

*Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
& Water Conservation Improvement District*

General Manager's Report for October 2022
Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, November 7, 2022

Priority 1: Security ~ Ensure reliable, resilient, and available sources of water.

(1: Improved river & reservoir operations. 2: Fair & reliable inter-basin. 3: Expanded water sources. 4: Increased storage capacity)

Also see Agenda Item on Water Supply Conditions

1-River & Reservoir Operations: There is a new link to the West Fork Russian River gage information for hourly stage and flow: <https://www.spk-wc.usace.army.mil/fcgi-bin/hourly.py?report=coy>

2-Russian River Water Forum: The Project Management Advisory Team met multiple times to receive interview progress updates, prepare for Tribal briefings, begin discussing development of the Forum committees and leadership. RRFC representatives were interviewed by Project consultants. GM conducted a Forum briefing for Supervisors Williams and McGourty (the current and incoming Chairs) and CEO Darcie Antle.

3-Water Right Applications: A request for an extension of time was submitted to and approved by the Administrative Hearing Office (AHO.) Sonoma Water and CA Sportfishing Protection Alliance both submitted letters of support for the extension. Sonoma Water also submitted formal comments on the preliminary Water Availability Analysis (WAA) and continues to coordinate with RRFC's engineering consultant to refine data for the WAA.

Priority 2: Collaboration ~ Work with partners to achieve aligned goals for a common benefit.

(1: Trusted relationships with community partners for regional water security. 2: Improved diversity, equity, and inclusion in the stewardship of water resources. 3: Expanded relationships with non-traditional partners and stakeholders in pursuit of enhanced Environmental Stewardship.)

1-Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA): Collaborating on implementation of the Communications and Engagement Plan including a public stakeholder meeting on the recent Governor's Executive Order and impacts to well permitting, GSA newsletter, and communications with Indigenous Nations and Communities.

2- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Attended the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board workshop on its Draft Resolution No. R1-2023-0001 Condemning Racism, Xenophobia, Bigotry, and Racial Injustice and Strengthening Commitment to Racial Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Access, and Anti-Racism in the North Coast Region. The presentation was an excellent training opportunity.
https://cal-span.org/meeting/rwqcb-nc_20221007/

2-Russian River Water Forum: (See Priority 1)

Priority 3: Advocacy ~ Influence outreach, education, funding, regulation, and legislation in support of equitable water resource stewardship.

(1: Improved public awareness and understanding of the importance of water issues. 2: State and Federal governmental policy and funding support for the region.)

2-ACWA: The Region 1 Board met, reviewing the ACWA 2022 Member Satisfaction Survey results. GM has been asked to participate in the ACWA Working Group on CA Water Plan Update 2023 as a Northern California representative to review and develop comments from ACWA.

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2-CA Water Education Foundation’s 2022 Water Summit-Rethinking Water in the West: Participated as a Panelist on the “Rethinking Water Rights in Light of Drought and Climate Change” panel covering the Water Sharing Program as a creative, collaborative solution to avoid curtailments and their economic/environmental impacts. Also on the panel: Erik Ekdahl from the State Water Board; Cannon Michael, CEO/President of Bowles Farming Company, and Jennifer Harder, Professor of Law and one of the authors of Updating California Water Laws to Address Drought and Climate Change report. Keynote speaker and author of Water Always Wins, [Erica Gies](#) presented on “Slow Water” innovations that can potentially offer resilience to the increasing severity of droughts and floods brought on by climate change.

Priority 4: Use ~ Ensure effective and beneficial use of water as a public resource.

(1: Maximum beneficial use of water under District water right license. 2: Strategic use of water by customers.)

1-Water Accounting: Annual meter downloads are underway. The State Water Resources Control Board has adjusted water rights reporting requirements to align with the water year (Oct 1 – Sept 30.)

2-Managed Aquifer Recharge: Attended several FloodMAR webinars hosted by the Department of Water Resources.

Priority 5: Administration ~ Foster sustainable leadership and management of agency resources.

(1: Capable and high quality executive leadership. 2: Engaged, diverse, and knowledgeable Board leadership. 3: Effective systems and human resources to execute the strategic plan. 4: Sound and sustainable management of District finances.)

1-Executive Leadership: Attended numerous workshops and webinars on equity, recharge, nature based solutions, and more. Attended a water summit (see Priority 3.)

2-Board Leadership: Board members were provided with further education and mandatory training options currently available.

4-Financial Accounting: Continuing work with District Accountant and Auditor to address financial planning, reporting, and enhancement.

Community Meetings Attended This Month

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (10/4/22): The Board approved the appointments of uncontested Board members, including RRFC’s own Watt, Reardan, and John Bailey.

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (10/5/22): Willow GM Jared Walker received questions regarding water provided to RVCWD by RRFC recently. Board Member Theresa McNerlin was appointed to the GSA. She represents the Sanitation District but was the only URRWA Board member in many months who volunteered. Walker reported on the consolidation efforts. Some rough draft materials are being developed to present to the Boards. City of Ukiah is anticipated to become successor agency. Willow staff would become City employees. Agency would be run by City with 10 member water executive committee with districts remaining intact. Dissolution of districts may only be limited to Willow and Millview. Rate structure(s) are TBD; Operational budget will inform rates. Lots of fiscal questions about employee wages/benefits and rates and budgets. Walker advises ad-hoc to direct these questions to City. Expecting to have consolidation agreement signed by all parties by Spring 2023. Questions regarding water rights were asked and Walker responded that they have about 6 months to figure out if they need language about reliability of City’s water supply.

City of Ukiah (10/5/22): City Manager reported on the proposed consolidation with URRWA members noting it is going well. A question from Rodin regarding consolidating resources and/or management led to further detail but was summed up with a comment that no agreements have been finalized.

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Willow County Water District (10/10/2022) GM Walker reported that water sales are slightly down and the District has not exhausted its RRFCC contract quantity for the year. Willow staff will begin reviewing Service Contracts with the other water districts in November. The proposed consolidation is moving forward with the ad-hoc committee continuing to meet in development of the consolidation agreement. At this time, the City of Ukiah is taking lead and Willow staff would become City staff. Questions were raised regarding trust, uniform rates vs individual district rates, and if State funding would be available to URRWA without the City as part of the consolidation. GM noted the proposal that following City annexations, some districts may dissolve and at least on Director asked why they are not pushing to keep Willow and the districts it manages intact under City umbrella vs having City consolidate the resources and workforce. Board expressed concern about being pressured into making a vote on short notice without adequate legal consultation. It was noted that previous attempts to consolidate were unsuccessful due to the issue of water security for all constituents. City has groundwater and senior surface water rights plus recycled water. City has made significant improvements in their water security, making it the reason to consolidate now. GM has a meeting with County Supervisor McGourty and Senator McGuire about water issues, possibly consolidation. A motion was approved to hire LACO to assist in the application of a \$500k grant to replace old water lines. A motion was approved to accept the audit.

Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) (10/13/22): McGourty reported on County Supervisor updates regarding water issues, focusing on the Mendocino County Water Agency revitalization/projects/etc. He also provided an update on the GSA. The City of Ukiah reported around 300 million gallons of recycled water was produced so far this year (around 1,000 af for the year expected.) Redwood Valley reported on the proposed consolidation ad hoc meetings are moving quickly and RV is hopeful. McGourty added his hopes this consolidation will support water supply problems, especially in Redwood Valley. Potter Valley Irrigation District is working with a consultant on the Department of Water Resources funded project to find water storage in Potter Valley and a first community meeting is set for December 2, 2022. The Chair opened a discussion regarding an IWPC task force that gathers information on the various current efforts going on regarding the PVP, improves outreach/education, research and apply for grant funding, seeks and invites collaboration, and generally provide advice and assessment to IWPC commissioners. The Commission approved formation of the task force. Chair provided updates on PG&E's variance (no changes) and reported PG&E has issued an RFP for consultants to handle the technical issues of surrendering and decommissioning. An update was provided on Sonoma Water's DWR grant projects (contracts signed, studies beginning, Forum development.)

Hopland PUD (10/13/22): No one from the District attended.

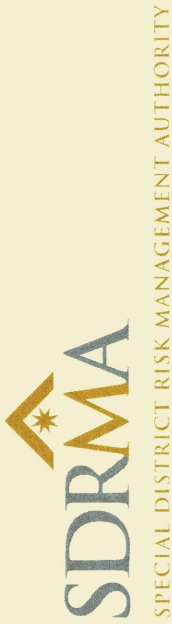
Millview County Water District (10/18/22): Willow GM Walker reported that Well 6 plans have finally been received and after review they will go out to contractors. The building will be block and metal construction. An update was provided on the proposed annexation of URRWA water districts and City of Ukiah. The ad hoc met to review the draft service contract language. Walker said it looked good but will need legal counsel review. Walker, Sean White (City of Ukiah), and Supervisor McGourty met with Senator McGuire who was positive about the consolidation efforts and said money is available. The Board voted for Candace Horsley on the LAFCO election ballot.

City of Ukiah (10/19/22): Nothing water related to note.

Calpella County Water District (10/19/22): Cancelled.

Redwood Valley County Water District (10/20/22): The Board discussed drafts of the Grand Jury response, directed two Board members to work further on the draft, and bring back to the Board for approval in November before submitting. Willow GM Walker provided an update on consolidation, similar to that given at Millview. He mentioned 3 agreements have been developed but when pressed, clarified they are working documents and formal agreements will need to be approved by each entity's Board.

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President's Special Acknowledgement Award

The President of the Special District Risk Management Authority

Hereby gives special recognition to

Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District

The President's Special Acknowledgement Award is to recognize members with no "paid" claims during the prior five consecutive program years in the Property/Liability Program. A "paid" claim for the purposes of this recognition represents the first payment on an open claim during that same period and excludes property claims. Congratulations on your excellent claims record!

Mike Scheafer, SDRMA Board President

October 18, 2022

Date