

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

**General Manager's Report for September 2026**  
*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, October 5, 2026*

**Priority 1: Water Supply Security ~ Ensure reliable, resilient, and available sources of water.**

(1: Improve river & reservoir operations. 2: Advance fair & reliable trans basin diversions. 3: Increased storage capacity. 4: Ensure effective and beneficial use of District water as a public resource.)

**1-Eel River & Reservoir Operations:** See Agenda Item 9: Water Supply Conditions Update.

**2-Future of the Trans Basin Diversion:** See Agenda Item 6: Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) Updates. 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 Capacity at Lake Mendocino:** See Agenda Item 6: Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) Updates. More information can be found on the District's website:  
<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lake-mendocino-s-coyote-valley-dam-general-investigation-study>

**4-LAFCo Application for Annexation of Redwood Valley County Water District's service area:** The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) has scheduled and noticed the Public Hearing to consider approval of the application for Monday, October 5, 2026. A verbal update will be provided under Agenda item 11: Trustee and Ad Hoc Committee Reports. More information can be found on the District's website:  
<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/proposed-annexation-of-redwood-valley-county-water-district-2025-2026>

**Priority 2: Strategic Partnerships ~ Collaborate with partners to achieve aligned goals for a mutual benefit.** (1: Cultivate trusted relationships with community partners for regional water security. 2: Expanded relationships with non-traditional partners and stakeholders in pursuit of enhanced Environmental Stewardship. 3: Promote clarity on shared goals and initiatives with our strategic partners.)

**1-Water Sharing Program:** The working group met and discussed the 10,000 acre foot reserve, a revised plan outline, and next steps. More information on the District's webpage: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/upper-russian-river-voluntary-water-sharing-program>

**3-Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission Recruitment for an Executive Director:** See Agenda Item 6: Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) Updates.

**Priority 3: Advocacy & Engagement ~ Be an influential voice for our region through outreach, education, funding, regulation, & legislation.** (1: Improve public awareness and understanding of the importance of water issues. (2) Pursue State and Federal governmental policy and funding support.)

**2-State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Funded Telemetry Pilot:** New equipment continues to be installed and monitored. Plans are underway to remove and store some equipment for the rainy season.

*(Continued...)*

**Priority 4: Governance and Operational Excellence ~ 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, administration, and human resources to execute the strategic plan. 4: Sound and sustainable management of District finances.)

**1-Executive Leadership:** Attended or watched: (1) CalPERS 2025-26 Investment Returns & Employer Impacts Webinar

**2-Board of Trustees:** Three seats expire in early December 2026. Two Trustees were able to file and because the number of candidates did not exceed the open seats they were appointed in lieu of an election. One Trustee was unable to file during the time required and indicated they will be seeking appointment by the Board of Supervisors as allowed. See **attached** notice from the County of Mendocino.

### Community Meetings

**City of Ukiah (9/2/26):** Nothing water related to note.

**Ukiah Valley Water Authority (9/3/26):** Staff reported that the SAFER planning grant progress is still tracking well with no additional information requested by the State Water Resources Control Board staff. It is expected that the planning application will be considered for award in October or November for approximately \$16 million, which would be awarded in phases. Staff proposed a shared direct cost allocation methodology, the final FY 26-27 budget, and an amendment to the adopted FY 26-27 budget which were all approved after a long and in-depth review and discussion. Staff reported on a capital improvement project that will likely lead to a lucrative lease with Cal Fire for the Millview Water District and a request for a budget amendment was approved. The next meeting is October 1, 2026.

**Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (9/10/26):** During Public Comment, Sean White provided an update on his personal investigation and litigation against the US Army Corp of Engineers regarding turbidity issues in the mainstem Russian River due to Coyote Valley Dam releases. The Asset Ad Hoc Committee presented an example project to help describe the general process without violating the confidentiality issues regarding the Potter Valley Project. The next Eel Russian Project Authority will be scheduled for November in Ukiah, specifics TBD. The staff report from the Executive Director recruitment ad hoc committee was presented. An update was provided by the Marketing and Public Education Ad Hoc, reviewing recent press releases. Staff reported on progress in engaging an auditor. A presentation was given by the US Army Corp Feasibility Study Ad Hoc Committee working to expand storage capacity at Lake Mendocino. The Committee interviewed Federal Lobbyists and made a recommendation to the Commission approved engaging Julie Minerva from Carpi & Clay. Legal Counsel provided an update on the CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife funding and the process for reimbursements to IWPC. Counsel also shared that Sonoma Water has been seeking to obtain Federal funding for \$15 million for the region. Ongoing discussions with the Bureau of Reclamation / Department of Interior continue to identify the water storage projects to be funded and the Commission will be kept updated on progress.

**City of Ukiah (9/16/26):** Councilmember Rodin reported on progress at the Inland Water & Power Commission in several areas. Staff reported success on a recent well drilling exercise (300 ft deep with 4 separate zones/strata with individual perforations.)

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