

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

**General Manager's Report for July 2025**  
*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, August 4, 2025*

**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-PG&E Public Draft Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan:** On July 25, 2025, Pacific Gas and Electric Company filed its Final Surrender Application and Final Non-Project Use of Project Lands Application (NPUPL) for the Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. P-77) with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC.) On August 11, from 3 to 5 p.m., PG&E will host an online meeting (to share information on the Potter Valley Project Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan. During the town hall PG&E will discuss the overall regulatory process and note opportunities for public participation in the regulatory process. If you have any questions regarding this filing, please email [Tony.Gigliotti@pge.com](mailto:Tony.Gigliotti@pge.com). More information including town hall meeting link 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>

**2- PG&E FERC Filings for 2025 and Beyond:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has not yet approved the PG&E temporary license flow amendment (previously referred to as a temporary flow variance) for the Potter Valley Project 2025 operations, nor has it issued any updates other than denying several late-filed motions to intervene.

**2-FERC Requests Additional Information on PG&E's Request for License Amendment (Long-Term Flow Regime):** In its request for changes to the Potter Valley Project flow requirements from now until the proposed decommissioning, PG&E stated the overall goal of the proposed license amendment is to maintain storage in Lake Pillsbury through the spring and summer, maintain the safety of the facility, and support colder water temperature flow releases from Scott Dam into the Eel River during late summer. In a letter dated March 28, 2023, FERC staff anticipated that prior to acting on this amendment proposal, an analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act will be completed by PG&E. In January 2025, PG&E filed supplemental information, and this most recent letter responds, requesting information under five points, the first being to identify any users that may be affected by the proposed reduction in flow diversions to the East Branch Russian River and characterize their location and estimated amounts (quantity and percentage) under reduced flows. This may include operators of Commission-licensed hydropower projects that rely on powerhouse releases and agricultural users that are located downstream of Potter Valley Irrigation District's diversions. PG&E is also asked to describe and address any potential effects of the proposed amendment on storage and/or releases from Lake Mendocino through analyses of the last ten years of data displaying the percent contribution of Potter Valley Powerhouse releases made to Lake Mendocino yearly storage, and address any effects to environmental resources below Lake Mendocino (including but not limited to water quantity, water quality, and listed salmonids of the East Branch Russian River) that may result from the proposal. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/potter-valley-project-license-amendment>

*(Continued...)*

**4-Lake Mendocino's Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study:** Throughout June and July 2025, two background meetings, one environmental interagency meeting, and four mini-charettes were held by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE.) Topics included problems and objectives, opportunities, constraints and considerations, existing and future conditions, management measures, and building the plan: strategies. 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 met to continue discussions of the 10,000 acre foot reserve pool in Lake Mendocino for Sonoma County, public engagement and outreach tactics, and adaptations to the Program for future implementation.

**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.)

**1/2-ACWA:** The SGMA Implementation Sub Committee met and discussed 5 yr updates of Groundwater Sustainability Plans and a future meeting with Department of Water Resources staff.

**2-State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Funded Telemetry Pilot:** I asked the question from the June Board meeting regarding paying for infrastructure to implement the pilot. SWRCB Response: If the infrastructure is minor (some pipes, a few feet deeper on an existing well), then the Telemetry Study will pay for it. If the infrastructure is major (an entirely new pumphouse and pump) it would probably (but not absolutely) make the site ineligible for participation.

**2- State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Water Data Consortium Telemetry Technical Advisory Committee:** The Committee met several times to develop project scope and deliverables, discuss obstacles to data monitoring, and SB88.

**2-Assemblymember Chris Rogers meeting:** A group of water representatives from Mendocino and Sonoma County met with Rogers and two staff members, providing updates on various water supply and farming issues.

**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-Annexation of Redwood Valley County Water District Service Area:** See Agenda Item 6 of this meeting. More information can be found on the RRFCD website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/proposed-application-for-annexation-of-redwood-valley-county-water-district-2025>

**1-Change Petition:** After the Board approval of the application on June 7<sup>th</sup>, there were some additional mapping edits as expected and clarifying language was added for points of diversion/diversion and irrigated lands. Required agency consultations were requested on July 11, 2025 and the full petition package was submitted on July 15, 2025.

(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: (1) attended Charting California's Future in AI Governance: A conversation with the co-leads of the Joint California Policy Working Group on AI Frontier Models report. (2) Website Administration training

**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.**

**City of Ukiah (7/2/25):** Council considered adoption of a resolution authorizing SAFER grant through the Ukiah Valley Water Authority.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) 7/7/25:** It was a short meeting with no water or District related items.

**Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) (7/18/25):** The Commission held an extensive closed session. A Water Diversion Agreement for the trans basin diversion was approved. RRFC Trustee Reardan read out the **attached** letter from RRFC to IWPC regarding the Potter Valley Water Reliability Study cost share and the Commission approved the Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding for Overhead Services for Water Supply Reliability Study with Sonoma Water. IWPC is responsible for a cost share of \$67,280.82 for the Potter Valley Study which was not included in the annual budget. Legal Counsel Eric Nagy provided an update on the USACE General Investigation Study for Coyote Valley Dam at Lake Mendocino. A series of meetings have been held to cover background, scope, and receive feedback from the local sponsors (IWPC and Lytton Band of Pomo Indians.) RRFC reported on the Petition for Change of its main water right and an update on the Proposed Annexation of the Complete Service Area of Redwood Valley County Water District. The Eel Russian Project Authority is holding a meeting on Monday and RRFC Staff shared that proposed ERPA Executive Director David Manning was asked by RRFC to provide regular updates on ERPA issues at IWPC meetings. During the discussion of ongoing IWPC funding, RRFC recommended an IWPC ad hoc committee for budget development and discussion was held regarding RRFC's letter in a previous item. No Ad Hoc was formed.

**City of Ukiah (7/16/25):** The following consent calendar items were passed:

8a: service agreements with Hopland PUD, River Estates Mutual Water, and UV Sanitation District

8b: Application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund for Riverside Park Regeneration Project

**Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) (7/21/25):** The Water Diversion Agreement was approved. Additionally, authority was delegated to Sonoma Water to continue providing staff support to ERPA including the appointment of David Manning (Sonoma Water) as the Executive Director of ERPA. More information on the meeting: <https://www.eelrussianauthority.org/meetings>

**Ukiah Valley Water Authority (UVWA) (7/24/25):** Staff reported on the status of the SAFER Planning Grant application and received many comments from members and the public.

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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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July 17, 2025

MC Inland Water & Power Commission  
PO Box 1247  
Ukiah, CA 95482

Dear All Member Agencies of MCIWPC,

**RE: Financial Contribution Request for the Potter Valley Water Reliability Study**

The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation District (RRFC) held an agenda item on the Potter Valley Water Reliability Study at its July 7, 2025 Board Meeting to discuss the request from IWPC for member agencies to consider a payment of \$67,280.82 toward expenses not covered in the grant funding.

The RRFC Board discussed what information and procedures it requires from IWPC to sufficiently plan for current and future financial contributions and to continue financial support to IWPC. The RRFC Board requests in the future that IWPC preapprove any proposed service agreements, execute the agreements, include project costs within the annual budget, and issue annual contribution invoices at the beginning of each fiscal year based on the approved budget. Additionally, if IWPC contracts for services, ongoing briefings to the Commission on the work are expected, including the benefits of the work to the IWPC constituency and how the work is promoting the mission of the IWPC membership.

In the case of the Potter Valley Water Reliability Study specifically, the RRFC Board requires the Cooperative Agreement to Provide Funding for Overhead Services for Water Supply Reliability Study (Agreement) between Sonoma Water and Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission be finalized and approved by IWPC prior to RRFC financially contributing to the Study. This Agreement was drafted in November 2024 laying out terms for Sonoma Water to undertake the work and IWPC to pay Sonoma Water staff costs not covered by the funding.

In its discussion, the RRFC Board emphasized that a publicly transparent process matters. IWPC project expenses are expected to increase dramatically, based on presentations made by IWPC legal counsel and consultants at the IWPC All Members Joint Meeting on May 29, 2025. At this time, it is not known what member contribution amount IWPC will request next, nor when that request will be received. It is vital that the Commission be prepared to develop this information to provide member agencies adequate information and time to continue financial contributions.

The RRFC Board supports IWPC as a coalition working to safeguard regional water supply throughout the IWPC constituency and believes supporting IWPC member agencies is within the spirit of the Commission. Therefore, RRFC is willing to financially contribute toward the Potter Valley Water Reliability Study when the stated requests are met.

Sincerely,

*John Reardan*

John Reardan  
RRFC Representative on IWPC

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