

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

General Manager's Report for January 2026
Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, February 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)

2-Potter Valley Project Future: A public letter from the Round Valley Indian Tribes (RVIT) to US Secretary of Agriculture Rollins and US Secretary of the Interior Burgum regarding the future of the trans basin diversion. 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>

2-PG&E Potter Valley Project License Amendment: PG&E submitted a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) with comments on the draft 401 Water Quality Certification issued by the State Water Resources Control Board on December 22, 2025 for the pending license amendment application. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/potter-valley-project-license-amendment-2025>

3-US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation for Increased Storage at Lake Mendocino: The Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) consultant Eric Nagy shared that an appropriations bill was passed and signed by the President on Friday 1/23/26 allocating \$7.5 million for funding USACE studies. IWPC will know in the next few months if the Study, which is currently on pause due to lack of appropriations, will be funded to continue. See the attached January update regarding the project; another update is expected soon. 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-Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA): The GSA technical team held a public webinar to provide updates and receive comments on the Upper Russian River Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Interconnected Surface Water Study. Materials can be accessed by visiting the City of Ukiah's Meetings Website: <https://cityofukiah.com/meetings/> with information on how to provide comments to the technical team. Comments and questions may be submitted via email to either: Blake Adams, General Manager Badams@cityofukiah.com or Audra Bardsley, Larry Walker Associates Audrab@lwa.com
Recording: <https://ukiahca.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2473/media>

1-Water Sharing Program: The working group met to discuss developing standards for the critical season of diversion of the 10,000 acre foot reserve pool in Lake Mendocino for Sonoma County water right holders.

1-Public Policy Facilitating Committee Meeting (2025 Biological Opinion): Sonoma Water held the Committee meeting. For more information visit Sonoma Water's webpage: <https://www.sonomawater.org/biological-opinion-outreach>

(Continued...)

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-Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA): The District submitted notice to ACWA that it will not be renewing membership for 2026.

2-SWRCB Funded Telemetry Pilot: Work continued to secure legal agreements, discuss site and equipment specifics, and plan next phase of implementation. All current participants that are RRFC customers were added to the Alternative Compliance Plan.

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 Use: District Staff working on meter downloads and annual water use reporting to State Water Resources Control Board and reporting completed by deadline.

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 training on Creating a Workplace of Respect: A Guide for Special District Leaders. (2) CSDA Brown Act Update 2026 (comprehensive legal update on the Brown Act, we will discuss those changes as well as provide a refresher on key provisions of the Brown Act.) (3) CPS HR webinar on Developing Succession Planning Strategy for Small to Medium Sized Companies. (4) CSDA 2026 Annual Employment Law Update

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 (1/7/26): cancelled

Board of Supervisors (1/6/26): Supervisor Haschak supported Supervisor Mulheren as the regular seat on IWPC representing the County, with Supervisor Cline as the alternate seat. Supervisor Cline spoke in favor of remaining as the regular representative. Supervisor Williams asked if she would be representing her constituents or the County. Discussion was held and public comment taken. Supervisor Haschak's vote failed, including a no vote by Supervisor Mulheren. The Board then approved the recommended slate which appointed Cline as the regular and Mulheren as the alternate. (video around 47:00

https://mendocino.granicus.com/player/clip/487?view_id=1&meta_id=656251&redirect=true)

Ukiah Valley Water Authority (1/8/26): A moment was taken to recognize the passing of Jerry Cardoza, a Millview Board member and Executive Water Committee member. Tom Schoneman was appointed as the 2026 Chair and a new policy adopted for rotation of officers. City of Ukiah Director of Water Resources, Jared Walker, provided an update on the SAFER application for funding. Consultants have received confirmation from the State Water Board that the application was received. Walker noted it is typically a 3-6 month process for potential approval. Consultants will continue to check in on progress. Walker also provided an operational update including storage levels at Lake Mendocino.

(Continued...)

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (1/8/26): The Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) Executive Director, David Manning, reported progress has been made in obtaining the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) grant funding. An interim director has been appointed to replace Chuck Bonham at CDFW while recruiting for the permanent position. No ERPA meeting is currently scheduled. IWPC consultant Tom Johnson presented on Potter Valley storage. The Commission approved the Master Reimbursement Agreement for ERPA members. IWPC consultant Eric Nagy provided an update on the USACE GI (see Priority 1 of this report.) The main focus is now securing funding to the USACE to continue the study. Sonoma Water is holding the 2025 Public Policy Facilitating Committee Reports on January 21st Chris Watt, Janet Pauli, and Madeline Cline are appointed by the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors to the Committee. Janet Pauli was reelected as the IWPC Chair and John Rerardan was reelected as the IWPC Vice Chair. Legal Counsel and ERPA Executive Director David Manning provided feedback on the public comments and Motions to Intervene regarding PG&E's final surrender and decommissioning application.

Redwood Valley Water District (1/15/26): Two candidates for Board appointment were considered to replace Bree Klotter. The Board decided to wait on appointment and a special meeting was scheduled for January 26, 2026.

Board of Supervisors (1/16/26): CEO Darci Antle announced her retirement date of June 30, 2026.

Millview Water (1/20/26): Cancelled.

City of Ukiah (1/21/26): The Council approved an exception to the 180 day waiting period for a part time employment agreement with Sean White, the newly retired Director of Water Resources due to his extensive institutional knowledge of the City's water resources and his demonstrated experience managing the Ukiah Valley Water Authority SAFER Project and to provide continuity of operations and to assist in the transition, training, and knowledge transfer to the newly appointed Water Resources Director, Jared Walker.

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



Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study January 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
- Joint meeting between IWPC, Sonoma Water, and OMB held on December 19th
- Next CVD Ad Hoc Committee Meeting – January 26th.

- **Funding Outlook**

- Continuing Resolution through January 30th. Congress working to avoid another shutdown through “minibus” bills.
- Minibus bill released this week includes Energy & Water Development Appropriations Act (EWDAA) which funds USACE. Could be passed by Congress as early as the end of next week.
- Current Opportunities for Funding:
 - FY26 EWDAA:
 - Conference Report released by the House and Senate this week.
 - ~ \$150M for investigations (GI) but CVD not specifically identified
 - Includes USACE GI Workplan of \$7.5M
 - FY27 President’s Budget:
 - 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: 1/6/2026

- 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

