

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

STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item 6: Proposed Annexation
of the Redwood Valley County Water District Complete Service Area
Monday, July 7, 2025**

The Strategic Plan relevant priority is **Use** by maximizing beneficial use of water under the District's water right license including consideration of a boundary change application to the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo.)

- Annexation is a crucial step for future water supply security in the Redwood Valley community.
- Annexation will allow RVCWD to use RRFC water throughout the Redwood Valley service area.
- Redwood Valley would not be relegated to only surplus water, which can be in short supply in certain conditions.
- A more stable water supply to agricultural users can contribute to the economic health of the greater Ukiah Valley area.
- A supplemental source for municipal water will safeguard human health and safety supplies.
- Annexation supports regional coordination to optimize our water resources and build resilience in the community.

Background:

The Russian River Flood Control District (RRFC) proposes to annex the remaining portion of the Redwood Valley County Water District (RVCWD) service area, with no dissolution of RVCWD and no consolidation of services.

The Redwood Valley Community was not originally fully included in the RRFC boundary, believing Redwood Valley would not need to utilize RRFC's water right to Russian River East Fork flows or stored water from Lake Mendocino.

Over time, conditions changed, and arrangements were made for RVCWD to purchase surplus water from RRFC. When the State Water Resources Control Board approved RRFC's water permit to a license, the RVCWD service area was included in the water right place of use. However, because RVCWD is not fully in the RRFC boundary, RVCWD can only purchase RRFC's surplus water to use in its service area outside of RRFC. Surplus water can be short supply, especially in times of drought. During the 2021 and 2022 drought, all surplus sales were halted by RRFC, and the Redwood Valley agricultural community had no water deliveries. RVCWD municipal customers were also on restricted water amounts for several years.

The proposed annexation would allow RVCWD to join other water retailers within the RRFC boundary who currently purchase water from RRFC to provide throughout their respective service areas. These retailers include Millview County Water District, Willow County Water District, Hopland Public Utility District, Calpella County Water District, Rogina Mutual Water Company, and River Estates Mutual Water Company.

(Continued...)

Annexations are regulated by the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) which was created by State law in 1963 to oversee the logical and orderly formation and development of local government agencies including cities and special districts. Each of the 58 counties in California has a LAFCo Commission. The objectives of LAFCo are to encourage the orderly formation of local government agencies and promote the efficient provision of public services, preserve agricultural land and open-space resources, and promote orderly growth and discourage urban sprawl.

LAFCo has the authority to establish and reorganize cities and special districts, change their boundaries and authorized services, allow the extension of public services, perform municipal service reviews, and establish spheres of influence. Some of LAFCo's duties include regulating boundary changes through annexations or detachments and forming, consolidating, or dissolving local agencies.

The two Districts wish to find a lasting solution for the Redwood Valley community. RRFC has worked to include Redwood Valley within its boundary for many years. Efforts comprised exploring consolidation of the Districts including services and dissolution of RVCWD, support and participation in the Upper Russian River Water Agency Joint Powers Authority, and over the past 4 years, annexation of the Redwood Valley entire place of use without consolidation of the two districts. Both districts passed Resolutions of Commitment in 2024 and formed Ad Hoc Committees that have worked together (Advisory Ad Hoc) to further the proposed annexation process.

Discussion

This agenda item is to provide an update on the Proposed Annexation. Staff will answer as many questions of the Board and public as possible during the meeting, following up by developing a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document to publish on the District's webpage.

A Pre-Application Agreement and Indemnification was submitted to LAFCo with a deposit of \$2,000 that is applied toward the services performed and costs expended on the application.

The **attached** Public Notice of Intent to Adopt Proposed Negative Declaration was issued on June 18, 2025. The notice ran in the Ukiah Daily Journal on Sunday, June 29, 2025 and was provided to the County of Mendocino Clerk Recorder and other interested parties. The notice period is June 29, 2025 through July 29, 2025 and it is scheduled that the RRFC Board will consider comments at the August 4, 2025 Board Meeting and direct Staff of any changes to the Initial Study/Negative Declaration. The RRFC Board will then consider adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration at its September 8, 2025 Board meeting.

RRFC has established a page on its website for the Proposed Annexation (see link below.) The draft Plan for Services, Notice of Intent to Adopt Proposed Negative Declaration, resolutions, and other related documents can be found there.

Recommended Actions:

- Receive an update from Staff.

Attachments:

- Public Notice of Intent to Adopt Proposed Negative Declaration

Links:

- RRFC Webpage: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/proposed-application-for-annexation-of-redwood-valley-county-water-district-2025>
- Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission: <https://www.mendolafco.org/>

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

**MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL
AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (“**RRFC**”) prepares, makes, declares and publishes this proposed Negative Declaration for the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District Redwood Valley Annexation (“**Project**”).

Project Description: Filing of an application with the Mendocino County Local Agency Formation Commission to annex the Redwood Valley County Water District (“**RVCWD**”) into the boundaries of the RRFC. The Project Description is more fully set forth in the Initial Study for the Project. The purpose of the annexation is to allow RVCWD to contract with the RRFC to receive surface water supplies available under the RRFC’s licensed water right.

Project Location: The Project is located within Mendocino County as shown on the map attached as **EXHIBIT “A”**.

Determination: The RRFC has reviewed the proposed Project and has determined that the Project, as identified in the attached Initial Study, will not have a significant effect on the environment. An Environmental Impact Report is not required pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (Division 13 of the California Public Resources Code).

Public Review: The Initial Study/Negative Declaration has been prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act and contains an environmental review of the potential impacts of the proposed Project. This Initial Study/Negative Declaration is being circulated for 30-day period from June 29, 2025, through July 29, 2025. Comments on the Initial Study/Negative Declaration may be sent by 12:00 noon on July 29, 2025, to the RRFC, Attention: Ms. Elizabeth Salomone, PO Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482, DistrictManager@rrfc.net. Comments will be reviewed by the RRFC, and the Initial Study/Negative Declaration will be revised, as appropriate, prior to the adoption of the proposed Negative Declaration by the RRFC, which is scheduled for September 7, 2025.

This environmental review process and Negative Declaration filing is made pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6 of the California Administrative Code Section 15070.

A copy of the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration may be reviewed by appointment at the RRFC office at 304 North State Street, Ukiah, California, 95482.

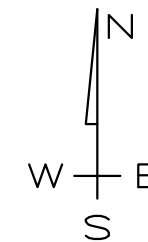
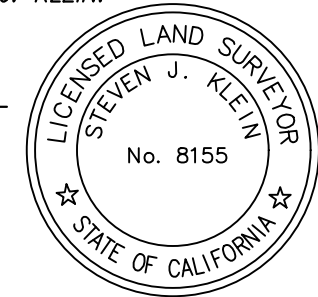


Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager





**EXHIBIT "A" TO NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
MAP OF RVCWD AREA TO BE ANNEXED INTO RRFC**

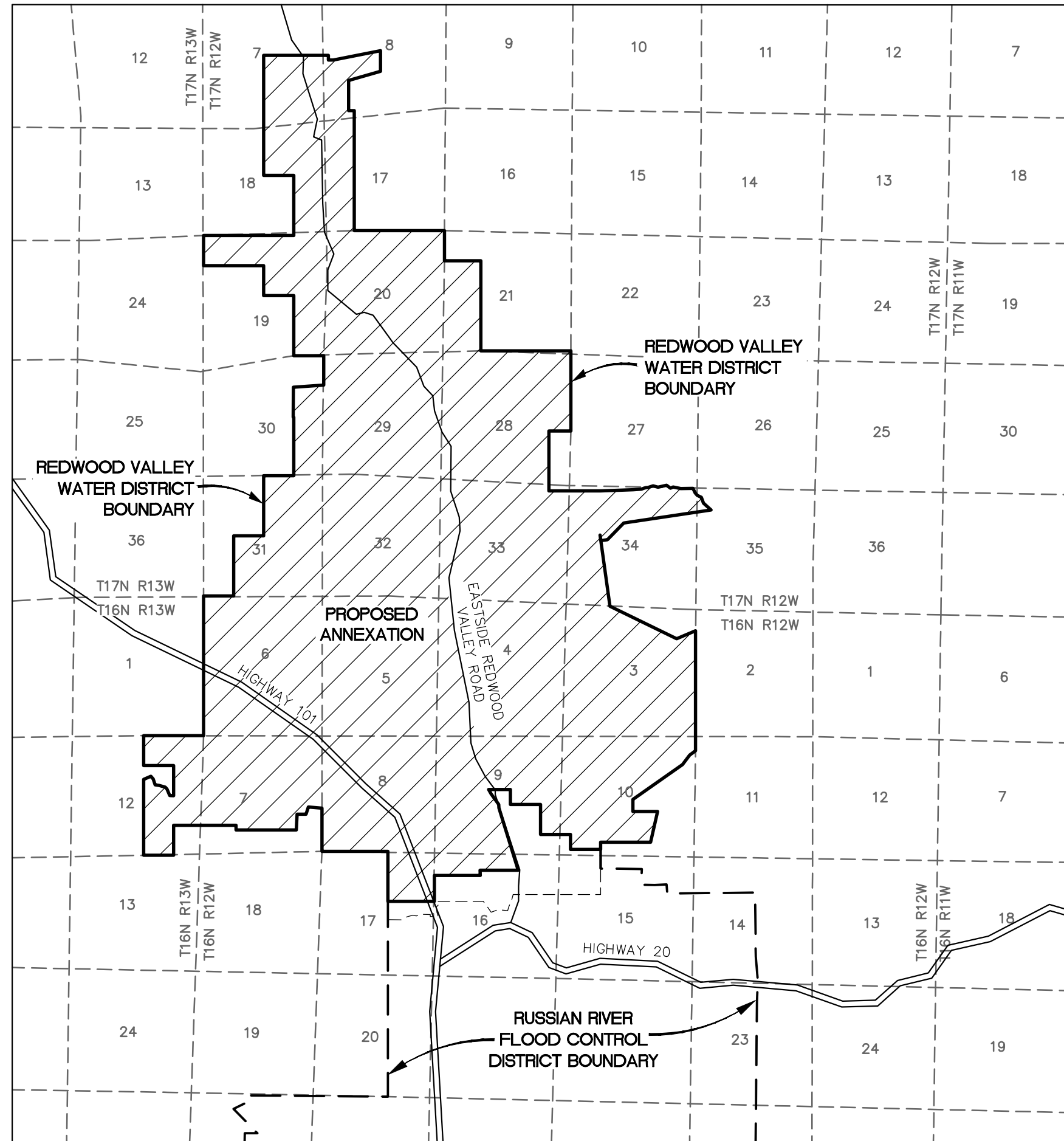
THIS MAP HAS BEEN PREPARED BY STEVEN J. KLEIN.

Steven J. Klein 06/18/25
STEVEN J. KLEIN, P.L.S. 8155



LEGEND

-  BOUNDARY OF LANDS TO BE ANNEXED
-  EXISTING BOUNDARY OF RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
-  SECTION LINES
-  OVERLAP OF RVCWD & RRFC



**MUNSELLE CIVIL ENGINEERING
CIVIL ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING**
513 CENTER STREET
HEALDSBURG, CA 95448
(707) 395-0968



LAFCO SITE PLAN

REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT
REDWOOD VALLEY, CA

JOB NO.
129-25

SHEET NO.
1
OF 1 SHEETS

Ukiah Daily Journal

415 Talmage Road Suite A
Ukiah, CA. 95482
legals@ukiahdj.com

MENDO. CO. RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD
CONTROL
PO BOX 2104
UKIAH, CA 95482

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/ PO Number:

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Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager 6-29/2025

Ukiah Daily Journal

415 Talmage Road Suite A
Ukiah, CA. 95482
legals@ukiahdj.com

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MENDO. CO. RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL
PO BOX 2104
UKIAH, CA 95482

PROOF OF PUBLICATION (2015.5 C.C.P.)

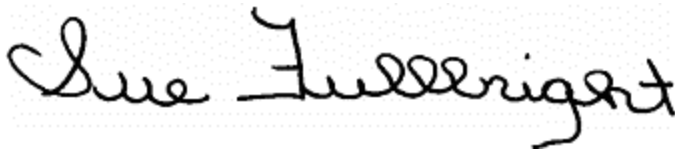
STATE OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of the printer of the Ukiah Daily Journal, a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the City of Ukiah, County of Mendocino and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Mendocino, State of California, under the date of September 22, 1952, Case Number 9267; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than non-pareil), has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:

06/29/2025

I certify (or declare) under the penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated at Ukiah, California,
June 30th, 2025



Sue Fullbright, LEGAL CLERK

Legal No. 0006904313

MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PUBLIC NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT PROPOSED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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6-29/2025



