

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

General Manager's Report for June 2023

Presented at Special Meeting of Tuesday, July 18, 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)

See also the Agenda Item on Water Supply Conditions

2-Russian River Water Forum: Caucus members from agriculture, water suppliers, and Resource Conservation Districts of Mendocino and Sonoma County have met. The Planning Group met on zoom June 12, 20-23; slides and recording on the website under Meeting #2. Technical Briefings were held for the Water Rights Working Group and the Water Supply & Fisheries Working Group. These were recorded and posted on the website. Sonoma Water did not receive DWR funding to continue the Water Forum work; contributions will be required to continue work. Sonoma County and Sonoma Water retailers have committed funds; MCIWPC has voted to contribute, as well. <https://russianriverwaterforum.org/>

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) (5/3/23): The GSA did not receive the DWR Implementation Grant. The GSA sent a letter to DWR regarding the preliminary grant awards that do not include Ukiah Valley Basin GSA. DWR responded to the UVB GSA thanking them for the comment letter. No other information provided. The GSA Board met and discussed response to not receiving the implementation grant, approved a contract with a new rate and fee study consultant, amended current consultant contracts, etc. See agenda on the UVBGSA website for more information. It is expected the GSA will issue invoices for an additional \$30,000 in FY 2023/24 in addition to the budgeted \$68,000, in hopes that contributions will be reduced in the future with the implementation of rates/fees.

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-Public Awareness of Water Issues: GM presented at two Rotary Club meetings on the trans-basin diversion and future of water supply in the watershed.

2-ACWA: The Region 1 Board met to review the ACWA Board Packet prior to the quarterly ACWA Board meeting. GM attended the ACWA SGMA Implementation subcommittee which provides GSA's statewide an opportunity to share concerns, ideas, support, progress, etc.

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-Maximize Water Right: Balance Hydrologics staff are updating mapping for both customer contract management and preparation of the District license change petition. The lead consultant visited for a tour and discussion of the revised scope of work, including water rights reporting, change petition, and boundary changes.

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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 Groundwater Association/ACWA SGMA Implementation Summit in Sacramento, the Sonoma / Santa Rosa and Water Technology Alliance of Denmark Workshop, and several webinars throughout the month.

Community Meetings

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (MCIWPC) (5/31/23): The Commission held a Special Meeting comprising only of a Closed Session. No reportable action.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (6/5/23): Commission approved FY 23/34 Budget and reviewed workplan. Closed Session was held to interview prospective legal counsel candidates.

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (6/7/23): Cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (MCIWPC) (6/8/23): Commissioner reports: RRFC - held budget workshop and considered two basin questions. RVCWD - working on developing well at Masonite with grant funds. RR Water Forum: Mendo-Sonoma Caucus general discussion of impressions. Second Planning Group meeting is Monday June 12. Adoption of modified charter is on agenda for discussion. Trans-basin diversion operations: PGE variance filed. Temperature data from Lake Pillsbury shows pool elevation not critical to controlling warm water, therefore 30000 AF cold water pool isn't critical and 12000 AF pool is acceptable minimum. IWPC Finance ad-hoc: still working on benefit analysis and developing funding for trans-basin diversion planning, legal, and engineering support and grant matching funds. IWPC will be seeking \$50k per IWPC member for now. Coyote Valley Dam raise Feasibility Study - potential funding source via Huffman. Army Corps is asking questions to IWPC about justification for dam raise.

Hopland Public Utility District (6/8/23): No one from the District attended.

Willow Water District (6/11/23): Staff reported on State drinking water inspection- Norgard facility concern about adding chlorine contact tank because supply is under influence of surface water. Currently injecting chlorine into well casing. Possibly being asked to install water storage tank for chlorine contact. Staff reported on the first RR Water Forum Planning Group meeting; no comments from the Board. Staff reported on IWPC. Extra meetings are being held related to RRWF activities. Redwood Valley received invoice for \$50,000 from IWPC. Staff reported on water district service contracts - RV testing upgrades to water treatment plant. RRFC surplus water to be available going month by month. The 55 gppd limit on domestic water remains until commitment from RRFC on surplus water is final. Leak repair in all districts. Staff reported on water conservation- lake is very full and seems to only recently started to drop. Sonoma TUCP was approved which lowers in-stream flows. Next month will bring back resolution on change in water conservation stage. Staff reported on JPA/consolidation- Ad hoc discussion governance, expenses, rates. Recommendation to send redline draft of JPA consolidation agreement to State to see if on right track. Is it good enough for state to fund the consolidation project? State is aware parties haven't agreed. Concerns were expressed about complexity in developing a budget to operate the five consolidated entities. City supportive of inheriting water district service contracts. Question about punch list from legal counsel- about half resolved to satisfaction. Others still unresolved-such as assets. Discussion about consolidation and relationship to annexation.

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (MCIWPC) Special Meeting (6/14/23): The Commission held a Special Meeting comprising only of a Closed Session. No reportable action.

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Redwood Valley Water (6/15/23): Treatment plant update- installed new valve but having calibration issues. Tech support requested. Ran in recirculation mode to test and hopefully will be operational after valve calibration. So far expect to ask for \$90k thru grant reimbursement. Most of cost covered by grant. Other small repairs outside grant. SCADA startup pending state approval of testing results. LACO will be filing grant reimbursement which is likely 120 day turn around. Had some complaints recently about color in the water from iron and manganese. Working on resolving through flushing. Fire department requested replacement of hydrant markings. Dealing with leaks which occur when soils dry out.

Budget proposal for next year to be started after last bills arrive. Water supply update- lake is very full. RRFC is allotting surplus on monthly basis and expect to have more information soon. Assume unused allocated surplus carries forward. URRWA consolidation adhoc meetings-Jared opines meetings going well and directors asking good questions. Working on developing clean draft consolidation agreement to present to State.

Minasian is still attending working meetings and says things are going well for RV interests. RV benefit is more reliable domestic water. See Willow notes for more information. Adam's report on GSA - grant not received.

All agencies will be asked to increase funding contributions. Rate study needed.

Small community drought grant-as noted will be filing reimbursement request. LACO working to schedule driller but timelines are long. Millview giving temporary access agreement to inspect possible well sites. Legal working on legal agreement to allow groundwater (if found) to flow to RV and give right of use to RV.

RRWF update- moving along at slow pace but PGE has deadlines which may require an increase in pace.

Working group briefings starting next week. Various opinions expressed. Payment of IWPC annual invoice- \$50,000 consulting and legal expenses. Director's asking for more info on hoe money spent. Motion to table until next month. Director's reports-Bree reports on potential grant opportunity. Includes water storage and resilience and replacement of aging infrastructure.

Millview Water District (6/20/23): GM operations report: percolation ponds are being filled. Redwood Valley treatment plant ready to start up. Well 6 progress moving at a snail's pace - hurry up and wait. Expected \$600k-700K expense proposed to recoat Lovers Lane tank and Bricarelli tank. Because the Lovers Lane tank houses the SCADA controls for balancing well field output and treatment plant and storage it has been the last tank to be addressed. They are considering a proposal from Telstar Instrumentation to add solar/battery/telemetry to the Bricarelli tank to allow the Lovers Lane tank to be offline for the renovation. Consolidation efforts: Ad hoc had two meetings where some concerns of members were addressed. Capital improvement expenses were the focus for the budget. They will be meeting with the State and the SAFER program people to discuss current status and get feedback on the proposed agreements next week. Board agreed to provide up to 150 af of their RRFC contract back to the District for use in meeting the surplus water request from Redwood Valley.

Calpella Water District (6/21/23): Cancelled

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