

Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

151 Laws Avenue Suite D, Ukiah, CA 95482 707.462.5278 Website: RRFC.net DistrictManager@rrfc.net

A G E N D A

Board of Trustees – Regular Meeting

Monday, April 5, 2021, 5:30 pm

IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE DIRECTIVES OF THE COUNTY HEALTH OFFICER, STATE AND CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC), THIS MEETING CAN BE VIEWED LIVE VIA ON ZOOM.

Call in: (669) 900-9128

Meeting ID: 811 2748 9402

Passcode: 294787

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81127489402>

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Public Expression- See End of Agenda for Information on Public Expression
3. Approval of Agenda *Urgent items added may be discussed immediately as Item 3. Time suggestions to the right of item title.*

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:

4. Water Supply Conditions Update and District Response (5:35 pm)
Board will consider approving Declaration #21-02: Stage III - Water Supply Warning
5. Proposed Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) (6:00 pm)
Board will consider a customer request to file a TUCP to add points of diversion to the District's water right license.

REGULAR BUSINESS, INFORMATION AND REPORT ITEMS: (6:20 pm)

6. Consent Calendar
 - a) Approval of Minutes for the March 1, 2021 Regular Meeting
 - b) Approval of Minutes for the March 8, 2021 Special Meeting
 - c) Acceptance of the March 2021 Financial Report and Project Water Worksheet
 - d) Approval of (renamed) Resolution #21-01 for the FY 2021-2021 Budget Adjustment (no changes)
7. Board Member and Committee Reports
8. General Manager Report & Correspondence
 - o *Letter to Sonoma Water Agency RE: Temporary Urgency Change Order dated February 11, 2021*
9. Direction on Future Agenda Items

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION ITEMS – All agenda items are potential action items unless otherwise noted.

PUBLIC EXPRESSION – The Board welcomes public participation in its Board meetings. Comments shall include any item not on the agenda that is within the subject matter jurisdiction and authority of the District. No action may be taken on any item not appearing on the agenda; however, the Board may direct such items to be placed on the agenda of a future meeting or may request additional information on any such item. The Board may limit testimony to three (3) minutes per person and not more than ten (10) minutes for a particular subject. All items on the agenda are considered action items unless otherwise noted. All times and the order of business are approximate and subject to change.

President
Christopher Watt

Vice President
Alfred White

Treasurer
Matthew Froneberger

Trustee
Tyler Rodrigue

Trustee
John Reardan

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

STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Trustees
From: E. Salomone, General Manager
Meeting: Monday, April 5, 2021
RE: Agenda Item 4: Water Supply Conditions Update & District Response

The Strategic Plan relevant priorities are: (a) **Secure** (b) **Use** (c) **Advocate** & (d) **Administer** water resources in alignment with the District's Mission Statement to proactively manage the water resources of the upper Russian River for the benefit of the people and environment of Mendocino County.

Water Supply Conditions

Lake Mendocino storage level is 36,129 acre feet as of March 31, 2021. Local reservoirs are lower than they were in the last drought of 2013/2014. The rainy season is nearly over and this will likely be the driest water year on record. The Army Corp of Engineers is currently assessing how the lake and dam will operate under dropping storage levels. The City of Ukiah is carefully monitoring the impacts of silt and vegetation blockages on their power generation infrastructure. Sonoma Water Agency is modeling ways to maintain the minimum storage threshold of 20,000 acre feet by the end of October 2021, significantly lower than the usual storage goal of 40,000 af. Water supply projections show that without additional rainfall and without aggressive water saving by our community, the Lake Mendocino water supply level will reach historically low levels by October 2021. This is a very concerning water situation and 2021 is taking the watershed into uncharted territory.

Typical draw down between March and November 1st is approximately 20,000 - 25,000 acre feet, which includes demands of water right diversions and meeting minimum instream flow requirements to accommodate for fisheries, riparian vegetation, and other natural or unaccounted losses.

This demand is not sustainable in 2021 and must be reduced.

Lake Pillsbury Reservoir and Potter Valley Project Diversions

In addition to runoff, a major contribution to the water storage in Lake Mendocino is the water diverted from the Eel River and Lake Pillsbury reservoir through the Potter Valley Project. Due to precipitation, Lake Pillsbury storage levels have risen over recent months to 44,087 on March 29, 2021. However, this is still well below 2014/2015 levels. PG&E is expected to resume preparation of a Drought Flow Variance Due to Limited Water Availability filing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC.) The variance would outline determinations for temporary reductions in water diversions to the Russian River watershed based on water storage within Lake Pillsbury, further impacting the Lake Mendocino storage and water supply issues. RRFV is a member of the Drought Working Group, a forum for various stakeholders to receive updates and provide feedback on the variance development.

(Continued....)

State Water Resources Control Board Response

At the Upper Russian River Water Manager's Meeting on March 17, 2021, Dan Schultz from the State Water Resources Control Board Department of Water Rights noted that in light of the current conditions, issuing Notices of Water Unavailability is more of "a when, rather than if." He highlighted two ways to reduce demand: (1) formal actions of the Water Board; or (2) a local cooperative solution in the form of voluntary agreements, which is noted to have higher rates of success at local levels due to greater investment and participation from water users. The State Water Resources Control Board has already issued letters throughout the region urging water right holders to reduce and conserve water. Their next step will be issuing Notices of Water Unavailability, though it is unknown when, to whom, and to what extent these notices will reach.

At the Special Meeting of March 29, 2021, this Board directed GM Salomone to notify the State Water Resources Control Board of the District's intent to proactively manage the available water supply and mitigate drought condition impacts through the development of a voluntary agreement. They further directed GM Salomone to communicate with Sonoma Water Agency in the development of their next Temporary Urgency Change Petition filing to support the reduction of minimum instream flows in 2021.

The intent was communicated by email to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on March 30, 2021, requesting a meeting with SWRCB staff as soon as possible to discuss and coordinate development. Discussions have been initiated with Sonoma Water Agency and formal customer notification will begin in a matter of days.

Summary

The current water supply conditions clearly indicate the insufficient water supply in 2021 to meet all typical demands on the water system. In 2014, water rights junior to that of the Districts were curtailed through notices issued in the month of May. If the SWRCB takes similar action in 2021, it is predicted customers will rely more heavily on their contract quantities and request surplus water supplies. However, it is difficult to calculate the amount of District's 7,940 acre foot right that will be physically available to divert from storage in 2021 and/or what actions the SWRCB will take on the District's water right.

The Board is being asked to formally acknowledge the inability of the water supply and system to meet the typical annual demands, call upon its customers to enhance conservation measures, and declare a proactive approach to managing the available water supply.

Recommended Action:

- Move to approve Declaration #21-02, Stage III - Water Supply Warning.

Attachments

- (1) Excerpt from District Ordinance # 21-01 Article 9: District Water Conservation Program Section 9.15.

From Ordinance #00-01 Article 9: District Water Conservation Program

9.15 **Determination and Declaration by General Manager of Water Supply Conditions.** During any period of threatened or actual water shortage, the District has the right to apportion its available water supply among consumers in a manner that appears most equitable with due regard to public health and safety.

The General Manager of the District with Board concurrence, based upon all available data, shall determine and declare whether the District's water supply and/or distribution is in one of the five following conditions, and post a notice at the District Administration Building.

A. **Stage I - Normal Water Supply.** The District's supply or distribution system is able to meet all the water demands of its Customers in the immediate future.

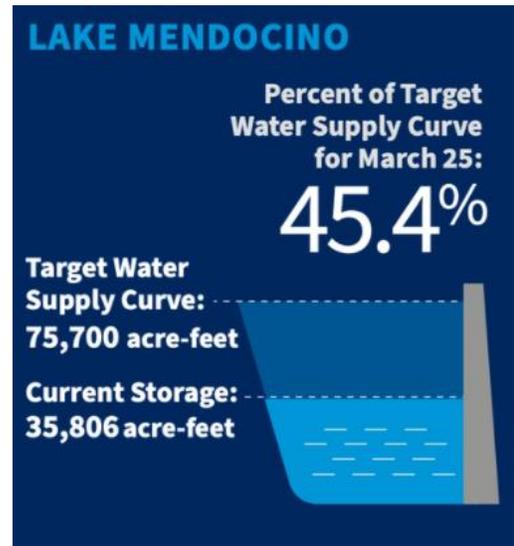
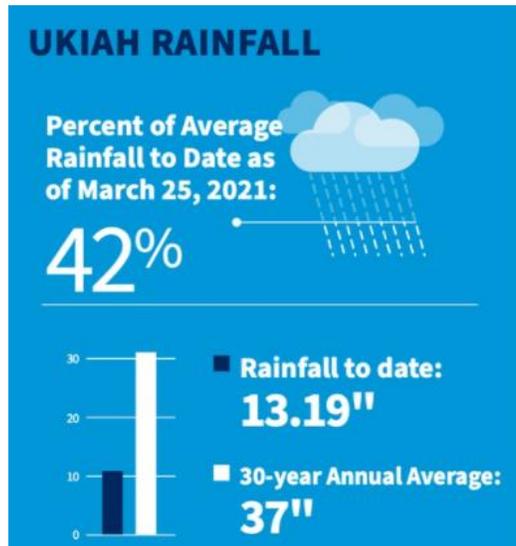
B. **Stage II - Water Alert.** There is a probability that the District's supply or distribution system will not be able to meet all of the water demands of its Customers.

C. **Stage III - Water Warning.** The District's supply or distribution system is not able to meet all of the water demands of its Customers.

D. **Stage IV - Water Crisis.** The District's supply or distribution system is not able to meet all the water demands of its Customers under Stage III - Water Warning requirements.

E. **Stage V - Water Emergency.** The District is experiencing a major failure of a supply, storage, or distribution facility.

As soon as a particular condition is declared to exist, the water conservation measures provided for herein for that condition shall apply to the area designated for District water service until a different condition is declared.



Resources:

- <https://www.sonomawater.org/current-water-supply-levels>
- <https://mcrd.org/resources/drought-water-conservation-resources>
- <http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/>
- <https://saveourwater.com/>

Declaration #21-02
of the
**Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
& Water Conservation Improvement District**

Stage III - Water Supply Warning

WHEREAS:

1. The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District (District) holds the right to 7,940 acre-feet of Project Water stored in Lake Mendocino.
2. The Russian River watershed is experiencing a second consecutive year of severely below-average rainfall.
3. The Board of Trustees approved Declaration #21-01 Stage II – Water Supply Alert, on March 8, 2021, calling for customers to follow their water conservation plans and begin water shortage contingency planning to maintain the minimum storage threshold.
4. While state officials have yet to formally declare a drought, hydrologic conditions are more severe than the drought years of 2013 through 2014.
(See <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>)
5. The State Water Resources Control Board issued early warning notices in March to water rights holders in the region, urging them to plan for potential shortages by reducing water use and adopting practical conservation measures.
6. As of March 30, 2021, the water supply in Lake Mendocino is 36,077 acre-feet, or 46% of the target supply curve, the lowest storage level for this time of year since it filled.
7. Sonoma Water Agency is modeling ways to maintain the minimum storage threshold in Lake Mendocino of 20,000 acre feet by the end of October 2021, significantly lower than the usual storage goal of 40,000 af.
8. In accordance with provisions in the Order approving the 2021 Sonoma Water Agency Temporary Urgency Change Petition, instream flows requirements for the Upper Russian River are 25 cubic feet per second which is about 1,500 acre-feet per month.
9. Typical summer-time evaporation losses from Lake Mendocino are on the order of 1,000 acre-feet per month.
10. The Board of Trustees heard and fully considered all verbal and written public comment including the General Manager's report and recommendations at a Special Board Meeting on April 5, 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, the District Board hereby declares as follows:

- Under current and forecasted conditions, the District's supply or distribution system will not be able to meet all of the water demands of its Customers due to reduced surface water availability in the Upper Russian River and storage of Project Water in Lake Mendocino for 2021 water use.
- In an effort to extend current supplies of water and minimize the effects of the water supply shortage, the Board is calling for District customers to cooperate with District General Manager in addressing demand management through the development of a voluntary agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.
- A Russian River watershed-wide approach to the water supply shortage, drought condition response, and water system management is needed through coordination with all water users in the Upper Russian River watershed.
- This Declaration #20-02 Water Supply Warning supersedes Declaration #21-01 Stage II – Water Supply Alert.

District Staff is directed to:

- a. Communicate to all District customers the Board’s elevated declaration, warning of water supply conditions and the need for increased conservation measures.
- b. Communicate to all District customers the Board’s call to cooperate with District General Manager in developing a voluntary agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.
- c. Continue providing the Board and customers with updates on the drought conditions, reservoir storage levels, and any anticipated changes through a weekly Water Supply Conditions email and other outreach.
- d. Continue Russian River watershed-wide coordination to address the water supply shortage, drought condition responses, and water system management.
- e. Continue the 2021 Drought Preparedness public outreach campaign with the Resource Conservation District of Mendocino and other partners to communicate the immediate need of significant reduction in water use.
- f. Closely monitor the water supply conditions to determine if further action is needed.

The Board recognizes that water supply conditions could change and intends to be agile in its approach and response to any changes.

The Board thanks District customers and the public for their anticipated cooperation and fully understands that it will take all residents and water leaders in the Russian River watershed to successfully navigate this situation.

ADOPTED 5th of April, 2021 by the Board of Trustees of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District, by the following vote:

Christopher Watt, President	Yes / No / Abstain / Absent
Alfred White, Vice President	Yes / No / Abstain / Absent
Matthew Froneberger, Treasurer	Yes / No / Abstain / Absent
Tyler Rodrigue, Trustee	Yes / No / Abstain / Absent
John Reardan, Trustee	Yes / No / Abstain / Absent

Signed:

Christopher Watt, Board of Trustees President

Date

Attest:

Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager

Date

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

STAFF REPORT

To: Board of Trustees
From: E. Salomone, General Manager
Meeting: Monday, March 1, 2021
RE: Agenda Items 5: Proposed Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP)

The Strategic Plan relevant priorities are to (a) **Secure**; and (b) **Use** water resources in alignment with the District's Mission Statement to proactively manage the water resources of the upper Russian River for the benefit of the people and environment of Mendocino County.

Background

At the March 1, 2021 Regular Board meeting, Paula Whelan, Wagner & Bonsignore Consulting Civil Engineers, addressed the Board representing current District customers with a request to consider filing a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) to add specific points of delivery to the District's water rights license. The request would allow the existing customers to divert their District contract water from alternative points of delivery and was made due to concern of restrictions on customer held water rights. It was noted customers wished to add these alternative points of delivery to the District's license on a permanent basis at such time the District may file a Change Petition. Initial cost estimates were in the range of \$4,000- \$5,000 which would be borne by the customers benefiting from the petition. Paula Whelan indicated her firm would draft the Petition on behalf of their customer(s) and provide to the District for consideration.

At the March 29, 2021 Special Meeting, the Board of Trustees considered the draft documents for the filing of a Temporary Urgency Change Petition as prepared on behalf a District customer by Paula Whelan, Wagner & Bonsignore Consulting Civil Engineers. The Board directed GM Salomone to issue formal notice to District customers of the intent to consider the filing of a Temporary Urgency Change Petition to temporarily add points of diversion/rediversion to District License and prepare an agenda item for discussion and possible action at the April 5, 2021 Regular Board meeting. Cost estimates were revised to \$20,000 to the State Water Resources Control Board and \$850 to California Department of Fish & Wildlife, \$400 for legal consultation, all to be borne by the customer.

Discussion

District Legal Counsel has reviewed the documentation presented and prepared the required CEQA documentation, which is included in the packet. Customers were notified through email notice and again through distribution of the agenda packet for this meeting.

Legal Counsel noted that the Board should consider the policy ramifications of the approval – approving the TUCP under these conditions would set precedent for approving future requests from district landowners to file additional TUCPs. While this is likely not objectionable if the landowner absorbs the costs, the Board should aware of the future impacts.

(Continued....)

Potential Actions:

- Move to approve the filing of a Temporary Urgency Change Petition to temporarily add points of diversion/rediversion to License 13898 held by Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District.
- Direct staff to file Notice of Exemption under CEQA

Attachment

- (1) DRAFT Temporary Urgency Change Petition as prepared by customer representative, Wagner & Bonsignore Consulting Civil Engineers.
- (2) DRAFT Notice of Exemption as prepared by District Legal Counsel.

Please indicate County where your project is located here:

MAIL FORM AND ATTACHMENTS TO:
State Water Resources Control Board
DIVISION OF WATER RIGHTS
P.O. Box 2000, Sacramento, CA 95812-2000
Tel: (916) 341-5300 Fax: (916) 341-5400
<http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights>

PETITION FOR CHANGE

Separate petitions are required for each water right. Mark all areas that apply to your proposed change(s). Incomplete forms may not be accepted. Location and area information must be provided on maps in accordance with established requirements. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 715 et seq.) Provide attachments if necessary.

Point of Diversion
Wat. Code, § 1701

Point of Rediversion
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 791(e)

Place of Use
Wat. Code, § 1701

Purpose of Use
Wat. Code, § 1701

Distribution of Storage
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 791(e)

Temporary Urgency
Wat. Code, § 1435

Instream Flow Dedication
Wat. Code, § 1707

Waste Water
Wat. Code, § 1211

Split
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 836

Terms or Conditions
Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 791(e)

Other

Application

Permit

License

Statement

I (we) hereby petition for change(s) noted above and described as follows:

Point of Diversion or Rediversion – Provide source name and identify points using both Public Land Survey System descriptions to ¼-¼ level and California Coordinate System (NAD 83).

Present:

Proposed:

Place of Use – Identify area using Public Land Survey System descriptions to ¼-¼ level; for irrigation, list number of acres irrigated.

Present:

Proposed:

Purpose of Use

Present:

Proposed:

Split

Provide the names, addresses, and phone numbers for all proposed water right holders.

In addition, provide a separate sheet with a table describing how the water right will be split between the water right holders: for each party list amount by direct diversion and/or storage, season of diversion, maximum annual amount, maximum diversion to offstream storage, point(s) of diversion, place(s) of use, and purpose(s) of use. Maps showing the point(s) of diversion and place of use for each party should be provided.

Distribution of Storage

Present:

Proposed:

Temporary Urgency

This temporary urgency change will be effective from _____ to _____.

Include an attachment that describes the urgent need that is the basis of the temporary urgency change and whether the change will result in injury to any lawful user of water or have unreasonable effects on fish, wildlife or instream uses.

Instream Flow Dedication – Provide source name and identify points using both Public Land Survey System descriptions to ¼-¼ level and California Coordinate System (NAD 83).

Upstream Location:

Downstream Location:

List the quantities dedicated to instream flow in either: _____ cubic feet per second or _____ gallons per day:
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Will the dedicated flow be diverted for consumptive use at a downstream location? Yes No
If yes, provide the source name, location coordinates, and the quantities of flow that will be diverted from the stream.

Waste Water

If applicable, provide the reduction in amount of treated waste water discharged in cubic feet per second.

Will this change involve water provided by a water service contract which prohibits your exclusive right to this treated waste water? Yes No

Will any legal user of the treated waste water discharged be affected? Yes No

General Information – For all Petitions, provide the following information, if applicable to your proposed change(s).

Will any current Point of Diversion, Point of Storage, or Place of Use be abandoned? Yes No

I (we) have access to the proposed point of diversion or control the proposed place of use by virtue of:
ownership lease verbal agreement written agreement

If by lease or agreement, state name and address of person(s) from whom access has been obtained.

Give name and address of any person(s) taking water from the stream between the present point of diversion or rediversion and the proposed point of diversion or rediversion, as well as any other person(s) known to you who may be affected by the proposed change.

All Right Holders Must Sign This Form: I (we) declare under penalty of perjury that this change does not involve an increase in the amount of the appropriation or the season of diversion, and that the above is true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge and belief. Dated _____ at _____.

Right Holder or Authorized Agent Signature

Right Holder or Authorized Agent Signature

NOTE: All petitions must be accompanied by:
(1) the form Environmental Information for Petitions, including required attachments, available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/publications_forms/forms/docs/pet_info.pdf
(2) Division of Water Rights fee, per the Water Rights Fee Schedule, available at: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/water_issues/programs/fees/
(3) Department of Fish and Wildlife fee of \$850 (Pub. Resources Code, § 10005)

ATTACHMENT 1

Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District

Attachment to Petition for Temporary Urgency Change License 13898 (Application A012919B)

Background

This Petition seeks to temporarily add two points of diversion/rediversion to License 13898 held by Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (“District”). License 13898 provides for the diversion of water from the East Fork Russian River by direct diversion and diversion to storage in Lake Mendocino for the benefit of District members.

License 13898 allow the direct diversion of 28 cubic feet per second from January 1 to December 31, and diversion to storage from October 1 through September 30 of 82,600 acre-feet in Lake Mendocino. The total amount of water to be placed to beneficial use (both direct diversion plus rediversion of stored water) under the License is limited to 7,940 acre-feet.

Members divert water under License 13898 from their own diversion facilities. Each member has a contract with the District for the annual amount of water that may be diverted under one or more points of diversion/rediversion named in the License. Many of the members hold their own rights and/or claims of right for diversion from those same facilities. The District has installed a meter on each point of diversion/rediversion to record the amount of water used by its members. Those amounts are collectively reported in the District’s annual Reports of Licensee filed with the State Water Board. Water is used on members’ lands within the District’s gross place of use.

Purpose

The purpose of this Temporary Urgency Change Petition is to request the addition of two points of diversion/rediversion owned by a District member, Beckstoffer Vineyards, to License 13898. There is an existing diversion structure at each of Beckstoffer’s two points of diversion that are named in water right License 8501 (A016758) and Statements of Water Diversion and Use S015320 and S0015371. The two diversion facilities have measuring devices in accordance with State Water Board regulations. Upon approval of this Petition, Beckstoffer will be allowed to redivert District water at the two additional locations. Beckstoffer has an existing contract with the District. Water diverted at the two additional locations together with Beckstoffer’s other diversion points named in the District’s License will not exceed the contract amount.

Points of Diversion/Rediversion

Existing

There are currently eighty-six (86) points of diversion/rediversion named in License 13898 that are owned by District members. Maps showing the location of the points of diversion and allowed gross place of use is shown on a map dated October 4, 2016 on file with the State Water Resources Control Board (“State Water Board”) for License 13898.

Points of Diversion/Rediversion to be Added by this Petition

Point #1: Located N. 2,187,498 and E. 6,223,939, California Coordinate System, NAD83, Zone 2, being within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Projected Section 16, T15N, R12W, MDB&M.

Point #2: Located N. 2,160,573 and E. 6,228,852, California Coordinate System, NAD83, Zone 2, being within the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Projected Section 10, T14N, R12W, MDB&M.

See Map to Accompany Temporary Change Petition for License 13898 (attached as **Exhibit 1**).

As required by Water Code section 1435, subdivision (b), the State Water Board must make the following findings before issuing a temporary change order:

- 1. Change does not initiate a new right***
- 2. Change can be made without injuring other legal users of water***

The District is not seeking to increase the amount of water it diverts under its License 13898. The proposed temporary change would not increase the District’s Licensed diversion amount or require a change in the allowed place of use. The change will allow Beckstoffer to use alternate points of diversion/rediversion to access contract water under the District’s License. Beckstoffer’s existing District contract will not be increased and the additional diversion points and lands to be served are within the District’s place of use. No other legal users of water will be injured as the water diverted/rediverted at the two additional locations will be contract water that has already been included in the District’s License.

- 3. Petitioner has an urgent need for the proposed change***

It is the District’s belief, based on current conditions and climatological projections, that diversions under more junior water rights and possibly riparian claims of rights within the Russian River watershed may be curtailed by the State Water Board during the summer of 2021. If Beckstoffer’s appropriative and/or riparian rights are curtailed, approval of this Petition would enable them to exercise their District contract to serve permanent vineyard crop using alternate diversion facilities. The District wants to ensure that its members have an opportunity to exercise their contracts thereby making beneficial use under the District’s License, provided it is not also curtailed.

4. *Change can be made without unreasonable effect upon fish, wildlife or other instream beneficial uses*

The District's current operations under the terms and conditions of its License will not be changed with the approval of this Petition. The District does not control the release of water from Lake Mendocino. The minimum flows in the Russian River are implemented and maintained by Sonoma Water in accordance with the terms and conditions of its water right Permit 12947A (A012919A) and its recently approved Temporary Urgency Change Petition.

5. *Change is in the public interest*

The purpose of this Petition is to allow a member of the District to continue to use water under its contract. The District is a public agency and is required to provide a mechanism for its members to make beneficial use of the water under its License using their own diversion facilities. As written, the current License does not allow for change in a member's diversion location to accommodate failed pumps and/or changes in irrigation needs of its members. The District plans to file a Petition for Change with the State Water Board in the next few years that will request permanent changes to points of diversion/rediversion and place of use. However, the District is filing this Temporary Urgency Change Petition for 2021 use as it expects that the Petition for permanent approval will likely be a multi-year process.

Environmental Review

The District is the lead agency responsible for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for this Petition. The District's Notice of Existing Facilities Exemption is attached as **Exhibit 2**.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PETITIONS

This form is required for all petitions.

Before the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) can approve a petition, the State Water Board must consider the information contained in an environmental document prepared in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). This form is not a CEQA document. If a CEQA document has not yet been prepared, a determination must be made of who is responsible for its preparation. As the petitioner, you are responsible for all costs associated with the environmental evaluation and preparation of the required CEQA documents. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability and submit any studies that have been conducted regarding the environmental evaluation of your project. If you need more space to completely answer the questions, please number and attach additional sheets.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED CHANGES OR WORK REMAINING TO BE COMPLETED

For a petition for change, provide a description of the proposed changes to your project including, but not limited to, type of construction activity, structures existing or to be built, area to be graded or excavated, increase in water diversion and use (up to the amount authorized by the permit), changes in land use, and project operational changes, including changes in how the water will be used. For a petition for extension of time, provide a description of what work has been completed and what remains to be done. Include in your description any of the above elements that will occur during the requested extension period.

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Coordination with Regional Water Quality Control Board

For change petitions only, you must request consultation with the Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding the potential effects of your proposed change on water quality and other instream beneficial uses. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 794.) In order to determine the appropriate office for consultation, see: http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterboards_map.shtml. Provide the date you submitted your request for consultation here, then provide the following information.

Date of Request

Will your project, during construction or operation, (1) generate waste or wastewater containing such things as sewage, industrial chemicals, metals, or agricultural chemicals, or (2) cause erosion, turbidity or sedimentation?

Yes No

Will a waste discharge permit be required for the project?

Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Local Permits

For temporary transfers only, you must contact the board of supervisors for the county(ies) both for where you currently store or use water and where you propose to transfer the water. (Wat. Code § 1726.) Provide the date you submitted your request for consultation here.

Date of Contact

For change petitions only, you should contact your local planning or public works department and provide the information below.

Person Contacted:

Date of Contact:

Department:

Phone Number:

County Zoning Designation:

Are any county permits required for your project? If yes, indicate type below.

Yes No

Grading Permit

Use Permit

Watercourse

Obstruction Permit

Change of Zoning

General Plan Change

Other (explain below)

If applicable, have you obtained any of the permits listed above? If yes, provide copies.

Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Federal and State Permits

Check any additional agencies that may require permits or other approvals for your project: No other permits or approvals required.

- Regional Water Quality Control Board Department of Fish and Game
- Dept of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams California Coastal Commission
- State Reclamation Board U.S. Army Corps of Engineers U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

Have you obtained any of the permits listed above? If yes, provide copies. Yes No

For each agency from which a permit is required, provide the following information:

Agency	Permit Type	Person(s) Contacted	Contact Date	Phone Number
--------	-------------	---------------------	--------------	--------------

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Construction or Grading Activity

Does the project involve any construction or grading-related activity that has significantly altered or would significantly alter the bed, bank or riparian habitat of any stream or lake? Yes No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Archeology

Has an archeological report been prepared for this project? If yes, provide a copy.	Yes	No
Will another public agency be preparing an archeological report?	Yes	No
Do you know of any archeological or historic sites in the area? If yes, explain below.	Yes	No

If necessary, provide additional information below:

Insert the attachment number here, if applicable:

Photographs

For all petitions other than time extensions, attach complete sets of color photographs, clearly dated and labeled, showing the vegetation that exists at the following three locations:

Along the stream channel immediately downstream from each point of diversion

Along the stream channel immediately upstream from each point of diversion

At the place where water subject to this water right will be used

Maps : See attached Map to Accompany Temporary Urgency Change Petition

For all petitions other than time extensions, attach maps labeled in accordance with the regulations showing all applicable features, both present and proposed, including but not limited to: point of diversion, point of rediversion, distribution of storage reservoirs, point of discharge of treated wastewater, place of use, and location of instream flow dedication reach. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, §§ 715 et seq., 794.)

Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 23, section 794, petitions for change submitted without maps may not be accepted.

All Water Right Holders Must Sign This Form:

I (we) hereby certify that the statements I (we) have furnished above and in the attachments are complete to the best of my (our) ability and that the facts, statements, and information presented are true and correct to the best of my (our) knowledge. Dated _____ at _____.

Water Right Holder or Authorized Agent Signature

Water Right Holder or Authorized Agent Signature

NOTE:

- Petitions for Change may not be accepted unless you include proof that a copy of the petition was served on the Department of Fish and Game. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 23, § 794.)
- Petitions for Temporary Transfer may not be accepted unless you include proof that a copy of the petition was served on the Department of Fish and Game and the board of supervisors for the county(ies) where you currently store or use water and the county(ies) where you propose to transfer the water. (Wat. Code § 1726.)

Notice of Exemption**Appendix E**

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): _____

(Address)

Project Title: _____

Project Applicant: _____

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: _____

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: _____

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Lead Agency

Contact Person: _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: _____

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: _____ Title: _____

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Photographs for Temporary Urgency Change Petition - License 13898 A012919B)



Mendocino 101 Vineyard (typical) March 2021



Mendocino 101 Point of Diversion Pump – March 2021



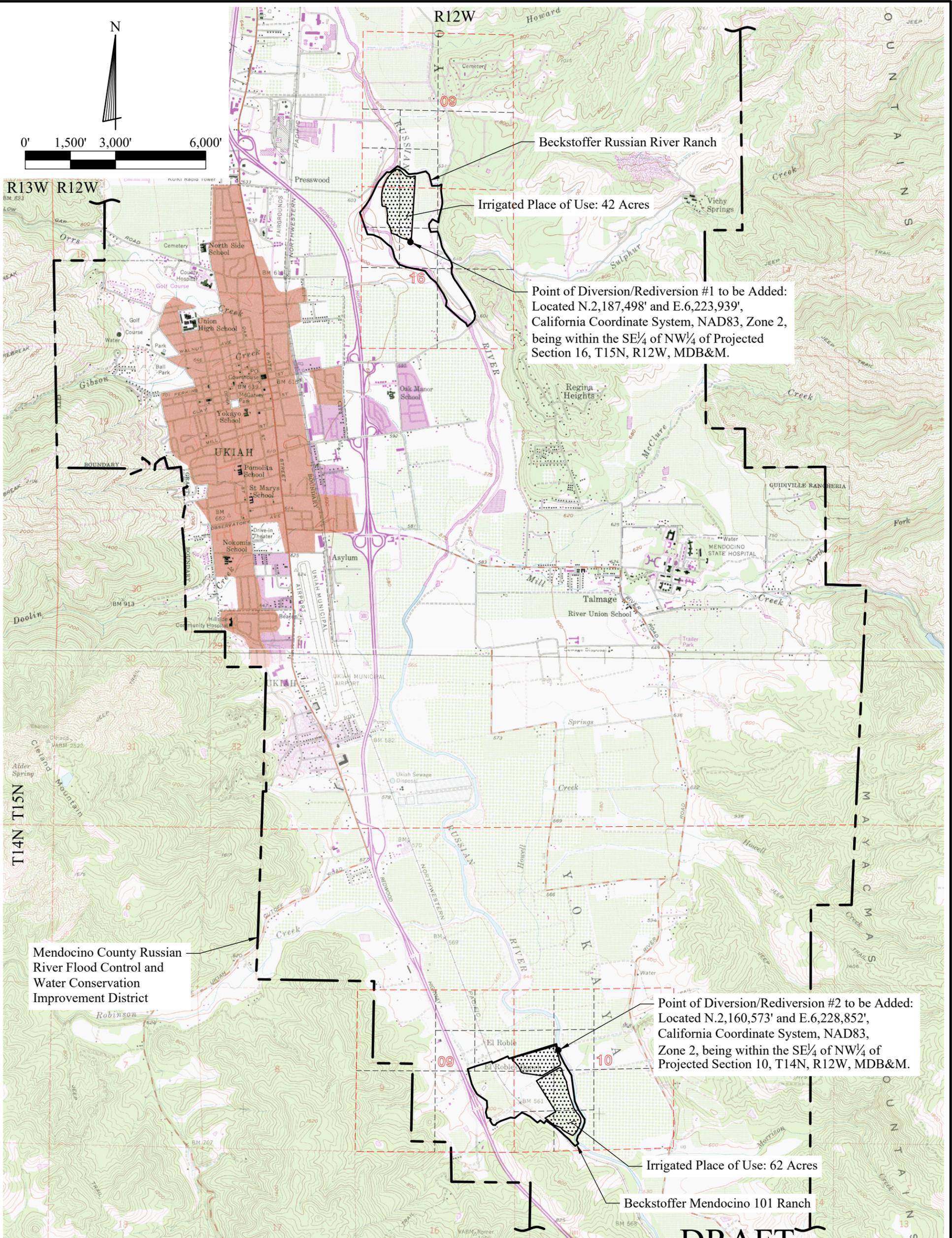
Russian River Ranch Vineyard (Typical) March 2021



Russian River Ranch Diversion Point Pump – March 2021



Russian River Ranch Diversion Point – March 2021



Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District

Beckstoffer Russian River Ranch

Irrigated Place of Use: 42 Acres

Point of Diversion/Redirection #1 to be Added: Located N.2,187,498' and E.6,223,939', California Coordinate System, NAD83, Zone 2, being within the SE¼ of NW¼ of Projected Section 16, T15N, R12W, MDB&M.

Point of Diversion/Redirection #2 to be Added: Located N.2,160,573' and E.6,228,852', California Coordinate System, NAD83, Zone 2, being within the SE¼ of NW¼ of Projected Section 10, T14N, R12W, MDB&M.

Irrigated Place of Use: 62 Acres

Beckstoffer Mendocino 101 Ranch

DRAFT

Map to Accompany
Temporary Urgency Change Petition
for
Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
and
Water Conservation Improvement District
License 13898 (Application A012919B)

Mendocino County, California

Wagner Bonsignore
Consulting Civil Engineers, A Corporation

NICHOLAS F. BONSIGNORE 03/29/2021
R.C.E. NO. 39422
EXPIRES 12-31-2021

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

General Manager's Report for March 2021

Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, April 5, 2021

Priority 1: Secure (Water rights license, Reservoir, PVP)

License: *Annual reporting is complete for the District's water rights licenses. * The State Water Resources Control Board issued the **attached** "Dry Year Letter."

Reservoir: See Agenda Item 4: Water Supply Condition Update & District Response. To receive the weekly email on Water Supply Conditions, email DistrictManager@rrfc.net

Potter Valley Project (PVP): The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a determination on study modifications and new studies in the relicensing effort for PVP. FERC also issued a response to Representative Garamendi's comment letter, noting there will be an additional scoping document and apologizing for the delay in response. *More information and history of the Potter Valley Project relicensing can be found here: <https://mendoiwpc.com/our-shared-water/> , <https://www.mendofb.org/advocacy/potter-valley-project-licensing/> and <https://www.twobasinsolution.org/> .

Priority 2: Use (Contracts & water sales, monitor & respond to regional water issues)

Customers & Water Sales: *Redwood Valley County Water District Board directed staff to cease agricultural water supply mid-April 2021 due to reduced water supply conditions. * 30 Min Thursday" with District GM was initiated and provides customers a forum to receive updates, ask questions, and provide feedback. *See also Agenda Item 7b: Project Water Worksheet.

Regional Water Issues: *See below for updates on all community partner meetings attended this month. *At the Upper Russian River Water Manager's Meeting, Jay Jasperse, Sonoma Water Agency, presented on the Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO), Don Seymour, Sonoma Water Agency, on water supply conditions, Dan Schultz and Erik Ekdahl from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on potential responses to conditions, Grant Davis, Sonoma Water Agency, and Janet Pauli, Inland Water & Power Commission on Potter Valley Project relicensing, and a roundtable on local conditions and response.* The Hopland Research and Extension Center is hosting a webinar and lecture series, with breakout rooms for discussion. This month's was on local climate change effects. More info on YouTube channel: [Nor Cal Climate Futures series](#). *See also Agenda Item 4: Water Supply Condition Update & District Response.

Priority 3: Advocate (Stakeholder positions, participation with community partners, website, legislation)

(See last page of this report for updates on all community partner meetings attended this month.)

The Water Resiliency Task Force: Continues to meet and discuss water supply conditions and response. A meeting with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) is scheduled for April.

Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA): *The ACWA Water Management Committee hosted Nancy Vogel from the Natural Resources Agency, who provided an update on the Water Resilience Portfolio. She noted the overwhelming feedback for local responsibility of water management with the State providing a supporting role. She shared the funding legislation for implementation of the Portfolio was postponed due to pandemic response but additional funding was identified in the most recent budget. *Erik Ekdahl of the State Water Resources Control Board presented on current water conditions, noting it is worse than 2014/15. SWRCB is planning accordingly and urging water users to do the same. Early warning letters will be issue in the next two weeks, Statements of Water Unavailability, will be issued later (possibly this summer – June/July/August timeframe.) This is not the same as "curtailments" which notify right holders to cease diversions. The SWRCB only has that authority under certain circumstances, triggered by either an Emergency

Drought Proclamation by Governor or 3 consecutive years of drought, neither of which have been met. He also mentioned new tools that SWRCB staff is implementing to help with supply and demand analysis and data management.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA): * The Technical Advisory Commission (TAC) and full GSA Board both met. *O&M funding cost presentation indicated potential GSA annual budget starting in 2022 for \$60-140,000 which includes general operations, grant writing, and monitoring for water level and quality. Capital costs are expected to be grant funded and driven, though some local contribution may be required for grants. *Feedback was sought regarding criteria on undesirable results, minimum thresholds, and measurable objectives. Members were confused and some clarity arose after discussion. *Consultants reviewed the progress on Projects and Management Actions that will be included in the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. *Laurel Marcus presented on the recently grant funded Watershed Coordinator Position by the CA Land Steward Institute. *See presentation for more information. GSA Board: [Agenda & Minutes](#) TAC: [Agenda & Meeting Notes](#).

Public Outreach: *Mendocino County Resource Conservation District has been engaged to lead the 2021 Drought Preparedness Campaign. *Weekly WATER SUPPLY CONDITIONS UPDATE emails continue. These cover the reservoir storage levels, resources, notices, etc. Recipients are encouraged to forward the email and share the information received. *See also Agenda Item 4: Water Supply Condition Update & District Response and additional resources at the end of this report.

Priority 4: Administer (GM, Trustees, systems, financial)

Operations: The District Office continues to be closed to the public.

GM Professional Development: *Attended Special District Risk Management Authority's Education Days which count for credits to reduce District insurance premium.

Community Partner Meetings Attended This Month

Redwood Valley CWD Special Meeting (3/2/21): *The Board received an updated report on their rate study and decided to receive their final Board presentation at their next Regular Board Meeting on March 18, 2021. More information: <http://willowcountywaterdistrict.org/redwood-valley>

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) Meeting (3/3/21): *RRFC President Watt provided public comment encouraging URRWA members to affirm the current water conditions, need for voluntary conservation, and need for further coordination in water resource management. *GM Walker provided an update on the water supply conditions: (1) Notices are going out on the postcard size bills asking for voluntary conservation. (2) Districts will consider sending letters to customers. (3) Task Force is communicating with SWRCB regarding voluntary conservation measures. (4) Further updates and recommendations for actions will be provided soon. *Public outreach in the form of consistent press releases, building a relationship with a reporter, or buying advertising in newspapers. Discussion was held on ways to align the message on water supply conditions and pool resources for media outreach. More information: <http://willowcountywaterdistrict.org/urrwa>

Northern California Water Association (NCWA) annual meeting (3/5/21): Included a presentation on Voluntary Agreements. Website: <https://norcalwater.org/about/> Meeting recording: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jQNWEC_njbg

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (3/1/21): *March meeting was cancelled. *More information: <https://www.mendolafco.org/>

Willow County Water District (3/8/21): *The Board received an update on water supply conditions and reviewed the District's historical responses. More information: <http://willowcountywaterdistrict.org/willow>

RR Biological Opinion Public Policy Facilitating Committee (PPFC) (3/9/21): *Sonoma Water Agency hosted this informative meeting which included an overview of 2020 projects, a preview of 2021 work, Dry Creek Project update, and more. Three short films were debuted and are available on the Sonoma Water

Agency YouTube Page: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFes6jhkv_EameOk2n7MOBQ More information on the RR Biological Opinion: <https://www.sonomawater.org/rrifr>

Redwood Valley Municipal Advisory Council (RV MAC) (3/10/21) *During the MAC agenda item on water supply conditions, Tom Schoeneman (RVCWD Board President), RRFCD President Chris Watt, Supervisor Glenn McGourty, all spoke, providing the grim update and answering questions. The public was encouraged to attend the RVCWD meetings and to become part of the solution to their severe short term water supply situation as well as longer term security. More information: <https://www.redwoodvalleymac.com/>

UV Sanitation District Meeting (3/10/21): *The Board considered a contribution for the Potter Valley project (PVP) relicensing expenses and directed legal counsel to explore the District's lawful ability to contribute. They also decided to hold a public meeting for rate payer input on the topic, once legal advice is received. *Discussion was held regarding negotiations with LAFCo on the costs of conducting the Municipal Services Review and Sphere of Influence update. It was asked if LAFCo can approve a detachment from the District without having an up-to-date SOI. They directed staff to negotiate with LAFCo to proceed with the reports. *Public comment sparked a discussion on the current water supply conditions. More information: <https://www.uvdsd.org/>

Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) (3/11/21): *Extensive discussion on the water supply conditions in the region. Impacts, mitigating efforts, and outreach were discussed. It was said the 2021 conditions are thought to rival those of the 1977 drought. *Approved the development of a Request for Proposal for campaign management/support regarding PVP. *PVP update included the development of the variance on releases from Lake Pillsbury and through the diversion. *North Coast Quagga/Zebra Mussel Prevention letter of support for funding was approved. More information: <https://mendoiwpc.com/>

Hopland Public Utility District (2/11/21): This meeting is at the same time as IWPC. More information: <http://willowcountywaterdistrict.org/hopland>

Millview County Water District (3/16/21): *Regarding a request to annex to Millview, LAFCo has determined they cannot rely entirely on Ukiah Valley Area Plan. District's legal counsel has consulted with engineering consultant and recommends the District act as the lead agent for the required environmental review. This was informational only and request for further action is expected in a future meeting. * Update and discussion held on water supply conditions and responses. *Several operational matters were discussed. More information: <http://willowcountywaterdistrict.org/millview>

Redwood Valley County Water District (3/18/21): *The Board heard a rate study presentation and moved to accept the study, directed GM to distribute required notices, and scheduled a public meeting for June. *The Board received an update on the water supply conditions and moved to approve shut off agriculture hook ups on April 19, 2021. *The Board received an update on the infrastructure retrofit project, held discussion on cooperative work with Redwood Valley Rancheria, and the latest Upper Russian River Water Agency meeting. <http://willowcountywaterdistrict.org/redwood-valley>

Calpella County Water District (3/17/21): The Board heard a report on Highway 20 bridge replacement which will not be at any cost to the District. An update was provided on the water supply conditions and discussion held. More information: <http://willowcountywaterdistrict.org/calpella>

* * * *

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

* * * *

Additional resources on water supply conditions and relevant issues attached.

Additional Resources

Reservoir Operations & Storage:

1. <https://www.sonomawater.org/current-water-supply-levels>
2. <https://mendoiwpc.com/our-shared-water/resources/>

ABC 7 News piece on drought:

<https://abc7news.com/california-drought-update-rainfall-levels-bay-area-dry-winter/10425870/>

Mendocino Voice article with GM Salomone interview:

<https://mendovoice.com/2021/03/lake-mendocino-hits-record-low-water-managers-plead-for-inland-residents-to-conserve/>

New Monthly Water 101 Article in Ukiah Daily Journal:

https://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/2021/03/23/ukiah-valley-water-101-crises-as-tipping-points/?utm_email=94F464C955C3D5B40522F4792F&g2i_eui=cptZPFckiPC2k7q9d73VGcd8GTXH0jNpx%2bvtUIUyRy4%3d&g2i_source=newsletter&utm_source=listrak&utm_medium=email&utm_term=https%3a%2f%2fwww.ukiahdailyjournal.com%2f2021%2f03%2f23%2fukiah-valley-water-101-crises-as-tipping-points%2f&utm_campaign=norcal-ukiah-morning-report&utm_content=automated

Another Year of Drought in Mendocino County in Ukiah Daily Journal:

<https://www.ukiahdailyjournal.com/2021/03/17/another-year-of-drought-in-mendocino-county/>

World Water Day was March 22nd:

https://www.worldwaterday.org/?mc_cid=5b3dd5b10d&mc_eid=09d60d84c9

Fix a Leak Week was March 15 – 21:

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>.

Check out this 10 Minute Challenge to Stop Leaks:

<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/ws-ourwater-detect-and-chase-down-leaks-checklist.pdf>.

Water Saving Support:

1. <https://mcrcd.org/resources/drought-water-conservation-resources>
2. <http://www.savingwaterpartnership.org/>
3. <https://saveourwater.com/>

State Water Resources Control Board

March 22, 2021

ONGOING DRY CONDITIONS IN MOST CALIFORNIA WATERSHEDS – PREPARE FOR DROUGHT IMPACTS STATEWIDE

After two years of low precipitation, the U.S. Drought Monitor now reports that 95 percent of California is experiencing Moderate to Exceptional Drought. Reservoir and groundwater levels are significantly below average, and despite recent storms, snowpack is only 58 percent of average as of March 10, 2021. Continued dry conditions can threaten water supplies, impair critical habitat, reduce recreational opportunities, and create uncertainty for all water users. Hydrologic conditions since 2020 have been very similar to the drought years of 2014 and 2015.

Your early efforts can help minimize the potential impact of water management actions on businesses, homes, farms, and California’s public trust resources. Start planning now for potential water supply shortages later this year and identify practical actions you can take to increase drought resilience, such as increasing water conservation measures, reducing irrigated acreage, managing herd size, using innovative irrigation and monitoring technologies, or diversifying your water supply portfolio.

The Division of Water Rights (Division) relies on accurate and timely water use data from you and other diverters to help manage California’s water. All diverters must report their annual water use, and many diverters must report diversion metering or measuring data. By accurately reporting your water diversion and use data on time, you fulfill your legal reporting obligation and provide critically important information for managing the state’s water resources.

The Division is monitoring the situation closely and plans to engage more frequently with water users if dry conditions continue or worsen. We encourage you to work collaboratively with your community to develop cooperative water management solutions that meet both local and state-level needs.

More information on **Drought Conditions** can be found at: <https://www.drought.gov/drought-status-updates/drought-status-update-california-nevada>

More information about the **Division of Water Rights** can be found at: <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/waterrights/>

Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

151 Laws Avenue Suite D, Ukiah, CA 95482 707.462.5278 Website: RRFC.net DistrictManager@rrfc.net

March 29, 2021

Grant Davis, General Manager
Sonoma Water Agency
404 Aviation Boulevard
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Dear Grant,

RE: Temporary Urgency Change Order dated February 11, 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to coordinate with Sonoma Water County Agency (Sonoma Water) staff regarding the required reports and recommendations per the Temporary Urgency Change Order (TUCO) dated February 11, 2021. As promised in the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District (RRFC) support letter to the State Water Resources Control Board dated January 8, 2021 for the Temporary Urgency Change Petition, the continued and growing cooperation between our agencies is supporting the ever expanding knowledge base of the dynamic water supply system that supports our vital communities. It is this District's intention that our feedback to Terms 9 and 10 of the TUCO will assist in further addressing the complex moving parts that contribute to the health and reliability of our shared water supply.

Term 9: Water Conservation Report to specify the water conservation measures being implemented and the water saving results during the term of this Order.

RRFC supports the implementation of water conservation measures and continues to take steps in enhancing such measures during the current water supply shortages. Specific water savings resulting from such measures during the months of January and February 2021 are difficult to quantify at this time. Historically, RRFC average reported diversions for February and March combined to meet both agriculture and municipal use is 92 acre feet. Full 2021 use reports for this same time period are not yet available for comparison.

However, response to the current conditions is heightened and the following measures have been taken to impact both the specific water savings under the RRFC water right and the general public water use under many other bases of right:

- The Board of Trustees of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District approved a Water Supply Alert Declaration #21-01 (attached) calling for voluntary water use reduction and water shortage contingency planning.
- RRFC contracted with Mendocino County Resource Conservation District to conduct public outreach and education, including identification of community partners, development and distribution of outreach materials, and further coordination of education and funding avenues.
- RRFC and Sonoma Water have met regularly on water supply conditions, response planning, outreach, and development.
- Sonoma Water staff have presented at RRFC Board meetings.

(continued...)

- RRFC GM hosts a weekly meeting for customer to receive updates and answer questions on the water supply conditions.
- RRFC participated in coordination of frost season preparations with Sonoma Water, Mendocino County Farm Bureau, and the California Land Stewardship Institute.
- The Mendocino County Water Resiliency Task Force continues to meet and coordinate with State Water Resources Control Board staff.
- RRFC GM continues to assist vulnerable communities such as Redwood Valley with additional conservation awareness outreach through the Redwood Valley County Water District, Municipal Advisory Council, and the Redwood Valley Rancheria

RRFC will continue to provide Sonoma Water with water conservation measure updates throughout the reporting period and/or upon request.

Term 10: Recommendations on what additional diversion information from water users in the watershed may support improved real-time demand forecast and reduced operational buffers for Lake Mendocino.

The District supports the intention of reducing operational buffer releases from Lake Mendocino in order to maintain storage to meet future minimum instream flow requirements and other demand, as needed. Sonoma Water continues to provide information on the identification of data that would support their efforts in increasing efficiency in meeting the collective water system demands.

One of the most effective tools immediately available to reduce operational buffers for Lake Mendocino is the use of a 5 day moving average of minimum instream flow measurements. This practice has been implemented in 2020 and several previous years as a condition of Temporary Urgency Change Orders issued on Sonoma Water's water rights and has shown to effectively reduce operational buffers by 25%. Sonoma Water has indicated that it will be pursuing use of the 5-day moving average to comply with minimum instream flow requirements permanently as part of its Fish Habitat Flows and Water Rights Project and RRFC is in support.

The District also supports the concept of real time diversion forecasting for more efficient water supply management. However, it recognizes it would require as much as 80% participation of the entire watershed in order to provide sufficient information for Sonoma Water to potentially manage water supply releases with improved efficiency. Sonoma Water and RRFC are discussing needed partnerships (both regionally and at the state) and steps that would be necessary for improved water supply management.

Essential to any watershed wide initiative requires developing a willing partnership with the State Water Resources Control Board, Department of Water Resources, Russian River users accounting for the majority of water use, and others. Many of the individual water right holders in the Russian River basin do not fall under the representation of either Sonoma Water or RRFC and therefore mandating participation in a partnership would be beyond their authority.

Such a partnership could lead to a variety of watershed management tools including but not limited to improvement of SB88 implementation, public outreach and education, conservation, diversion and use practices, storm water capture and off stream storage, expanded data collection through additional gages and other means, communication, and emergency response to extreme conditions of flooding and drought.

(continued...)

In addition to the description of implemented water conservation measures described in the Term 9 response, RRFC began to implement some of these water management tools prior to the Order issuance:

- RRFC co-hosted a Russian River Frost Program Annual Meeting Water Reporting, and Conservation Workshop with the Mendocino County Farm Bureau and California Land Stewardship Institute.
- RRFC initiated and co-hosts the Mendocino County Water Resiliency Task Force to provide a forum for education, discussion, and cooperation in conservation and communication efforts.
- In order to increase public outreach and education, RRFC initiated a weekly Water Supply Conditions Update email distributed widely not only in Mendocino County but throughout the Upper Russian River watershed.
- In December 2020, RRFC joined the PG&E Drought Working Group providing feedback for a proposed flow variance request to FERC to temporarily reduce the transfer of Eel River water to the Russian River from the Potter Valley Project
- In January 2021, RRFC GM was appointed to the Associated California Water Agencies Region 1 Board, further enhancing local cohesiveness in water system management, education, and outreach.
- RRFC GM and Board members continue to attend local water district and community organization groups to increase awareness of water supply conditions.
- Interviews were conducted with RRFC GM by local reporters for print media and ABC 7 News – San Francisco aired a news piece including interviews of both RRFC GM and Sonoma Water staff.
- RRFC GM and Board participate actively on the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board and Technical Advisory Committee to develop project concepts to improve water management.
- Internal RRFC procedures continue to be enhanced to collect and analyze data sets.

RRFC looks forward to continued coordination with Sonoma Water in support of a watershed wide management approach. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager
Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

Cc:

Pamela Jeane, Sonoma Water Agency Assistant General Manager – Water & Wastewater Operations
Don Seymour, Sonoma Water Agency Principle Water Agency Engineer
Todd Schram, Sonoma Water Agency Water Resources Planning Engineer

President
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