

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

General Manager's Report for December 2025
Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, January 5, 2026

Note: The District was closed December 1st through the 5th for Staff attendance of the ACWA Conference and again December 22nd through January 2nd for Staff vacation.

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-Russian River and Lake Mendocino 2025 Operations: The State Water Resources Control Board approved the Temporary Urgency Change Petition (TUCP) filed by Sonoma Water in November 2025.

(For more information see <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/2025-2026-russian-river-and-lake-mendocino-operations> or Sonoma Water's TUCP webpage: www.sonomawater.org/tucp.)

2-Potter Valley Project Future: (1) The number of comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) in regard to PG&E's application for Surrender of License and Non-Project Use of Project Lands became too cumbersome to track thoroughly. All submissions can be found on the FERC eLibrary website, docket number: P-77-332 <https://elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search>. (2) The Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors held a joint public meeting regarding the application on November 24th. A link to the video can be found on the RRFC website. (3) The Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) met in Ukiah. See "Meetings" section of this report.

More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/future-of-the-eel-river-to-russian-river-trans-basin-diversion-potter-valley-project>

2-PG&E Potter Valley Project License Amendment: The State Water Resources Control Board released a "DRAFT Water Quality Certification for PG&E's Potter Valley project Article 52 Amendment to Project" to provide the public with an opportunity to review and comment on draft conditions developed to protect water quality and beneficial uses. The comment period for the draft certification ends January 16, 2026.

The Project involves changes to minimum instream flows during the interim period between now and PG&E's surrender of its Hydroelectric Project license. While not required, the State Water Board is providing this opportunity for public review and comment on a draft certification for the Project. Note, this draft certification only pertains to PG&E's Potter Valley Article 52 Amendment Project and does not cover actions associated with FERC license surrender of the Hydroelectric Project. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/potter-valley-project-license-amendment-2025>

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-Water Sharing Program: The working group met and agreed upon an outline to develop a plan for incorporating the 10,000 acre foot reserve pool in Lake Mendocino for Sonoma County water right holders into Program implementation, in cooperation with the State Water Resources Control Board

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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: The District won the Region 1 Outreach Recognition Award which was presented at the San Diego conference in December 2025.

2-SWRCB Funded Telemetry Pilot: The District continues to work with the Telemetry Research Unit (TRU) representatives to implement the Pilot.

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

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

1-Water Use: District Staff working on meter downloads and annual water use reporting to State Water Resources Control Board.

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 or watched: (1) CSDA Webinar SB 707 Brown Act Revamp. (2) Lunch-MAR webinar: the San Joaquin Flood-MAR Watershed Studies team presented results from five watershed studies that provide a compelling case for innovative and at-scale implementation of Flood-MAR strategies and actions. (3) Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) conference.

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.

City of Ukiah (12/3/25): No water related items.

Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) (12/11/25): The Board approved and authorized Executive Director David Manning to execute the Master Agreement for Eel-Russian Project Authority (ERPA) Member Agencies to Provide Various Services and to Advance Costs for ERPA. The Board adopted a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to submit an application and execute a grant agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to receive approximately \$9 Million for the New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF) Planning, Design, and Russian River Water Supply Resilience Project and take related necessary actions to implement the grant; and authorize the Executive Director to seek and apply for additional grants to further ERPA's interests. The Board received a presentation on the New Eel-Russian Facility California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Process Update. ERPA meeting recording 12/11/25:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3W1t_YC8Gh4&list=TLPQMTcxMjIwMjUL8CMDqqED6Q&index=2

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Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) (12/11/25): Redwood Valley Water representative Tom Schoneman reported on his efforts to gain financial support from member agencies of the Ukiah Valley Water Authority. The Commission discussed interest in the Water Authority joining IWPC, possibly in place of Redwood Valley Water, with no one voicing objections. Legal Counsel Scott Shapiro reported on a second meeting with PG&E regarding acquiring the assets of the Potter Valley Project. A member of the public asked questions about a recent Round Valley Indian Tribes meeting that was broadcast on Facebook and distributed publicly. Chair Pauli pointed out a rebuttal letter issued by the Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) addressing some of the concerns brought up. Legal Counsel Scott Shapiro noted the Round Valley Indian Tribes are a member of ERPA and co-authored the rebuttal. Updates were given from the ERPA meeting that was held directly prior to the IWPC meeting. A presentation was given by finance consultant Seth Wurzel and the Commissioners are asked to consider and provide feedback on the conceptual materials being distributed. The need for IWPC staffing was brought up again and it was suggested that a paid professional executive for IWPC is worth considering. An update on the USACE General Investigation at Lake Mendocino to increase storage capacity was given. USACE had \$500,000 to get the study started that came as a result of the Congressman Huffman earmark. Huffman has continued his effort to secure further earmarks unsuccessfully. That leaves two options for further funding of the study: (1) Congress gives USACE a workplan that includes the project and a lump sum for USACE to allocate to the listed projects. (2) Inclusion in the President's Budget. IWPC is working with lobbyists from Lytton Rancheria, Sonoma Water, and other private interests in the Russian River to secure funding for the project. Legal Counsel Scott Shapiro once again stressed the future need for IWPC to secure its own lobbyist, noting around \$120,000 a year suggested budget for this service.

Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) (12/15/25): The Board received updates from consultant Larry Walker & Associates regarding the annual report, periodic evaluation, well inventory study, and the interconnected surface water study. Staff and legal counsel provided updates on governance, administrative support progress, and finances. The Board discussed the City of Ukiah's administrative management of the GSA, specifically indicating concern over finances and asked for more information at the next meeting. More information including recording and documents:
<https://ukiahca.portal.civicclerk.com/event/2462/overview>

City of Ukiah (12/17/25): The Council held an item regarding relicensing of the Lake Mendocino Hydroelectric Plant, awarding a contract for consulting services for the application to the Federal Regulatory Commission Relicensing application.

Ukiah Valley Water Authority: No December meeting was held. The January meeting was rescheduled from January 1st to January 8, 2026. More information on meetings can be found on the City's website: <https://cityofukiah.com/meetings/>. The Water Authority did issue a press release "Ukiah Valley Water Authority Member Agencies Advance Proposed Water Rate Adjustments Following Completion of Regional Rate Study" linked here: <https://mailchi.mp/035918780fc5/uvwa-press-release-ukiah-valley-water-authority-member-agencies-advance-proposed-water-rate-adjustments-following-completion-of-regional-rate-study?e=b806867465>

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