

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

General Manager's Report for June 2026

Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, July 6, 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-PG&E Drought Working Group (DWG): With the approval of the 2026 flow variance, the DWG started meeting regularly to receive reports on storage conditions at Lake Pillsbury and other operations of PVP.

PG&E does not propose dropping flows below 25 cfs at this time; will reassess conditions at the July DWG meeting. When the report is provided, it will be posted on the District website:

<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/current-pg-e-potter-valley-project-operations>

2-Future of the Trans Basin Diversion:

- (a) PG&E issued a new “information packet” on the decommissioning process.
- (b) The New Eel Russian Facility NERF Revenue Study advisory group met to receive an update from consultant Jacobs on progress of a draft report. See Agenda Item 8: Reserves Policy Review for more information.
- (c) Potter Valley Project Acquisition Interests- Recent articles are linked on the District's website:
<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/future-of-the-eel-river-to-russian-river-trans-basin-diversion-potter-valley-project>
- (d) FERC Scoping Document for Potter Valley Project- The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission published a Notice of Scoping Meeting and Request for Comments on the Proposed Surrender, Decommissioning, and Non-Project use of Project Lands (NERF) dated May 22, 2026.
FERC will prepare a document discussing the environmental impacts of both the decommissioning and the building of the New Eel Russian Facility (NERF.) FERC will use this document in its decision-making process to identify potential adverse and beneficial impacts of the proposed project surrender and reasonable alternatives. The scoping process gathers input regarding the environmental impacts of the proposal. Specifically, FERC staff request comments on potential alternatives and impacts, as well as identification of any relevant information, studies, or analyses concerning effects on the quality of the human environment. Comments are due Friday, July 24, 2026.

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: The Inland Water & Power Commission Ad Hoc Committee met several times to develop and review draft content regarding options for progressing the study. The Commission is receiving presentations over several meetings and will then provide direction. 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: LAFCo has tentatively set the public hearing for the Annexation for Monday, September 14, 2026. See agenda item 10 of this meeting for in an update on the tax sharing. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/proposed-annexation-of-redwood-valley-county-water-district-2025-2026>

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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 to assess progress and plan next steps for developing a memo proposing the voluntary management of the 10k acre feet reserve in Lake Mendocino for water rights in Sonoma County.

3-Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission: The website has been updated.

3-Alexander Valley Special District Formation: During the May 6 Sonoma County Local Agency Formation Committee public hearing, the Commission reached a 2-4 vote regarding the structure of the proposed district. Specifically, the majority favored a registered-voter district model over the landowner-voted district proposed—a decision that ultimately led to the denial of the current application. Sonoma LAFCO will hold a hearing on Wednesday, August 5 to reconsider its denial of the Alexander Valley Water District following the Russian River Property Owner’s Association (RRPOA) formal request for reconsideration. The full request letter to LAFCo: avwater.org. If the reconsideration is denied, the entire process must restart which could result in a year-long delay, gathering new petition signatures, and shifting from a landowner-driven district to a voter-based district. The RRPOA is requesting support letters.

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.)

1-District Customer Meeting: A District-Customer meeting was held in June to provide updates on water supply conditions, water reliability efforts, District water rates and policy development, and more. A follow up Customer Advisory Meeting was held later in the month with 4 Customers providing feedback on Article 12 of the Uniform Water Supply & Purchase Agreement.

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) Webinar: From Field to Policy: Scaling Sustainable Agriculture. (2) Virtual webinar on Reserve Strategies by CSDA. -“This session explores the journey from drafting a reserve policy to implementing it effectively.” (3) Virtual webinar “Grant Writing in Today's Funding Landscape” (4) Virtual webinar on CalPERS 457 program (5) Virtual webinar on CalPERS Social Security.

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.

Local Agency Formation Commission (6/1/26): City Representatives to LAFCo were announced

City of Ukiah (6/3/26): Nothing water related to note.

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Ukiah Valley Water Authority (6/4/26): This lengthy meeting included an in-depth presentation regarding all member agency financial status and budgets. Staff was provided direction for preliminary acceptance with continued review at the August 6, 2026 meeting. Staff presented a concept to combine the individual Water Authority member agency wholesale water contracts with the Flood Control District and the benefits it could bring. Direction to Staff was given to bring back for further consideration. Staff provided an update on the SAFER grant funding and project development. Staff and Legal Counsel reported on the interest of the Water Authority joining the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC.) There is interest from IWPC so parties are moving forward through the administrative process.

Inland Water & Power Commission (6/10/26)-rescheduled from Thursday (6/11/2026): (1)

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Schoneman (Redwood Valley County Water District) shared that there is interest from the Ukiah Valley Water Authority governance to join IWPC in place of Redwood Valley County Water District. Commissioner Cline reported on meeting with California Trout and one topic was regarding a model run and data being developed by Sonoma Water on how much water could have been diverted in past years based on Water Diversion Agreement terms (as an example.) Eel River Project Authority (ERPA) Executive Director David Manning reported that SCWA staff are meeting within the week to review the draft product and anticipates reporting out to IWPC as soon as possible. (2) Budget: Chair Pauli reported that Potter Valley Irrigation District (PVID) approved the expenses and contribution amounts in the proposed IWPC budget, noting she made it clear to PVID that the variable contribution amounts from member agencies would not be a regular occurrence. The full FY 2026-27 budget including member agency contributions was passed. (3) A staff report was presented on the FERC Scoping Document issued recently. Discussion was held on the process for IWPC and its member agencies/partners submitting aligned comments. (4) NERF Update: ERPA ED Manning provided an update on the design work for the New Eel Russian Facility. (5) ERPA Update: ERPA ED Manning reported on the grant funding of approx. \$9 million from the CA Fish and Wildlife Department, outreach efforts. Alt Commissioner Koball asked about the management of the CDFW grant (what agency holds the contract, budget, etc.) ED Manning reported ERPA is the recipient of the grant and developed a budget that has been approved by CDFW. Environmental compliance for NERF, NERF design (99%), administrative costs, planning, permitting, Potter Valley groundwater resource exploration and the feasibility study for the Coyote Valley Dam USACE study. Scott Shapiro reported on the reimbursement process for IWPC and Sonoma Water through ERPA in relation to the CDFW grant. An ERPA Board meeting is tentatively August 6, after the finalization of the Agreement so the ERPA Board can approve a budget. (6) Water Storage Development: Eric Nagy reported that an earmark has been forwarded from Congressman Huffman, waiting for action. He presented a slide show (included in the packet.) (7) A staff report was presented on Commission Ad Hoc Committees. (8) Commissioner Rodin reported out from the Executive Director Recruitment Ad Hoc Committee and asked for clarification from the Commission on expectations for a plan and next steps.

Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board (6/11/26): (1) The Board approved the annual budget as presented after Chair Cline led a discussion on the proposed increase in fees, noting her understanding of the GSA's intent is not to "scale up" and grow but to stay lean, effective and meeting mandates, while taking advantage of funding such as Prop 4. (2) Staff received feedback regarding the update of governing documents. (3) An update presentation was provided on the 5 year periodic evaluation, which primarily focuses on describing progress on recommended corrective actions to the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Another update will be provided in July. (4) An update presentation was provided on the Upper Russian River Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem (GDE) and Interconnected Surface Water (ISW) Study. (5) The Board and staff discussed fee exception requests and consensus was reached for staff to review the split parcels for accuracy of fees. (6) DWR Representative provided an update. (7) General business items were addressed and the next board meeting is August 13, 2026. More information and recording:

<https://ukiahca.portal.civicclerk.com/event/4527/files/agenda/6297>

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City of Ukiah (6/17/26): (1) City Manager reported on City staff's concerns regarding the Potter Valley Project new developments. (2) The approved consent calendar included approval of a Groundwater Sustainability Agency Professional Services Agreement. (3) A Public Hearing was held and resulted in the Adoption of Resolution to Adopt an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Development and Construction of an Additional Municipal Well. (4) A Public Hearing was held and resulted in the Adoption of the Urban Water Mgmt Plan and the Water Shortage Contingency Plan. Some discussion about State regulation against non-functional turf irrigation and what entity is charged with enforcing it as well as some discussion about drought restrictions on water use.

Redwood Valley Water (6/18/26): No one from RRFC attended but RRFC GM did provide a written update for RV Staff on the annexation which was presented (below.) Chair Gaska shared with GM later that that RVCWD Board postponed approving a letter of resignation from IWPC, though it seems RV will not be making a financial contribution to IWPC in the short term.

Annexation Update: RRFC Staff and Ad Hoc met with County of Mendocino Staff and Annexation Ad Hoc (Norvell and Cline) to discuss the tax sharing agreement. Both parties support a zero tax exchange arrangement and are preparing to consider approval of the required resolutions to document the intent. Flood Control will consider the resolution at its next Regular Board meeting on Monday, July 6th. It is not confirmed what date the Supervisors will consider the resolution but possibly Tuesday, July 7th or Tuesday, July 21st. If both resolutions are passed, LAFCo is prepared to hold the public hearing to consider the Annexation Application at its Meeting on Monday September 14, 2026.

The Supervisors will likely consider the Resolution on the tax sharing agreement as a regular agenda item rather than a consent calendar item. Note – this is not an item to consider the merits of the project, for the County to take a position on the project, or to present the project in detail. This item is to consider only the resolution which essentially says that IF LAFCo approves the annexation, the County agrees to a zero tax exchange agreement with Flood Control.

RRFC Staff and Legal Counsel met with LAFCo Staff and LAFCo legal counsel at their request to discuss impacts of the lawsuit filed by Lee Howard and James John Ronco (regarding the project environmental documents) on the annexation application. Reminder: the lawsuit status is a “stay” until such time as LAFCo makes a decision on the application. The LAFCo process for considering the application does not change because of the lawsuit.

RVCWD is currently paid up on all cost sharing expenses. The RVCWD Board is welcome to request financial reports on the project at any time.

Attachments:

- None

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