

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

General Manager's Report for May 2025
Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, June 2, 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: Sonoma Water Agency submitted a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) on April 10th to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) 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. The District submitted a support letter (found in the May 5, 2025 Meeting materials.) More information: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/2025-russian-river-and-lake-mendocino-operations> Sonoma Water has now taken over operations from the USACE since Lake Mendocino is out of the flood pool. There have been incremental increases to releases over the last few weeks.

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) opened the public comment period for the PG&E temporary license flow amendment (previously referred to as a temporary flow variance) for the Potter Valley Project 2025 operations. PG&E has also submitted an Application for Non-Capacity License Amendment and a temporary flow variance request to perform repairs in November 2025. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/updates>, including comment letters submitted which are uploaded as received. The **attached** Motion to Intervene from the District was filed.

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." 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 discuss the 10,000 acre foot reserve pool in Lake Mendocino for Sonoma County and public engagement and outreach tactics.

3-Sonoma Water Climate Resiliency Pilot: Another Watershed Network Meeting was held with ~75 participants. Sonoma Water staff reviewed the timeline, goals, and deliverables. Survey results were reviewed.

(Continued...)

1-Farm Bureau Growers Meeting: The Farm Bureau held a meeting for members for a briefing on the Potter Valley Project issues, proposed Redwood Valley annexation, increasing pond storage, and the District's developing change petition.

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: (1) The SGMA Implementation Committee met and discussed filing Groundwater Sustainability Plan 5 year evaluations vs amendments. Since the Interconnected Surface Water guidance documents have only recently been released, it may indicate all GSAs needs to file an amendment to their GSP (rather than a 5 year evaluation) to align with guidance documents. Committee Chair will coordinate with DWR to attend a future meeting and discuss.

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: Consultants are preparing the required mapping. The annexation application will be submitted to LAFCo as soon as all required documentation and notice periods are completed. The Draft Plan for Services and other information can be found on the RRFC website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lafco-msr-soi-update-annexation-application-2025>

1-Change Petition: Work continues on the mapping and documentation for the petition, specifically focused on including all relevant points of diversion. A Temporary Urgency Change Petition is being developed and presented to the Board in a previous agenda item of this same 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) CSDA Webinar on GASB 68 (pension.) (2) CSDA webinar: Leadership Lessons with District Managers. (3) Sharing Data for Drought Resilience hosted by CA Water Data Consortium. (4) SDRMA (insurance) on how the Credit Incentive Program for discounts. (5) SWRCB Recharge & Permitting Team's Virtual Public Workshop for Stakeholders Who Plan to Pursue Surface Water Diversions. (6) HR Webinar: Mindfulness Strategies for Mental Health and Well-Being. (7) SWRCB UPWARD Advisory Group meeting to introduce a test model of the new CalWATRS system for water rights reporting. (8) SWRCB Telemetry TAC meeting.

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.

Ukiah Valley Water Authority (5/1/25): City Attorney Phil Williams asked for consideration of a statement of policy regarding IWPC and ERPA, stating he believes it would be helpful to show the position of solidarity in the Mendocino County partners to Sonoma County partners and beyond. General consensus was to return with a draft to consider. RVCWD Board Member Tom Schoeman questioned the position RVCWD Board Member and UVWA Chair Adam Gaska and his role in drafting the Farm Bureau letter to the federal administration as the Executive Director of the Mendocino County Farm Bureau.

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City Staff Sean White offered comments towards mindfulness and partnership. IWPC Chair Janet Pauli spoke regarding the UVWA's consideration of joining IWPC. She covered the history of IWPC formation, PG&E's decommissioning of PVP, IWPC funding, the Coyote Valley Dam project, etc. A discussion was held regarding the City of Ukiah's proposed reorganization including annexation of all of Willow, parts of Millview & Sanitation District, etc. Phil Williams noted the groundwork has been laid over the past five years through previous LAFCo actions, etc. Millview Board Member Jerry Cardoza shared concern in the process around which his request for Millview to retain one seat on the Water Executive Committee in representation of the remaining portion of Millview that will not be annexed into the City. Sean White expressed understanding of Cordoza's concerns and committed to research it more. Staff provided an update on the SAFER funding application. Some of the member Districts will be asked for resolutions of support and financial documentation for the application. A progress update on the consolidation of services was provided, noting construction projects. The Redwood Valley Water District well drilling project has resulted in test pumping at 300 gpm. The City has the CEQA document coming to City Council for approval for another groundwater well. The combined crew of 39 individuals under the City has proved successful. Mendo Fever article: <https://mendofever.com/2025/05/13/mendocino-water-leaders-clash-over-future-of-scott-dam/>

Local Agency Formation Commission (5/5/25): The District's Municipal Service Review and Sphere of Influence update was approved by the Commission in a public hearing. The final budget and work program for FY 2025-26 was approved.

Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (5/7/25): The TAC provided feedback to the Facilitation Support Services Ad Hoc Committee on public outreach, education, and engagement. Suggestions were solicited in updating governing documents. Partners provided updates on various projects and water related activities in the basin. It was decided TAC meetings will be scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of February, May, and October each year, with special meetings being called as needed to advise the GSA Board on technical matters.

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) (5/8/25): No closed session was held. There is consideration to move the time of the meetings from 6 pm to 5 pm. Meetings will be held in the main County admin building in Conference Room C beginning in June or July to provide better technical equipment. Partners continue to discuss development of a water diversion agreement. Negotiations continue with PG&E in support of the inclusion of the new diversion facility in PG&E's decommissioning plan. The next Eel River Project Authority (ERPA) meeting is in July; an agenda is forthcoming. Discussion was held regarding expanding IWPC staffing, which was not budgeted for the upcoming fiscal year. The Marketing and Public Education Ad Hoc Committee reported out from their first meeting. A draft fact sheet is being developed which will be shared at a future meeting. No formal meetings have been held with USACE on Coyote Valley Dam since the signing ceremony. An Ad Hoc Committee was appointed of Janet Pauli and Dave Koball. The FY 2025/26 Budget was approved. Mendo Fever article: <https://mendofever.com/2025/05/19/mendocino-officials-brace-for-pges-abandonment-of-the-potter-valley-project/>

MC IWPC All Member Board Meeting (5/29/25): This lengthy meeting provided a comprehensive overview of both the Trans Basin Diversion project and the Coyote Valley Dam Feasibility Study project. A closed session was held.

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Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

P.O. Box 2104 Ukiah, CA 95482 707.462.5278 Website: RRFC.net DistrictManager@rrfc.net

May 12, 2025

By electronic filing

Debbie-Ann A. Reese, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20426

Dear Secretary Reese,

Re: NOTICE OF INTERVENTION

Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project No. P-77-323 - Application for Temporary Variance of Flow Requirements

Applicant: Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Notice of filing MOTION TO INTERVENE by the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District

The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (“District”) submits this Notice of Intervention for P-77-323 in response to FERC’s Notice of Application for Temporary Flow Modification Accepted for Filing, Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene and Protests re PG&E’s Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project issued April 16, 2025.

The District was formed primarily to manage and put to beneficial use the approximately 8,000 acre feet of water allocated to Mendocino County from the East Fork Russian River and Lake Mendocino. The District has substantial water supply contracts with County Water Districts and Mutual Water Companies for municipal supply, as well as agricultural, commercial, and industrial users within our service area. Diversions from the Eel River through the Potter Valley Project (PVP) provide a substantial portion of this water. Therefore, the District wishes to become a party to this proceeding to ensure the interests of the District’s constituency are represented.

Please include the following person on the official service list for any matter relating to these proceedings:

Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager
MCRRFC&WCID
PO Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482
DistrictManager@rrfc.net

With respect,



Elizabeth Salomone
General Manager

Cc: Service List

President
Christopher Watt

Vice President
Tyler Rodrigue

Treasurer
John Bailey

Trustee
John Reardan

Trustee
Dave Koball