

- Rancho Pauma Mutual Water Company
- Pauma Valley Roadway Association
- Pauma Valley Community Services District
- With special thanks to our guest author, Shari Crall

March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026

7<sup>th</sup> Edition

## Rancho Pauma Mutual Water Company

RPMWC field operators and outside contractors completed two large valve replacements in the Luiseño circle this week. Two more valves are scheduled for replacement in Luiseño scheduled for the next two weeks. Another valve located at Pauma Heights and Pauma Valley Drive is also scheduled to be replaced. Paving for the first Luiseño sites and the repair sites on Womsi, Kica and Wiskon West will be paved this week. As you may know, we encountered several pipeline leaks during the Presidents' Day holiday. Our crews noted leaks in the aging laterals that connect the main lines to the individual services. As a result, RPMWC will be including a lateral and service replacement schedule in the 2026 – 2027 FY budgeting process, which begins in June. The 2025 - 2026 FYI budget includes the installation of more isolation valves and the complete rehabilitation of another well. We continue to monitor pumping levels throughout the basin in real time, and are pleased that the draw down has been minimal in spite of dry conditions this winter. As always, we appreciate your support and we continue to work hard on your behalf by providing reliable, low-cost water with excellent customer service.

Chuck Bandy, Board President



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## Where the Sawdust Settles: Pauma Valley's Red Puder Wood Shop

By Shari Crall

Tucked back behind the first green lies a gated yard. If you drive around past the maintenance structures, you will find the Red Puder Wood Shop, where the living is easy and the talk even easier. I learned more in my 45 minutes with these guys than I have in my four years of membership. Amongst walls of tools and the smell of wood is institutional knowledge, aka good stories.

According to Roland Skumawitz and Michael Martello, who showed me around, the building was specifically built to be a wood shop back in the 1980s and is owned and has been supported by both owners of country club. "They have the vacuum system into the floor. There's an air compressor system that goes throughout the building," Martello noted.

The story Martello said he had heard about how the wood shop got started was "there were a bunch of CEOs that lived within the gates, and they could only play so much golf. They used this almost like a clubhouse. They had coffee and they had food in the refrigerator and all this stuff." It still has all that stuff and it is still a great place to hang out if you are the kind of person who knows your knotty alder from your zebrawood and purpleheart.

The good-sized shop has seven workbenches equipped with drawers and shelves and pegboards on the walls. There is an application process to become a member, which Martello said, mostly boils down to safety. With two large table saws and other shared machinery, members need to know what they're doing because, as Martello said, "This stuff's dangerous." Another challenge as the

members age is there aren't many that can still lift a sheet of plywood and put it safely through a saw.

Along with paperwork and assessing skills, member's pay a \$1000 entry fee and \$300 a year for access to the shop. Having a place to work and store tools and materials, along with conversation and consultation on projects make it worthwhile. Neil McKinnon is the president and the longest current member. His wife, Lynda, does the bookkeeping. The fees support modernizing the shop, procuring new equipment and basically keeping the lights on.

While most of the members have been men, there have been a few women through the years. Jenna Pilant had a bench when she was renovating her home on Pauma Valley Drive to what she called "rainbow-tastic standards," which she documented on her 2018 YouTube show, "Room Bloom."

The day I visited, among other projects, beautiful furniture was being built, a chest was under renovation, and a large round was in the process of becoming a barrel top. Martello said they have done projects for the club, projects for friends, and projects of their own. Woodworking is something "you do it for your personal enjoyment," Martello said. It is painstaking and takes much longer and is harder to do than people consider when they see his work and ask, "How much would you charge to do that in my house?"

The members are invested in sharing their knowledge and the joy of woodworking with the next generation. They have hosted a day's long project for summer Kid's Camp for the last few years. The most popular project has been a versatile wooden board that can

## Pauma Valley Roadway Association

The Pauma Valley Roadway Association Board has been busy over the past quarter trying to improve our wonderful community for our friends and neighbors. Many of our community and our club members have noticed and provided feedback on the new speed bumps at the entrance to the club. These were installed due to numerous complaints that drivers were not stopping or even slowing down previously. Many drivers were seen bypassing the existing asphalt speed bumps by driving on the wrong side of the road. While the new bumps have achieved their intended purpose, the board will be considering community feedback at the next board meeting on April 7th.

In other exciting news, approximately 91,000 square feet of new paving will be installed during June. The paving will be from the back gate to just before Cahuka. In preparation for the paving, the roadway area near the hillside by the back gate will be widened, and vegetation along the roadway will be cleared as needed. This will occur in May. The contractor is very familiar with the project and is anxious to start. We expect the result to be a nice improvement from current conditions. The Roadway Board will be working with CSD on communication regarding the timing of potential road closures.

**George Pink, Board President**

“Where the Sawdust Settles: Pauma Valley’s Red Puder Wood Shop” Continued...



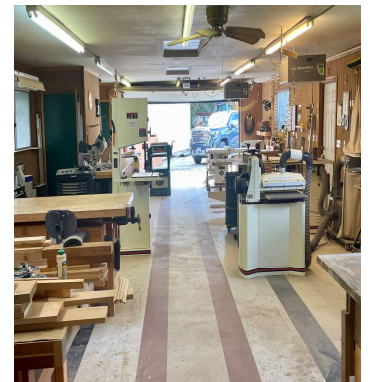
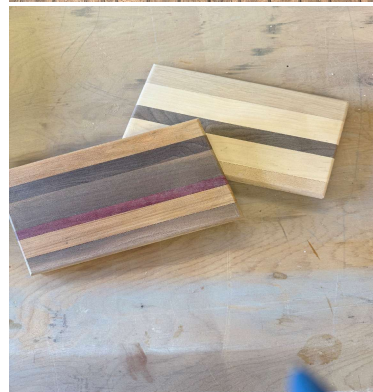
be used as a cutting board, charcuterie board, or trivet. Skumawitz, who has helped with the project every year said he tells the kids when they ask what they are making, “It doesn't matter! Whatever it is, you give it to your mom and she's gonna say, ‘Oh, this is the most beautiful thing I've ever seen.’”

The kids glued different pre-cut woods into a frame, ran them through a planer and sanded the edges, giving them the experience of creating something beautiful from wood. Skumawitz and Martello said the girls usually spent more time and had more patience with the project, but they all turned out great.

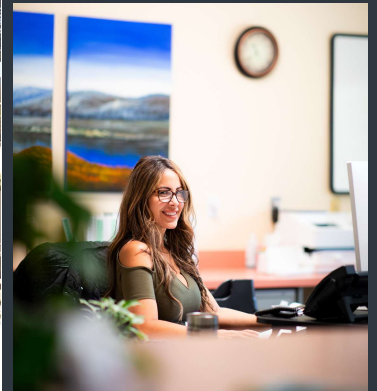
Members are not carpenters by trade, they just love the creativity and companionship of working with the wood. I asked Martello where he learned how to do what he was doing. “I have no idea where I learned it, but I do think there's a gene,” he said. “And some days the gene doesn't show up. You know, there are days when I come over here, intending to be here all day, and then I go back, and [my wife] says, ‘What's wrong?’ I say, ‘It didn't show up.’” If you have the gene and are interested in the wood shop, contact Neil McKinnon, Michael Martello or Roland Skumawitz for more information.

***“I have no idea where I learned it, but I do think there's a gene... And some days the gene doesn't show up.”***

**Michael Martello**



A very Special thanks to our Guest Writer, Mrs. Shari Crall!



## From the General Manager's Desk

Welcome to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Newsletter, Edition 7. We are pleased to share several important updates as the District continues strengthening operations, financial planning, and community service.

With the completion of the Cost-of-Service Study, your CSD is now better positioned for long-term financial stability. This study provides measurable data to help the District plan responsibly, prepare for future needs, and make informed decisions that support lasting success.

We are also proud to share that the District's new SCADA system is nearing completion thanks to a \$244,000 cybersecurity grant—the largest grant ever received by the District. This important investment is being delivered at no cost to the community. SCADA provides modern software and hardware that will help keep our Utility Department functioning efficiently, prevent spills, and avoid costly regulatory fines.

These are expenses that many public agencies must pass on to their communities, so this grant represents a significant financial benefit to our residents.

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, the Board has approved updated pricing for RFID devices, also known as transponders. The annual renewal fee will be \$20, and new devices will cost \$40. While no one welcomes fee increases, supplier costs have risen nationwide. To help ease the transition, the Board delayed implementation until the new fiscal year, allowing the community time to prepare while the District absorbs the difference in the meantime. The District is also absorbing higher-than-expected LAFCO annexation costs to maintain compliance while reducing the impact on the community.

The District has also completed its first-ever Strategic Plan, which will help focus priorities and measure

progress. One major goal is closing out the long-standing solar project, expected to yield approximately \$40,000 in annual savings. Following that, the District will begin a comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan to ensure timely asset replacement and continued reliable wastewater service.

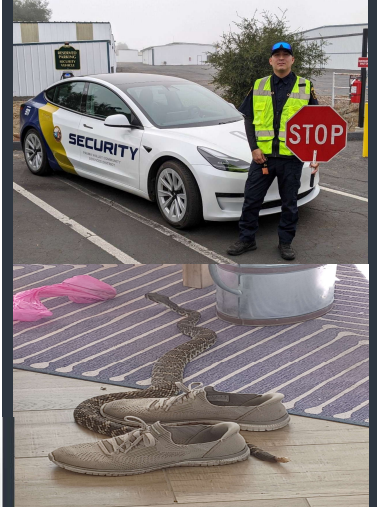
As we approach the warmer season, please remember that our Patrol Officers are trained to remove both venomous and non-venomous snakes. This is a rare and valuable service, and we encourage residents to utilize it for their safety.

Next Regular Meeting of the Board:

**Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026,  
at 10:00 AM**

Best Regards,

**Eric Steinlicht, General Manager**



## Upcoming Board Meetings

### ➤ Rancho Pauma Mutual Water Company

WHEN: MONDAY, MAY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026, AT 2:00 PM  
WHERE: 33129 Cole Grade Road, Pauma Valley CA 92061  
WEBSITE: <https://www.ranchopaumamwc.com/>

### ➤ Pauma Valley Roadway Association

WHEN: TUESDAY, APRIL 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026, AT 6:00 PM  
WHERE: RTJ Room, Pauma Valley Country Club  
WEBSITE: <https://www.roadwayassn.org/>

### ➤ Pauma Valley Community Services District

WHEN: TUESDAY, MAY 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026, AT 10:00 AM  
WHERE: 33129 Cole Grade Road, Pauma Valley CA 92061  
WEBSITE: <https://www.paumavalleycsd.ca.gov/>

**PAUMA VALLEY**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT  
33129 Cole Grade Road, Pauma Valley, CA 92061  
Monday - Friday | 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
Office: (760) 742-1909  
24/7 Dispatch: (760) 742-3112

