

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

General Manager's Report for September 2023

Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, October 10, 2023

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-Potter Valley Project (PVP) Operations: On October 2, 2023, FERC issued an order approving PG&E's Temporary Variance of Flow Requirements that will be in effect until Lake Pillsbury storage exceeds 36,000 acre-feet following October 1, 2023, or when the variance is superseded by another variance. On October 4, 2023, FERC responded to the Long-Term Flow Regime Request Due to Restricted Storage Capacity submitted by PG&E on July 31, 2023, a copy of which can be found on the District website (<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/updates>).

2-Russian River Water Forum: The Planning Group meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023 was cancelled at late notice and not rescheduled. The next Planning Group meeting was October 5, 2023. The Steering Committee met and received an update from Sonoma Water's Mike Thompson on the Proponent's Proposal to PG&E, discussed future Planning Group meetings, and reviewed the Resiliency Subcommittee agenda for the kickoff meeting. The Water Rights Working Group met to discuss the development of a comprehensive educational presentation. The first Water Resiliency Subcommittee meeting was held. An exercise was conducted to gather input on the vision for water resiliency in the RR Basin. This included defining resilience, confirming subtopics within resilience (supply, water quality, conservation, etc.) and outcomes for success. Potential work products were discussed. More information on Forum: <https://russianriverwaterforum.org/>

2-Eel/Russian River Trans Basin Diversion Future: PG&E issued the following on October 2, 2023:

PG&E statement on Sonoma/Mendocino/RVIT Proposal for Potter Valley Project's Draft Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan, October 3, 2023

PG&E has made a non-binding acceptance *in concept* of the Sonoma County Water Agency, Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission and the Round Valley Indian Tribes proposal and agrees to include it in our November 15th 2023 initial draft Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan (SA).

The acceptance of this proposal is non-binding and allows for continued discussion and Public Comment. The initial Draft SA will be available for public review in November 2023 and will also include PG&E's proposal to remove Cape Horn Dam.

- This proposal states that it has co-equal objectives of fish migration and water diversions.
- PG&E will include both the third-party proposal as well as our decommissioning plan in our initial Draft Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan.

(Continued...)

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 final grant awards for SGMA implementation were confirmed. The only GSAs that were added to the preliminary awards were in Sonoma County; Ukiah Valley still didn't get any funding.

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-Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA): The ACWA SGMA Implementation Committee met and discussion was primarily regarding the basins that were deemed inadequate and are now in the Probationary Process with the State Water Board- a different agency than has managed SGMA so far. At the ACWA Board meeting, reports were provided on varying lobbyist activities at State and Federal level. Regional Board Chairs and Vice Chairs, who make up the ACWA Board of Directors, were announced. For our Region 1, GM Salomone is the Chair and Jennifer Burke from Santa Rosa is Vice Chair, with terms beginning January 1, 2024.

2-State Water Board: GM Salomone was recently selected to be a member of the Updating Water Rights Data for California (UPWARD) advisory committee which met for the first time in September. UPWARD is charged with improving the way the state collects and manages its water rights data and information.

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-Water Right License Change Petition: Collaboration continued with Resource Conservation District on the development of the metering and data management program. Work continued with District Engineers and customers on the proposed change petition preparation.

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 a nature-based solutions webinar and Managed Aquifer Recharge Projects for Sustainable Groundwater Management webinar.

4-Finances: GM continued work on fiscal year end, budgeting, QuickBooks improvements, and reporting in collaboration with Accountant and Auditor.

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Community Meetings

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (9/6/23): Cancelled

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (9/11/23): The Commission approved the City of Ukiah Annexation of City-Owned Properties, reviewed the annual work plan, received reports on Commissioner terms and CALAFCO business.

Willow Water District (9/11/23): Conflict with the District's Board meeting; no one from the District attended.

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (MCIWPC) (9/14/23): A closed session was held – no report out. Chair Pauli shared that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) had unexpectedly not yet responded to PG&E's flow variance request. Chair Pauli shared water levels in Potter Valley's domestic wells are to be monitored and new monitoring well installation is planned. Chair Pauli shared the Russian River Biological Opinion is set to expire shortly.

Hopland Public Utility District (9/14/23): No one from the District attended.

Millview Water District (9/19/23): Trustee report to be provided at meeting.

City of Ukiah (9/20/23): Nothing water related to report.

Calpella Water District (9/20/23): No one from the District attended.

Redwood Valley Water District (9/21/23): Trustee report to be provided at meeting.

Inland Water & Power Commission Special Meeting (9/27/23): Meeting was primarily a closed session. Legal Counsel and Trustee report to be provided at meeting.

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