementing a excessive water use penalty for residential users of water. The penalty would have been based off the 50 gallon per person per day model and would have required the City to send out a questionnaire to determine how many residents live at each billing address. The form would have also allowed for medical exemptions (without revealing medical conditions) requiring additional water. On July 29, 2014 the City Council opted to table the excess use penalty system as a result of the positive response from residents Citywide to voluntarily reduce water consumption by 50+ percent. Therefore, no questionnaire will be sent to residents at this time so long as the community continues to voluntarily conserve water.

### **Daily Water Consumption Amounts**

The figures below are the average daily amounts of consumption in the United States for common uses. The data is from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

| <b>ACTIVITY</b>        | <b>AVERAGE HOUSEHOLD</b>    | <b>HOUSEHOLD USING CONSERVATION METHODS</b> |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Bath                   | 36 gallons                  | 15 gallons                                  |
| Brushing Teeth         | Tap running = 2 gallons     | ½ gallon                                    |
| Dishwasher             | 15 gallons                  | Short Cycle = 7 gallons                     |
| Hand Washing           | Tap running = 2 gallons     | ½ gallon                                    |
| Shaving                | Tap running = 20 gallons    | Using Bowl 1 gallon                         |
| Shower (5 min.)        | Tap running 25-35 gallons   | Wet, Soap, Rinse = 5 gallons                |
| Toilet flush           | 5 – 7 gallons               | Low Flush Toilet 1.6 gallons                |
| Washing Car            | Tap Running = 180 gallons   | Stopping Tap 40 – 50 gallons                |
| Washing Dishes by Hand | Tap Running 20 – 30 gallons | Wash, Rinse in Sink = 5 gallons             |

water conservation





**Driest Years on Record Since 1898  
Average Rainfall**

| <b>California</b> |                 | <b>Northcoast</b> |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Year</b>       | <b>Rainfall</b> | <b>Year</b>       | <b>Rainfall</b> |
| <b>2013</b>       | <b>7.0"</b>     | <b>2013</b>       | <b>22.7"</b>    |
| <b>1898</b>       | <b>11.6"</b>    | <b>1976</b>       | <b>32.2"</b>    |
| <b>1923</b>       | <b>11.7"</b>    | <b>1923</b>       | <b>36.5"</b>    |
| <b>1976</b>       | <b>13.1"</b>    | <b>1985</b>       | <b>37.6"</b>    |
| <b>1917</b>       | <b>13.3"</b>    | <b>1929</b>       | <b>38.9"</b>    |

*Source: Western Regional Climate Center*

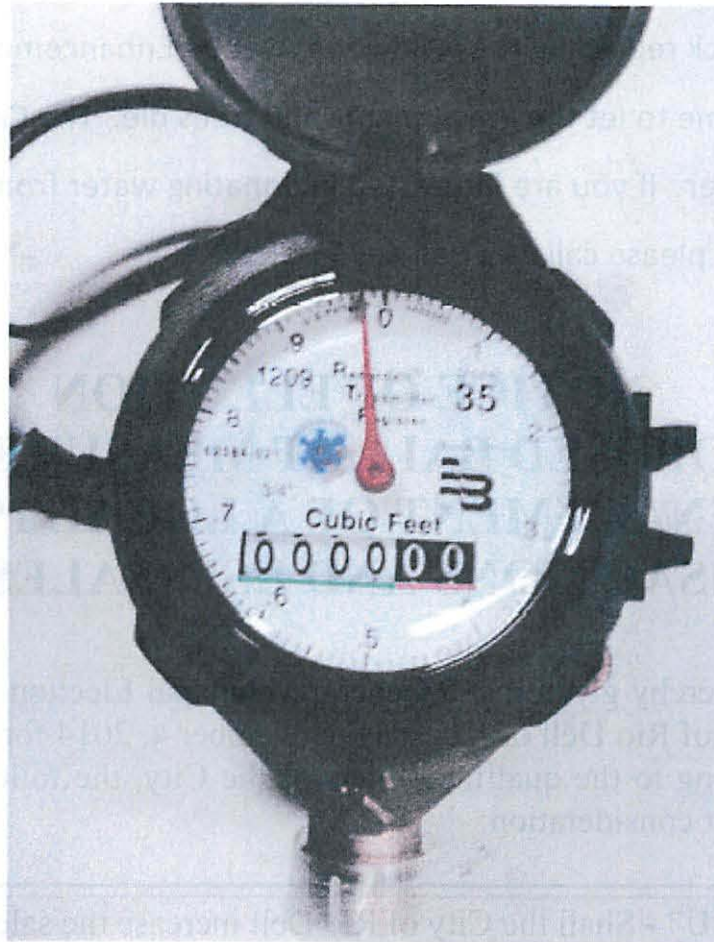
## Water Facts & Tips

- Inside your house bathroom facilities claim nearly 75% of the water used.
- Never pour water down the drain when there may be another use for it such as watering plant or garden, or for cleaning around the house.
- Verify your house is leak free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.
- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at a rate of one drip per second, you can expect to waste 27,000 gallons per year.
- Retrofit all household faucets by installing aerators with flow restrictors to slow the flow of water.
- Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food color to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the toilet bowl within 30 minutes. Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed. (Flush as soon as the test is done, since food coloring may stain the tank.)
- Install a toilet dam or displacement device such as a bag or bottle to cut down on the amount of water needed for each flush. Be sure installation does not interfere with the operating parts.
- Place a bucket in the shower to catch the water while waiting for the water to warm-up. Use this water to water your plants.
- Take shorter showers. Try to keep showers less than 5 minutes and you could save up to 1000 gallons a month. Replace your shower head with an ultra-low-flow version. They are inexpensive, easy to install and can save your family hundreds of gallons a week.



## Reading Your Water Meter

Make sure everything is off in your house first before checking your meter.



Meter Diagram

- Red dial- the meter dial, spins when you are using water
- Blue dial- the leak detector, will spin if you have a water leak and everything is off at the house
- Green Underlined Numbers- the meter whole numbers in units, 1 unit equals 748 gallons
- Purple Underlined Numbers- the meter fraction numbers (decimal point numbers), 0.01 unit equals 7.48 gallons, 0.10 unit equal 74.8 gallons

**Be careful, can be moist and have spiders!**

## Adopt a Median



The City is hoping that citizens with wells may be interested in donating water to the City to irrigate the newly planted medians and trees along Wildwood Avenue. The City has received so much positive feedback regarding the Wildwood Avenue Enhancement Project, it would be a shame to let the grass, plants and trees die. The City can pick-up the water. If you are interested in donating water from your well to the City, please call City Hall at 764-3532.



## NOTICE OF ELECTION PROPOSED BALLOT MEASURE “U” ENACTMENT OF A LOCAL 1% TRANSACTIONS AND USE (SALES) TAX

Notice is hereby given that a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Rio Dell on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 for the purpose of submitting to the qualified voters of the City, the following ballot measure for consideration:

**Measure “U”** - Shall the City of Rio Dell increase the sales tax by 1%, for five years only, providing locally controlled funding that cannot be taken by the State?

Arguments in favor or against the measure must be submitted by 5:00 p.m. on August 12, 2014 at the Office of the City Clerk at Rio Dell City Hall, 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, California.

Polls are open from 7:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M. at the Monument Middle School, 95 Center Street.

## **NOTICE OF ELECTION RIO DELL CITY COUNCIL**

Notice is hereby given that a General Municipal Election will be held in the City of Rio Dell on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 for the following officers:

**City Council Member** – There are three (3) open positions. Each position is for a four (4) year term of office.

Candidate Packets will be available in the Office of the City Clerk at Rio Dell City Hall, 675 Wildwood Avenue, Rio Dell, California, beginning **July 14, 2014 at 8:00 a.m.**

Nomination papers must be filed with the City Clerk by **August 8, 2014 at 5:00 p.m.**

### **Planning Commission Vacancy**

The City of Rio Dell is seeking applications from City residents who would be interested in serving on the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission meets the fourth Wednesday of each month to review and approve Subdivisions, Lot Line Adjustments, Conditional Use Permits, Variances and Design Review permits. There are currently two (2) vacancies for the remainder of three (3) year terms ending December 31, 2015 and December 31, 2016.

Applications may be obtained at and returned to:

**City of Rio Dell  
Karen Dunham, City Clerk  
675 Wildwood Avenue  
Rio Dell, CA. 95562**

Applications must be received by 5:00 pm, Thursday August 14, 2014. It's anticipated that the new Commission appointments will be made at the August 19, 2014 Regular City Council meeting. Further information may be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's office at 764-3532.

## The City of Rio Dell is now accepting Visa, MasterCard and Discover Cards



### Consumer Fees:

Visa, MasterCard & Discover Credit/Debit = \$1.50 up to \$50.00 and 2.49% for more than \$50.00

Visa Signature Debit = \$3.95 (online only)

The Consumer Fee is charged by a third party. The Consumer Fee is non-refundable. The cardholder is notified of the Consumer Fee amount prior to the authorization of the card and has the option to opt-out and pay by another payment method. If the Consumer Fee is accepted and authorized, the Consumer Fee will appear as a separate charge on the cardholder's statement.

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SIGNING UP FOR GREEN WASTE PICKUP?

EEL RIVER DISPOSAL IS COMING TO RIO DELL TO PROVIDE GREEN WASTE SERVICE, HERE ARE SOME OF THE DETAILS:

- \$ 3.00 per month (billed monthly for commercial accounts and bi-monthly for residential)
- Acceptable items: Grass, leaves, weeds, brush pine needles, small branches unpainted/untreated wood and up to 3 feet in length. We can NOT accept any kind of plywood.
- Picked up every two weeks on Wednesday, first pick up will be August 20th
- ERD to provide a 64-gallon toter for green waste
- Toters will be delivered on August 11<sup>th</sup> & 12th

If you are interested in signing up, please contact Eel River Disposal at 725-5156.

**Property Maintenance Regulations  
“Good Neighbor Policies”**

**Rio Dell Municipal Code, California Health & Safety Code & Uniform Housing Code**

- **Nuisances** – Any condition potentially detrimental to any members of the public, including conditions that are unsafe, potentially unsafe, obstruct the free use or enjoyment of property or diminish property values. Nuisances include, but are not limited to the following:

Abandoned Buildings or Structures, including partially constructed, reconstructed or demolished buildings upon which work has been abandoned. Work is deemed abandoned when there is no valid and current building or demolition permit or when there has not been any substantial work on the project for a period of three months or more.

Buildings or Structures that are in a State of Disrepair, including buildings which has deteriorated or ineffective waterproofing of exterior walls, including lack of paint or weathering due to lack of paint or other approved protective covering, roof's, foundations, floors, broken or missing windows or doors.

A building or structure where the exterior walls, fences retaining walls, driveways, or walkways are broken, deteriorated, or substantially defaced to the extent that the disrepair visually impacts neighboring properties or present an endangerment to public safety.

Property inadequately maintained, including property that contains overgrown, diseased, dead or decayed trees, weeds or other vegetation and/or refuse, waste or scrap materials which visually detrimentally impacts the surrounding neighborhood and has the potential to attract rodents and/or vermin.

Property which contains unused and broken equipment; structurally unsound fences, walkways, porches, decks or other structures; machinery which is inadequately protected; lumber, trash, fences, debris; storage of chemicals, motor oil, or toxic or hazardous materials; storage of abandoned vehicles, tires or parts thereof.

- **Garbage Cans** – Garbage shall be enclosed in a flyproof, watertight receptacle with close-fitting cover, be located at the rear of the premises (not visible from the street) and the contents disposed of at least once a week.

- **Abandoned Vehicles** - It is unlawful to park, store, leave or to permit the parking, storing or leaving of any licensed or unlicensed motor vehicles of any kind for a period in excess of 72 hours on private property, public streets or public property within the City of Rio Dell if such vehicles are in rusted, wrecked, junked, partially dismantled, inoperative, or abandoned condition, whether attended or not, unless the same is completely enclosed within a building or unless it is in connection with a business enterprise, operated in a lawful place and manner and licensed as such, when necessary to operation of such business enterprise.
  
- **Vehicles for Sale** - Vehicles, trailers, or other personal property shall not be parked on private property for the purpose of displaying the vehicles, trailers, or other personal property for hire, rental, or sale, unless the property is appropriately zoned, approved by the City for that use, and the person or business at that location is licensed to sell vehicles, trailers, or other personal property. However, one vehicle or trailer owned by the lessee, owner, or renter of the property may be displayed for the purpose of sale for a maximum of 30 days. This shall not be construed to allow the continued sale of vehicles.
  
- **Recreational Vehicle/Trailer/Boat Parking**. The storage (parking for any period longer than 72 hours; 24 hours in the Town Center zone along Wildwood Avenue) of a recreational vehicle, boat and/or trailer shall be allowed only when all portions of the vehicle, boat and/or trailer are located entirely within the property boundaries on an improved all weather surface and do not extend into the public right-of-way, including public utility easements and sidewalks. .
  
- **Motorhomes & Travel Trailers** - Motorhomes and travel trailers are not allowed to be used for residential purposes except where a property owner has obtained a building permit for the construction of a new residence. Camping on private property when such person is the property owner, tenant in possession, lineal relative to the property owner or tenant in possession, or holds in immediate possession a written consent issued by the property owner or tenant in possession. Such person shall present the written consent for examination upon the demand of any peace officer enforcing the provisions of this title. No camping on private property shall exceed 14 consecutive days or be permitted more than once within any 90-day period of time.

## Dog Licensing

A reminder for dog owners: All dogs four months of age and older are required to be licensed each fiscal year (July 31<sup>st</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup>). The current fee for licensing an altered male or female is \$12.00. The fee for licensing an unaltered dog is \$24.00 annually. Owners must bring current vaccination records to the department to obtain a license. The City is audited each year by the State to determine compliance with rabies control which is done through licensing. Additionally the Police Department is able to much more effectively return a dog to its owner when it is licensed. Please bring your vaccination paperwork to the police station and have your dog licensed if you have not done so yet.

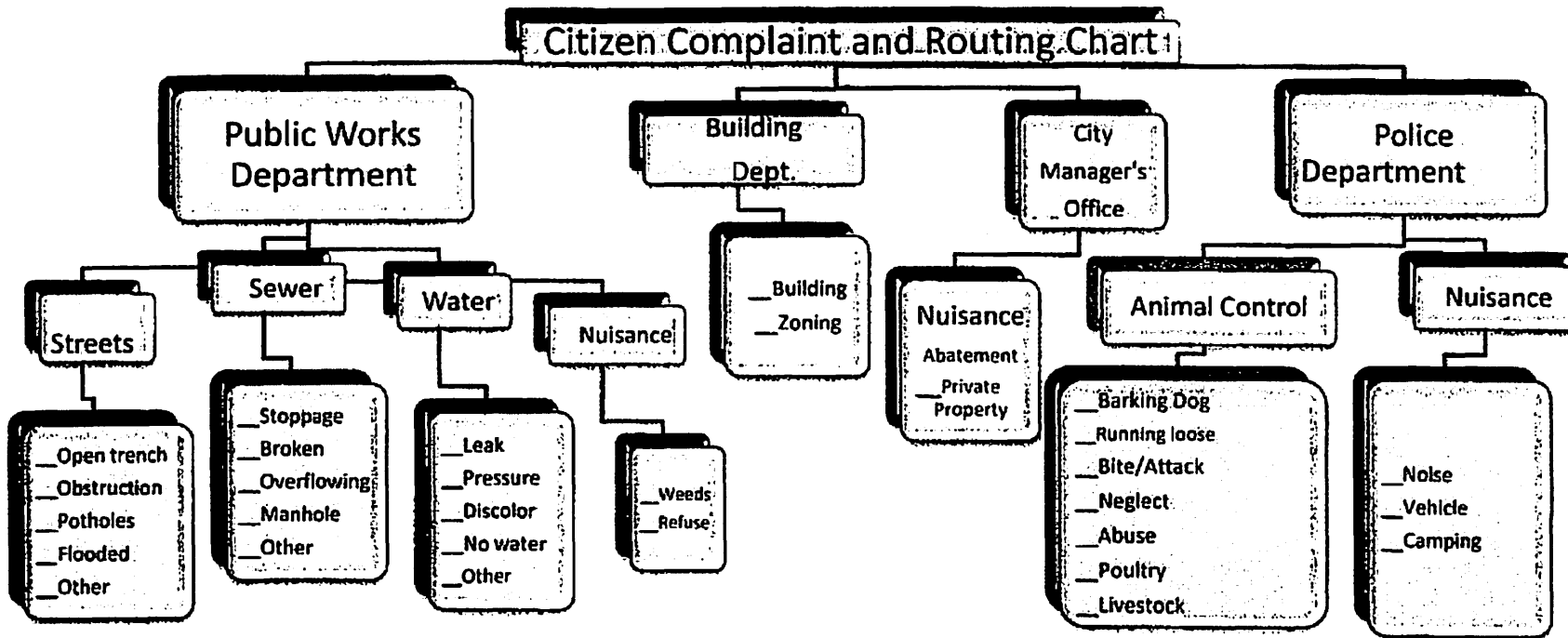
The process for reviewing fees associated with animal control is in the process and will be presented to the City Council soon. It is not anticipated that there will be any changes to licensing; however there will be some significant proposed changes to fees associated with dogs that are picked up. Because we contract with a third party for kenneling dogs that are picked when they are loose, the City has a specific fee associated with that service. The Police Department is going to make an effort to retain animals at the Police Department into the evening prior to transporting the dogs to the kennel in an attempt to reduce costs to residents. In instances when dogs are retrieved by their owner prior to being transported the cost will be reduced as compared to those dogs that are transported. The fees for dogs that are transported are significant and we hope by retaining dogs at the police station for a longer period of time we are able to alleviate some of those costs. It should also be noted that dogs that are not altered have additional fees associated with retrieving your dog when picked up. We encourage people to have their dogs spayed or neutered or take extra care in keeping your dog on your property. An unfortunate number of unplanned puppies are taken to the kennel each year.

Some other animal control information that might be helpful:

- It is the owner's responsibility to keep their dog secured within their property, and the owner is responsible for the dog's behavior. Some people rely on electronic perimeter fences that work on a battery powered collar in conjunction with a wire around their property. It has been our experience that these devices can be effective, however are useless when equipment is not properly maintained and batteries not regularly replaced in the collar. Solid fencing, while not as cost effective, has proven more reliable.
- It is important that dog owner's remember that all citizens have the right to enjoy their property and utilize our public facilities including streets. Dogs that bark constantly, or dogs that are allowed to run loose and interfere with people walking, riding bicycles, or exercising their dog on a leash, be controlled. Bark collars, effective fencing, and leashes can prevent unfortunate experiences for all residents.
- In many cases a dog owner is unaware their dog is barking because they are at work and the dog doesn't bark when they are home. Sometimes just alerting the owner of the problem is enough to solve it. You can always contact the Police Department concerning persistent barking that is not being addressed by the owner.

City of Rio Dell  
 675 Wildwood Avenue  
 Rio Dell, CA 95562  
 Phone: (707) 764-3532 Fax: (707) 764-5480

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Reporting Party: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Complaint taken by: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address & Location of Complaint \_\_\_\_\_



Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Action taken: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_