

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

General Manager's Report for April 2026

Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, May 4, 2026

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

(1: Improve river & reservoir operations. 2: Advance fair & reliable trans basin diversions. 3: Increased storage capacity. 4: Ensure effective and beneficial use of District water as a public resource.)

1-Russian River and Lake Mendocino Operations: Sonoma Water held a water year update webinar (linked below.) It was shared that while the threshold on April 16th to drop into a dry will be met, the mainstem Russian River Minimum instream flow changes will not be noticed until tributary flow in the system dries out and most of the water in the river is stored water from Lake Mendocino. More information including recording: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/russian-river-water-year-2026-update-rainfall-and-supply-levels>

2-Future of the Trans Basin Diversion: On April 21, 2026, US Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced on social media that she had heard from a potential buyer for the Potter Valley Project. The Elnore Valley Municipal Water District, which serves around 160,000 residential and commercial users in western Riverside County, stated in an interview with the Eureka Times-Standard that it “wished to emphasize that the district had absolutely no concrete plans at this stage of the game, that it hadn’t yet looked at the opportunities or constraints of taking ownership of the project, or even if doing so was legally feasible at this point in the proceedings.” It is noted in the same article that though PG&E said it cannot transfer the *license* to the dams, the agency said that it can still transfer the dams themselves. Since the announcement by Secretary Rollins, responses have been covered in the press from Congressman Huffman, and representatives from PG&E, the Eel Russian Project Authority, Inland Water & Power Commission, Friends of the Eel River, and others. Articles are linked below. The Two Basin Solution partners continue to move forward toward a continued diversion and a transfer of the water right in cooperation with PG&E. More information can be found on the District’s website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/future-of-the-eel-river-to-russian-river-trans-basin-diversion-potter-valley-project>

3-US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation for Increased Storage Capacity at Lake Mendocino: No new updates. More information can be found on the District’s website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lake-mendocino-s-coyote-valley-dam-general-investigation-study>

4-State Water Resources Control Board Russian River Telemetry Study: The District accompanied State staff and consultants on several site visits and assisted with communications to volunteers.

Priority 2: Strategic Partnerships ~ Collaborate with partners to achieve aligned goals for a mutual benefit. (1: Cultivate trusted relationships with community partners for regional water security. 2: Expanded relationships with non-traditional partners and stakeholders in pursuit of enhanced Environmental Stewardship. 3: Promote clarity on shared goals and initiatives with our strategic partners.)

1-Water Sharing Program: The working group continues to build consensus on recommendations for management of the Sonoma County 10k Reserve from Lake Mendocino in the format of a memo to the State Water Resources Control Board and for engagement efforts. In April, RRFC and Sonoma Water presented on Lake Mendocino storage management. This group welcomes additional participants; contact DistrictManager@rrfc.net for more information.

(Continued...)

Priority 3: Advocacy & Engagement ~ Be an influential voice for our region through outreach, education, funding, regulation, & legislation. (1: Improve public awareness and understanding of the importance of water issues. (2) Pursue State and Federal governmental policy and funding support.)

Nothing to note.

Priority 4: Governance and Operational Excellence ~ 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, administration, and human resources to execute the strategic plan. 4: Sound and sustainable management of District finances.)

1: Executive Leadership: Attended or watched: (1) UC Cooperative Extension Open House. (2) North Coast Resource Partnership Quarterly Meeting in Loleta (2 days.) (3) HR Webinar: Small Shifts, Better Results - Practical Goal Setting for Stronger Performance; (4) Sonoma Water: Water Year Update; (5) Prop 4 Funding webinar.

4-Financial: Met with Accountant on reporting issues and budget development.

Community Meetings

Note: District Board members and GM will no longer be attending all community meetings and reporting here. Please contact the individual organizations for more information on public meetings and updates.

Ukiah Valley Water Authority (UVWA) (4/2/26): Cancelled.

Local Agency Formation Commission (4/6/26): The Commission reappointed the 2025 officers and committee members to continue serving in 2026. The Executive Officer's contract update was approved. The FY 2026-27 Budget was approved with no increase in apportionments, absorbing increased expenses through the use of reserves.

Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) (4/9/26): The Commission held a robust review and discussion regarding the draft revised budget proposed by the City of Ukiah and RRFC. All Commissioners present were in favor of the proposed expenses and the total amount of member agency contributions. The Commissioners agreed to share the draft with their governing bodies and staff to discuss and return with a "not to exceed" amount for their agency contributions. At the May meeting, the Commission intends to primarily approve the individual agency contributions.

City of Ukiah (4/15/26): Nothing water related to note.

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

Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

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April 21, 2026

Grant Davis, General Manager
Sonoma Water
404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
Grant.Davis@scwa.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Davis,

The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (RRFC) supports the critical work Sonoma County Water Agency (Sonoma Water) continues to lead in preventing the introduction of quagga and zebra mussels into Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma. RRFC fully supports Sonoma Water's grant application for funds to increase watercraft inspections.

RRFC manages the Mendocino County's benefit from Lake Mendocino for agriculture, industry, recreation, and drinking water and therefore has a keen interest in these prevention efforts. The District extends sincere appreciation to Sonoma Water for taking the lead in the effort to protect our local environment, water supply infrastructure, and economy from devastating mussel infestation.

Yours Sincerely,



Elizabeth Salomone
General Manager

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