

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

**General Manager's Report for April 2025**

*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, May 5, 2025*

**Priority 1: Security ~ Ensure reliable, resilient, and available sources of water.**

(1: Improved river & reservoir operations. 2: Fair & reliable inter-basin. 3: Expanded water sources.  
4: Increased storage capacity)

**1-RR/Lake Mendocino 2025 operations:** Sonoma Water Agency submitted a Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) on April 10<sup>th</sup> to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to modify the criteria for establishing the water supply conditions and the minimum instream flow requirements for the Russian River watershed that were established by Decision 1610. More information: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/2025-russian-river-and-lake-mendocino-operations>

**1-Water Sharing Program:** The Working Group met to discuss progress made by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) on the 10,000 acre foot reserve pool in Lake Mendocino for Sonoma County and the water supply modeling. Tools were reviewed by SWRCB staff.

**2-PG&E Public Draft Surrender Application and Decommissioning Plan:** Visit the District's website for the most recent updates including articles and comment letters: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/pg-e-draft-surrender-application-and-decommissioning-plan-for-the-potter-valley-project>

**2-Partnership to Preserve Eel to Russian River Diversion:** Visit the District's website for the most recent updates including articles and comment letters: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/partnership-to-preserve-eel-to-russian-river-diversion>

**2- PG&E FERC Filings for 2025 and Beyond:** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) opened the public comment period for the PG&E temporary license flow amendment (previously referred to as a temporary flow variance) for the Potter Valley Project 2025 operations. PG&E has also submitted an Application for Non-Capacity License Amendment. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/updates>, including comment letters submitted which are uploaded as received.

**4-Lake Mendocino's Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study:** "State and local politicians, tribal officials and representatives from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers met Friday at Lake Mendocino to formalize a cost-sharing agreement for the Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation Study." "A new partnership between three organizations will explore options for raising the dam at Lake Mendocino to boost the water supply supporting agriculture and recreation." See **attached** press release from IWPC and RRFC's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lake-mendocino-s-coyote-valley-dam-general-investigation-study>

**Priority 2: Collaboration ~ Work with partners to achieve aligned goals for a common benefit.**

(1: Trusted relationships with community partners for regional water security. 2: Improved diversity, equity, and inclusion in the stewardship of water resources. 3: Expanded relationships with non-traditional partners and stakeholders in pursuit of enhanced Environmental Stewardship.)

**Nothing to note.**

*(Continued...)*

**Priority 3: Advocacy ~ Influence outreach, education, funding, regulation, and legislation in support of equitable water resource stewardship.**

(1: Improved public awareness and understanding of the importance of water issues. 2: State and Federal governmental policy and funding support for the region.)

**1/2-ACWA:** (1) Region 1 Board met. (2) The Statewide ACWA Board met. (3) The SB88 update working group met to discuss drafting a letter from ACWA. (4) GM Salomone was appointed to represent Region 1 on the ACWA Executive Director Recruitment Committee.

**2-Congressmember Huffman and Assemblymember Chris Rogers Town Hall:** The Potter Valley Project and future water supply for the Russian River watershed were topics at the townhall held Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup> at Mendocino College. Recording: <https://www.kzyx.org/2025-04-04/jared-huffman-town-hall-in-ukiah>

**Priority 4: Use ~ Ensure effective and beneficial use of water as a public resource.**

(1: Maximum beneficial use of water under District water right license. 2: Strategic use of water by customers.)

**1-Annexation of Redwood Valley County Water District Service Area:** Redwood Valley County Water District approved the Resolution of Support for the Annexation. The Annexation Ad Hoc Committee met, providing feedback on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) preferred path and engagement of a consultant to complete required mapping and legal description for the annexation application. RRFC Legal Counsel and Staff have prepared the Initial Study and Proposed Negative Declaration and a consultant is working on the mapping and legal description. The annexation application will be submitted to LAFCo as soon as all required documentation and notice periods are completed. The Draft Plan for Services and other information can be found on the RRFC website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lafco-msr-soi-update-annexation-application-2025>

**1-Change Petition:** Work continues on the mapping and documentation for the petition, specifically focused on including all relevant points of diversion.

**Priority 5: Administration ~ Foster sustainable leadership and management of agency resources.**

(1: Capable and high quality executive leadership. 2: Engaged, diverse, and knowledgeable Board leadership. 3: Effective systems and human resources to execute the strategic plan. 4: Sound and sustainable management of District finances.)

**1: Executive Leadership:** Attended: (1) Sacramento State FIRO/FloodMAR webinar. (2) SWRCB Public Hearing on Water Measuring and Reporting Revisions (SB88). (3) Participated in the SWRCB California Telemetry Technical Advisory Committee. (4) The Future of Water: Will it be there for us? (Art Umble, PhD, PE, F.WEF: Senior Vice President—Emeritus, Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.) (5) CA Water Data Consortium's Data for Lunch-When Rivers Run Hot. (6) YouTube Office Hours with Daniel Swain recorded on 4/14/25. (7) CSDA Webinar on GASB 68 (pension.)

**3-Channel Maintenance:** Consultant engaged to work on the historical documents and summary report.

(continued...)

**Community Meetings**

**Note:** District Board members and GM will no longer be attending all community meetings and reporting here. Please contact the individual organizations for more information on public meetings and updates.

**Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (4/2/25):** Meeting was cancelled.

**Ukiah Valley Water Authority (4/3/25):** Meeting was cancelled.

**City of Ukiah (4/2/25):** Nothing water related to note.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (4/7/25):** RRFC's Municipal Service Review (MSR) and Sphere of Influence (SOI) update was workshopped. Appreciation for the quality of work and cooperation was expressed to RRFC staff. The public hearing has been noticed to approve the MSR/SOI on May 5, 2025. The Commission also reviewed other MSR/SOIs and the Proposed Budget and Work Program for FY 2025-26. Janet Pauli provided an update on the Potter Valley Project and Sean White provided an update with Jared Walker on the Ukiah Valley Water Authority. These presentations are worth reviewing on the YouTube recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhBidEA6Yok>

**Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (UVB GSA) (4/10/25):** The Board received an update on the staffing transition from West Yost to the City of Ukiah. A high level overview of the preliminary FY 25-26 budget was presented, and an Ad Hoc of Chris Watt and Adam Gaska was formed to work with Staff on developing the proposed budget. The Upper Russian River Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Interconnected Surface Waters Study Request for Proposals (RFP) had one respondent, and Staff will proceed with reviewing and recommending approval to the Board. An update was given on the Facilitation Support Services (FSS) funded by DWR to develop a strategic plan, enhance public & Tribal engagement, and assist where needed in governance and operation issues. The FSS Ad Hoc was reaffirmed to continue working with the new GM and consultants. The annual water year report was briefly reviewed, and no concerns were identified. The next meeting is June 12, 2025 at 10 AM and at that meeting, the future meeting schedule will be set. Theresa McNerlin shared this would be her last meeting as she represents the Upper Russian River Water Agency which is disbanding, and the Ukiah Valley Water Authority is lined up to join the UVB GSA JPA and have a Board seat.

**Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (4/20/25):** A closed session was held. Budget development was reviewed. Forming an ad hoc committee for the work with the Army Corp of Engineers on the Coyote Valley Dam feasibility study was discussed. An ad hoc was formed to explore options for outreach and engagement. An all IWPC Member Board meeting is being scheduled for May.

**City of Ukiah (4/16/25):** City Staff and legal counsel Phil Williams presented a proposal for a significant annexation project. Most of Millview Water District and all of Willow Water District would be annexed into the City of Ukiah. The City will set up a webpage to improve public engagement and transparency. There were many public comments ranging from urging the council to provide more information and postpone decision to full opposition. The Council moved to approve direction to Staff to continue exploring the annexation project including addressing the public comment concerns.

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



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Mendocino County IWPC, Lytton Rancheria, and U.S. Army Corps Launch Feasibility Study to Modernize Coyote Valley Dam

*Modernization Would Safeguard Communities,  
Protect Endangered Species, and Secure the Region's Water Future*

**(April 11, 2025 – Potter Valley, CA)**– In a significant step toward securing a sustainable water future, the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission (IWPC), the Lytton Rancheria Tribe, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have signed an agreement to investigate further reducing flood risk, incorporating habitat restoration, and increasing water supply storage in the Russian River Watershed. If successful, the study could lead to increased federal infrastructure investments in the watershed

The study will first focus on the evaluation of various water supply storage options in the watershed including the potential to raise and modernize Coyote Valley Dam at Lake Mendocino. This focus is consistent with recent federal legislation directing USACE to “to maximize opportunities for water supply, water conservation measures, and drought resiliency efforts at and in the operation of water resources development projects”. The Study will also consider opportunities to reduce flood risk and restore aquatic habitat.

“In connection with our work on the Potter Valley Project, we must find sustainable and flexible options to better manage our water supply,” said Janet Pauli, Chair of the IWPC. “Coyote Valley Dam was built for another era. Extreme weather including longer droughts have made our water supply increasingly unpredictable, and evaluating options like modernizing the dam is essential to restoring habitats and capturing water during wet years to sustain us through dry ones.”

The urgency for regional water solutions has grown as PG&E proceeds with its plans to decommission the Potter Valley Project (PVP) —a century-old system that has enabled water diversions from the Eel River into the Russian River. A new regional [agreement](#) for water infrastructure construction and management post-PVP ensures that these diversions can continue. This Study by USACE complements the agreement by evaluating an array of options to store that diverted water.

“The dam and the region’s entire water system must evolve,” said Mari Rodin, Ukiah City Councilmember and IWPC representative. “The climate is changing, the infrastructure is outdated, and PG&E’s exit means we need a new, coordinated approach”. This study is a vital step toward building a water system that works—for people, farms, fish, and the environment.”

“We look forward to working with the Lytton Rancheria Tribe and USACE to find a balanced solution for the watershed,” added Pauli. “We are choosing to face these challenges together with all of our partners using science, collaboration, and a commitment to solutions. This study marks the beginning of a sustainable water future for both the Russian River and Eel River watersheds – a future that reflects a true two-basin solution.”

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