

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

General Manager's Report for February 2026
Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, March 2, 2026

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)

1-2026 Potter Valley Project Operations: FERC opened the public comment period on the 2026 Flow Variance. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests: March 23, 2026, 5:00 pm Eastern Time. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/2026-pg-e-potter-valley-project-operations>

2-Potter Valley Project Future: 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 at Lake Mendocino: See the attached January 30, 2026 update regarding the project. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lake-mendocino-s-coyote-valley-dam-general-investigation-study>

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-Water Sharing Program: The working group has decided to increase the frequency of meetings in hopes to move through the topics and take a break later in the year. It continues working on building 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. This group welcomes additional participants; contact DistrictManager@rrfc.net for more information.

1-Russian River Watershed Resilience Study: The Watershed Network Technical group met. The pilot project needs to wrap up in April 2026 due to grant funder requirements. Consultants presented summary of findings, provided updates on the adaptation strategies, discussed the Watershed Resilience Plan, and reviewed the resilience strategy implementations.

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.)

Nothing to note.

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.)

Nothing to note.

(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: Attended or watched: (1) CSDA Ethics AB 1234 Compliance Training. (2) CSDA training: The Five Step Fiscal Sustainability Plan for Special Districts. (3) HR Webinar Series: Uncovering Your Blind Spots - A Strategic Framework for Organizational Health (4) SDRMA Risk Management Webinar Series: Water, Wastewater, & Irrigation

4-Financial: Annual invoices to customers were issued. The District is offering a new payment method through the District's website which incurs a service fee to the customer.

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.

LAFCo (2/3/26): The Commission approved a budget amendment. A new public alternate member was appointed. The County did not alter its appointments and the Cities will make appointments mid-February.

County Board of Supervisors (2/3/26): The Board considered Supervisor Cline's appointment to the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC.) After hearing from the public and holding a Board discussion, no motion was put forward to replace Cline as the IWPC representative for the County.

City of Ukiah (2/4/26): The Council considered approval of a Tax Sharing Agreement resolution regarding the proposed annexation of a property north of town. Supervisor Madeline Cline offered public comment, requesting the City make greater efforts to meet with the County's Ad Hoc Committee on the City's proposed annexations prior to considering approval.

Ukiah Valley Water Authority (2/5/36): This meeting was cancelled and a special meeting was set for 2/9/26.

Willow (2/9/26): Cancelled.

Ukiah Valley Water Authority (2/9/36): A public hearing was held on the proposed water rate adjustments. The consultant, Mike Hildebrand, provided a presentation which was a condensed version of previous presentations made to this body. Public comments including protests were offered. All recommended rate increases were approved. Staff reported on the status of the SAFER planning grant. The State Water Board has assigned a new Project Manager, possibly the 4th during this process. The planning grant application is being reviewed by the State though no time frame or time limit has been assigned, though hoping for initial comments in next couple of months. Next meeting is March 5th at 5 PM.

(Continued...)

Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

(2/11/26): RRFC representative Chris Watt was appointed Chair and Agriculture representative Adam Gaska appointed Vice Chair. New members of the TAC and an interim General Manager were introduced. Presentations were provided on: (1) the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) grant funded study on interconnected surface water and groundwater dependent ecosystems; (2) Russian River Watershed Resilient Project by Sonoma Water Agency; (3) Facilitation Support Services (FSS) Agreement Work with Stantec Consultants, funded by the Department of Water Resources; (4) Draft 2025 Annual Water Year Report and Projects & Management Actions (PMAs). Comments included the need for GSA staff to meet with local interested Tribal Councils and communities in the Tribal spaces to support engagement. The next meeting is scheduled for May 13 at 1 PM.

Inland Water & Power Commission (2/12/26): A large public audience was in attendance – so large the meeting had to be moved to another room to accommodate and the meeting lasted nearly 4 hours. Commissioner Cline reported out on her January meeting with US Secretary of Agriculture Rollins, noting she did not participate in the press conference and clarifying that she the other Mendocino County Supervisor were invited separately by those hosting the meeting. She also reported on a recent trip to Sacramento and her intent to support more outreach and engagement with legislators to our community. A presentation was provided on possible storage projects, providing more detail on costs, permitting, and capacity, asking the Commission for feedback to sort into: (1) what to investigate (2) what to put on the shelf (3) what is deemed not worth further investigation. After the presentation, discussion, and public input, support was given for USACE GI study for increased storage capacity at Lake Mendocino, Potter Valley groundwater investigations & pond expansion, and legal & lobbying work for additional funding. IWPC Legal Counsel Scott Shapiro was asked what IWPC should do now to obtain funding for the proposed work and answered that it requires collaboration with regional partners, look at Prop 4 opportunities, leverage relationships with legislature and Department of Water Resources for support – a lot of legwork. Shapiro is looking to IWPC leadership to identify priorities, which is what this meeting is about. An update was provided on the USACE General Investigation Study.

Redwood Valley Water District (2/19/26): Whitney Seckora was sworn in as a new Board member. The Board approved the Second Amendment to the Cost Sharing Agreement with RRFC expanding to cover legal actions. An update on the progress of the application to LAFCo for the annexation of RVCWD into RRFC was given and discussed.

City of Ukiah (2/18/26): Nothing water related to note.

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



Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study February Update



- **USACE Activities**

- USACE paused study on October 20th. Waiting for additional funding.

- **Sponsor Activities**

- IWPC & Lytton exploring opportunities for shared federal messaging and advocacy.
- Next CVD Ad Hoc Committee Meeting – February 23rd.

- **Funding Outlook**

- Energy & Water Development Appropriations Bill passed and signed by the President on January 23rd.
 - Includes \$7.5M for USACE General Investigations (GI) Workplan.
 - Lytton requesting a meeting with Assistant Secretary for Army (ASA) of Civil Works (CW) to advocate for USACE Workplan funds.
 - Lytton looking for other opportunities to influence the administration's funding priorities.
- FY27 President's Budget:
 - Presidents Budget is the next opportunity to be identified for funding.
 - Required by law to be released NLT the 1st Monday in February. No formal penalty for delay.



Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study Background



Last Updated: 1/30/2026

- Study authorized by Section 1201(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (PL 114-322).
- Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement signed March 31, 2025
 - MCIWPC and Lytton Rancheria are joint non-Federal sponsors
 - Includes \$658,000 credit for Tribal participation.
 - Establishes \$3,000,000 budget cost-shared 50% Fed / 50% Non-Fed minus Tribal credit.
 - Local Agreement between MCIWPC and Lytton signed March 19, 2025.
- Federal Appropriations History:
 - FY 2024 = \$500,000
 - FY 2025 = \$0
 - FY 2026 = TBD
- Completed Activities:
 - NEPA interagency kickoff meeting conducted June 26, 2025; additional scoping will resume once additional federal funds are received.
 - Series of meetings (charettes) held July 2025 to identify study problems and opportunities and begin documenting existing and future conditions.
 - Coyote Valley Dam site visit occurred August 5, 2025.

Study Area

