

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

**General Manager's Report for June 2025**  
*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, July 7, 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)

**1-RR/Lake Mendocino 2025 operations:** The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) approved the Sonoma Water Agency Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed on April 10<sup>th</sup> to modify the criteria for establishing the water supply conditions and the minimum instream flow requirements for the Russian River watershed that were established by Decision 1610. More information:

<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/2025-russian-river-and-lake-mendocino-operations>

**1-Russian River/Lake Mendocino Operations:** In response to the 2025 Russian River Biological Opinion (BO), Sonoma Water is convening a Russian River Reservoir Operations Workgroup (RRROW) for Lakes Mendocino and Sonoma. This group will consist of designated members with technical expertise in reservoir operations and Russian River resources from the following coordinating agencies: Sonoma Water, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board). RRFC GM has also been asked to participate. The RRROW will be responsible for assessing environmental conditions (weather forecasts, water quality), reservoir storage, and the timing, magnitude and duration of releases to benefit juvenile and/or adult salmonids from the 2,500 ac-ft blockwater storage reservation in Lake Sonoma and available water supply in Lake Mendocino. The RRROW will focus discussions regarding adaptive management of reservoir releases during the fall through spring timeframe. Sonoma Water will develop storage projections for the Lakes on a monthly basis based on existing conditions and hydrologic forecasts to support planning decisions.

**2-PG&E Public Draft Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan:** Visit the District's website for the most recent updates including articles and comment letters: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/pg-e-draft-surrender-application-and-decommissioning-plan-for-the-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. PG&E submitted a follow-up technical memo to FERC. There has been at least one public comment requesting urgent approval. PG&E has also submitted an Application for Non-Capacity License Amendment and a temporary flow variance request to perform repairs in November 2025. FERC requested further information on this application. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/updates>, including comment letters submitted which are uploaded as received.

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**4-Lake Mendocino's Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study:** In April 2025 "State and local politicians, tribal officials and representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers met ... at Lake Mendocino to formalize a cost-sharing agreement for the Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study." "A new partnership between three organizations will explore options for raising the dam at Lake Mendocino to boost the water supply supporting agriculture and recreation." Several background meetings were held in June in which RRFC GM attended as part of the team representing the local sponsor, IWPC. Project review and information on scope and cost were shared. 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 Executive Director selection process continued with refinement of the timeline and development of the recruitment materials, approved by the full ACWA board.

**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 5 of this meeting. More information can be found on the RRFC website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lafco-msr-soi-update-annexation-application-2025>

**1-Change Petition:** See Agenda Item 6 of this meeting.

**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) The California Water Data Consortium hosted Summer Roundtable themed "Putting Water Data to Work: Maximizing the Climate Bond's Impact" in Sacramento. (2) CSDA Webinar: Mastering Good Governance for a Better Board and District. (3) As a member of the UPWARD Advisory Group, GM worked on the test version of the new water rights reporting platform CalWATRS and provided feedback (<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/upward/calwatrs/>) (4) Attended CalPERS webinar on completing the Social Security Administrator Program annual report.

**3-Strategic Plan Update/ GM Evaluation:** Board feedback was provided to CPS HR who is now preparing a proposal and timeline.

**4-Finances:** The Fiscal Year 2024-2025 audit preparation has started.

<b>Community Meetings</b>
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**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 (5/21/25):** Nothing water related to note.

**Mendocino County MC IWPC All Member Board Meeting (5/29/25):** Meeting materials and video can be found on the City of Ukiah website: <https://ukiahca.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2298/media>

**Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (6/4/25):** URRWA voted to disband.

**Ukiah Valley Water Authority (6/5/25):** Cancelled.

**Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVB GSA) (6/12/25):** John Bailey stood in for Chris Watt as the RRFC representative. The GSA Board passed the FY 25-26 budget with a 2.2% increase to the groundwater sustainability fee to keep pace with inflation. Approval was given to continue four consultant contracts into the next fiscal year. The GM gave an update on the Facilitation Support Services funded by DWR to help with outreach, Tribal engagement, and development of a strategic plan as well as an update on the vendor selection and contract for the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife grant for the Interconnected Surface Water study being undertaken by Larry Walker & Associates. Legal Counsel reported that the Upper Russian River Water Agency JPA disbanded and provided notice of its withdrawal from the GSA, starting the required notice period. The Ukiah Valley Water Authority has expressed interest in joining the JPA; legal counsel and staff will continue working on this.

**Inland Water & Power Commission (6/23/25):** The Water Diversion Agreement is scheduled to be finalized and signed by the various parties sometimes in July. Chair Pauli presented the request for IWPC to pay for Sonoma Water Agency's work on the Potter Valley Water Reliability Study by Jacobs Engineering, handing out a cost break down and noted since the detail was not available until today, IWPC had not budgeted for this. The Commission agreed to bring the item back at the next meeting. Eric Nagy provided a briefing on the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study. The USACE has started the meetings to review the project and help define the scope and cost of the project. He spoke about the Federal appropriations and the uncertainty under the current Federal administration. The Commission approved a permanent meeting time change to 5 PM.

IWPC Outreach on securing water for the region's future

<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/mendocino-county-inland-water-power-commission-securing-water-for-the-future>

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