

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

## **General Manager's Report for June 2024**

*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, July 1, 2024*

**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-Russian River Flows:** On April 15, 2024 Sonoma Water filed temporary urgency change petitions (TUCPs) with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights (SWRCB.) The petitions were submitted to modify the minimum instream flow requirements for the Russian River as established by Decision 1610. On June 6, 2024, the SWRCB issued an Order Approving Temporary Urgency Change. More information on District Website (<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/updates-on-russian-river-and-lake-mendocino>) and Sonoma Water Agency's TUCP page. (<https://www.sonomawater.org/tucp>)

**2-Trans Basin Diversion future:** PG&E issued the following notice in late May regarding its filing to FERC for an extension on the decommissioning plan. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://www.rrfc.net/updates-potter-valley-project-future>

You are receiving this update because you are on the service list or responded to PG&E's Initial Draft Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan for PG&E's Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project (Potter Valley), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) No.77.

PG&E will be submitting to FERC an Extension of Time (EOT) request for the Final Draft Surrender Agreement (Final Draft SA) as well as the Final Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan (Final SA). PG&E will propose the Final Draft SA be available for comment in January 2025 instead of June 2024 as currently detailed in the Plan and Schedule approved by FERC on July 29, 2022. PG&E will also propose the Final SA being submitted to FERC in June 2025 (previously January 2025).

PG&E is committed to supporting the Proponent's (Sonoma County Water Agency, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission, Humboldt County, Round Valley Indian Tribes, California Trout, Trout Unlimited, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife) Proposal of a New Eel-Russian Facility. PG&E and the Eel-Russian Project Authority will enter into legal agreements addressing construction obligations, permitting, and facility transfers. PG&E, the Proponents, and others have formed a steering committee to develop a Surrender Application MOU to best bring shared interests into one agreement that aligns with PG&E's Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan. In addition, PG&E will attempt to enter into legal agreements with other agencies and parties where their interest related to the Potter Valley facility removal fall outside of the FERC Surrender proceeding. This approach demonstrates PG&E's interest in efficiently completing the regulatory approval processes in consideration of mutual interests. PG&E believes the additional time to consult with agencies and other interested parties will result in a more robust Final SA and ultimately in a quicker path for the decommissioning of the Potter Valley Project.

I look forward to your ongoing input into this process. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

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**2-Eel River flows & variance:** FERC received several requests to urgently approve PG&E's flow variance for 2024. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/updates-potter-valley-project-future>

**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-Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):** The GSA Board approved both the Rate & Fee Study implementation and the FY 24-25 Budget. The Board approved contract amendments for RCD, Larry Walker, and CLSI but held off on the West Yost request to both extend the length and increase the amount of its service contract. More information on the GSA website: <https://ukiahvalleygroundwater.org/agenda-minutes/>

**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.)

**2-State Water Resources Control Board Telemetry Pilot:** A full day tour was led by GM Salomone and President Watt for SWRCB staff and consultants including several City facilities led by Sean White. A public workshop was held the following morning. More information: <https://cawaterdata.org/projects/telemetered-data-project/>

**2-Association of CA Water Agencies (ACWA):** The ACWA State Legislative Committee met to respond to developing legislation and regulations. The ACWA Board met. ACWA staff continue to work on the climate resiliency bond approval and other pressing 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-Customer Water Use:** A Customer letter was issued and can be found on the District website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/2024-customer-correspondence>

**1-Change Petition:** A pre-petition proposal was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, as requested. In early May, a response was received, and staff is working with legal counsel to finalize the change petition for submission.

**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:** GM attended the following meetings/webinars: (1) SWRCB Telemetry Technical Group Meeting. (2) Unlocking Grant Potential: A guide for districts to access federal funding. (3) SWRCB public meeting to introduce the Division of Water Rights' Supply and Demand Assessment Program and solicit input on the selection of watersheds for new water supply and demand modeling efforts. (4) ACWA/GRA hosted SGMA Implementation Summit. (5) ACWA Board meeting. (6) Led a tour for Telemetry Pilot folks, attended the ½ day workshop on the Telemetry pilot. (7) CA Land Stewardship Institute (CLSI) steering committee for Bureau of Reclamation grant funded groundwater modeling project. (8) SWRCB webinar on temporary permits for groundwater recharge.

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**3- Human Resources:** The District is using a local employment agency, engaging temporary staff to assist with some tasks.

**3-Metering:** The Resource Conservation District contract has ended, and GM is once again covering all metering and monitoring issues. McCrometer accessories, warranty replacements, and returns are still pending. New meters from TechnoFlo have been received and some installed.

**4-Finances:** Engagement letter for the next audit was signed and submitted to Nigro & Nigro.

### 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 (6/5/24):** Staff gave a presentation that included an update on the recycled water project phase 4 development.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (6/3/24):** The Commission approved the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget.

**Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) 6/13/24:** Presentation by Lake County Supervisors Crandall and Sabatier. Lake Pillsbury decommissioning is expected to create a loss of \$750k in county tax revenue and \$40m in property value. Also discussed fire mitigation concerns. The next Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) meeting was planned for July 2024. However with PG&E requesting a delay to the decommissioning plan submission and no significant new public information available, the meeting has been postponed. An update was given on Coyote Valley Dam modernizations. The Commission approved and operations budget of \$17,565 and a special projects budget initial estimate of \$300k and also held a closed

**City of Ukiah (6/19/24):** Staff provided an update on the recycled water project phase 4 development including impacts on roads and traffic.

**Redwood Valley Water District (6/20/24):** GM covered some operational issues, the SWRCB telemetry pilot project, and the PG&E flow variance submitted to FERC, noting the recent letter PG&E sent urging a decision. The Redwood Valley District received an insurance payment but is still waiting for over \$200,000 in reimbursements for the grant funded project that LACO is managing. Discussed giving formal notice to Willow County Water District to terminate the service agreement was discussed. Board members were reminded of filing deadlines for expiring terms. Surplus water supply from Russian River Flood Control was discussed. Director Klotter provided a report on the last Inland Water & Power Commission meeting where Lake County made a presentation, technical work being done, and the visit by Congressman Jared Huffman. The application to the State under the SAFER program for funding the consolidation of services and infrastructure improvements and an interim water sharing agreement between the water suppliers was discussed. The Board postponed the contribution to IWPC item on member contributions and voted to amend the LACO contract cop amount by \$18,000 for additional studies.

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