

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

Technical Memorandum

Correspondence Serving Requirements of the Memorandum of Understanding of March 2022

In accordance with the requirements of the order issued on December 14, 2022 approving Sonoma Water's Temporary Urgency Change Petitions on Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596 (Applications 12919A, 15736, 15737, and 19351), Sonoma Water submits this response to meet the requirement of Term 12 of the order.

The MOU dated March 21, 2022 on Lake Mendocino Storage Planning and Russian River Management between Sonoma Water and the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District (District) describes water supply planning efforts and analysis to assess the adequacy of stored water to meet the anticipated demands. Accordingly, Sonoma Water has developed reservoir level projections for Lake Mendocino for the current water year. The reservoir projection is currently updated monthly and published on Sonoma Water's website at <https://www.sonomawater.org/WaterSupplyProjections>.

As the dry season approaches, the hydrologic conditions in the Russian River are above normal for this time of year. Flows in the Russian River are above the median flow rates for the observed record. Many of the tributary stream gages are also above median flow rates as well. Lake Mendocino reservoir levels are currently at 99,900 ac-ft, the second highest level for this time of year since it initially filled in 1959. Lake Sonoma reservoir levels are currently at 264,800 ac-ft, the highest level for this time of year since it initially filled in 1986. This, in particular, represents a dramatic recovery for Lake Sonoma which was at its all-time lowest point of just under 98,000 ac-ft on December 25, 2022.

With significant tributary flows at this time and the anticipated forthcoming reduction in minimum instream flow requirements to satisfy the Russian River Biological Opinion, the storage water supplies in Lake Mendocino will be more than sufficient to fully meet the requirements of the following authorized uses of storage releases:

- a) minimum instream flow requirements on the Russian River
- b) rediversion by the District pursuant to License No. 13898
- c) rediversion by Sonoma Water pursuant to its Permit No. 12947A
- d) rediversion by post-1949 water-right permittees and licensees within Sonoma County that are under the 10,000 acre-foot storage reservation.

(Continued...)

The seasonal drying of tributary flows is anticipated to be later than average this year. As tributary flows nearly cease, storage releases will increase to support the beneficial uses in the mainstem of the Russian River. An additional burden for maintaining instream flows will be shifted to storage releases as it is anticipated that PG&E will be filing a variance to significantly reduce the East Fork Russian River minimum instream flow requirements under their FERC license for the Potter Valley Project. Under a 'Normal' water year classification, the East Fork Russian River minimum instream flows are passed through Lake Mendocino and are sufficient enough to meet pre-1949 water rights and provide additional water to Sonoma Water to offset some of the storage releases needed to meet the minimum instream flows of the Upper Russian River.

***Submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board
By Sonoma Water on May 8, 2023
Meeting Term 12 of the December 2022 TUCO***