

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

**General Manager's Report for October 2023**  
*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, November 6, 2023*

**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)

**2-Russian River Water Forum:** The November 2<sup>nd</sup> Planning Group meeting was cancelled, and the next meeting is on December 7, which will cover the following topics (and potentially additional topics): Update on PG&E decommissioning process, Presentation on Eel River watershed: fisheries, tribal connections, and restoration efforts. The Water Rights Working Group met to discuss the development of a comprehensive educational presentation. More information on Forum: <https://russianriverwaterforum.org/>

**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) (10/12/23):** The Board met and received a report on the monitoring network, approving an alternative location for a failed monitoring location. A proposal to improve governance compliance through updating select policies and procedures was approved. An update was provided on obtaining grant funding and GSA partners gave updates. An extensive rate and fee study workshop was held.

**1/3- Relationships:** The US Army Corp of Engineers and the Chamber of Commerce/Discover Ukiah held a 'meet and greet' at the Lake Mendocino office. Chamber members, elected officials, and other guests were invited. In addition to networking, Operations Project manager Poppy Lozoff provided a presentation on public outreach and education, FIRO, recreation, operations, etc.

**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-Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA):** An ACWA Board orientation was held for incoming Board Members. GM Salomone's term is Jan 1, 2024 to Dec 31, 2026. The SGMA Implementation Working Group met and heard an update from the GSAs who are now under SWRCB jurisdiction. The ACWA Board met for a workshop on the updated Code of Conduct.

**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 Right License Change Petition:** Collaboration continued with Resource Conservation District on the development of the metering and data management program. Work continued with District Engineers and customers on the proposed change petition preparation.

**1-Water Right License:** Meters were downloaded, data and water use worksheets sent to customers with a December 31, 2023 deadline to meet new State Water Resources Control Board annual reporting deadlines.

*(Continued...)*

**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:** GM attended the following webinars/trainings: Workforce Diversity, Monitoring to Demonstrate MAR Benefits, Tribal Engagement and Engineering with Nature, Holistic Resilience (on groundwater recharge through agricultural lands and other means), MAR Operations, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation, and Data Solutions for Landscape Water Budgets.

**4-Finances:** GM continued work on fiscal year end, budgeting, QuickBooks improvements, and reporting in collaboration with Accountant and Auditor. The 2022-2023 Financial Audit is underway.

**Community Meetings**

**Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (10/4/23):** Cancelled

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (10/2/23):** Cancelled

**Willow Water District (10/9/23):** Conflict with the District's Board meeting; no one from the District attended.

**Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (MCIWPC) Special Board Mtg (10/10/23):** The Regular meeting was rescheduled from Thursday to Tuesday. An extensive closed session was held.

**Hopland Public Utility District (10/12/23):** No one from the District attended.

**Millview Water District (10/17/23):** Regarding Redwood Valley's efforts to drill a water supply well at Masonite site (owned by Millview): The test hole had problems with loose gravel. Driller moved to another location and will install a conductor pipe to allow deeper drilling in the gravel strata. This wasn't included in the original scope of work. They want to get below a clay layer. The new hole is getting closer to well 6, about 200 feet, and there is some concern that the new well will impact well 6. Testing will determine that once the test hole is complete and pumping tests begin. On proposed consolidation of Ukiah Valley water retailers and the City of Ukiah water services: There will be a working meeting on consolidation October 25th. State's response to the draft Joint Powers Authority agreement to be discussed. An urgent item was added to the agenda for a closed session on possible litigation. Report out was that the board had authorized the hiring of an environmental consultant to address an environmental concern.

**City of Ukiah (10/18/23):** Nothing water related to report.

**Calpella Water District (10/18/23):** No one from the District attended.

**Redwood Valley Water District (10/19/23):** Trustee report to be provided at meeting.

**Inland Water & Power Commission** held several Special Meetings which were all closed session only.

**North Coast Resource Partnership Quarterly Meeting (10/20/23):** See website for details on agenda: <https://northcoastresourcepartnership.org/>

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Prepared and submitted to the Board of Trustees by: *Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager*