

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

General Manager's Report for September 2024

Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, October 7, 2024

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 Flows: Sonoma Water filed temporary urgency change petitions with the State Water Resources Control Board Division of Water Rights requesting approval of temporary changes to water right and the District filed a support letter attached to this report. For more information:

<https://www.sonomawater.org/tucp>

2-PG&E License Transfer Application: On December 13, 2022, PG&E filed a joint application for approval to transfer a number of licenses including Potter Valley Project No. 77. On August 12, 2024, applicants filed a notice of withdrawal of their application. No motion in opposition to the notice of withdrawal has been filed, and the Commission has taken no action to disallow the thereby the application became effective on August 27, 2024, and this proceeding is hereby terminated.

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: Redwood Valley Annexation: Work continues. For more information:

<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lafco-msr-soi-update-annexation-application-2024>

1-County Drought Resilience Plan: The BoS General Government Committee met and received a presentation regarding the development of the County drought resilience plan. Recording:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czJti_uPEuI

1-Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA): The Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency was awarded \$1,359,000 by CA Fish and Wildlife for the Upper Russian River Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Interconnected Surface Water Study. The project will study surface water-groundwater interconnection and groundwater-dependent ecosystems that support Chinook salmon and steelhead in the upper Russian River and its tributaries.

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.)

2-State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Funded Telemetry Pilot: The Telemetry Research Unit has established a new website where information on the Russian River pilot can be found:

<https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/telemetry/>

(Continued...)

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: Change Petition: Work continues, though the application filing may be early 2025 rather than late 2024.

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) The first of Sustainable Conservation webinar series Recharging California - In Conversation with Dr. Daniel Swain. (2) “General Counsel Roles and Responsibilities Part 1 – Role of the General Counsel.” (3) “California-Nevada September 2024 Drought & Climate Outlook” (4) “Developing Agency Succession Plan.” (5) Legal training: “Easements Aren’t Easy: Practical Experiences and Legal Essentials.” (6) The CA Natural Resources Agency Secretary Speaker Series on Sustainable Groundwater Management Act turning 10; Tracking Progress Managing California Groundwater over the Last Decade.

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.

Redwood Valley Water District (8/15/24): <https://mendofever.com/2024/09/06/redwood-valley-water-board-b-lasts-pge-for-drastic-flow-cuts-to-lake-mendocino/>

Redwood Valley Water District (9/19/24): <https://mendofever.com/2024/09/24/redwood-valley-water-board-discusses-potential-shortages-and-billing-transition/>

UVB GSA Board Meeting (8/19/24): <https://mendofever.com/2024/09/08/ukiah-set-to-manage-groundwater-sustainability-transition-talks-underway/>

Ukiah Valley Water Authority JPA (9/12/24): cancelled.

Willow Water District (9/25/24): The Board had a long closed session. In the next agenda item, the Board approved a motion to join the Ukiah Valley Water Authority and appointed Directors Nevil and Gordon to serve on the Water Executive Committee

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

Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

PO Box 2104, Ukiah, CA 95482 707.462.5278 Website: RRFC.net DistrictManager@rrfc.net

September 4, 2024

Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
PO Box 2000
Sacramento, CA 95812-2000

Dear Mr. Ekdahl,

**RE: Support for Temporary Urgency Change filed in August 2024
for Permits 12947A, 12949, 12950, and 16596 held by Sonoma Water Agency**

The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (RRFC) supports approval of Sonoma Water Agency's recently filed Petition for Temporary Urgency Change (TUCP.)

The State Water Resources Control Board (Water Board) staff has been extremely active and engaging with stakeholders in the Russian River watershed over the last four years and is keenly aware of our current and future water supply issues. The region's water supply is vulnerable and the TUCP is one of the most important tools for the Upper Russian River to maintain vital storage reserves while making needed water available for beneficial use. RRFC supports and applauds Sonoma Water for its continued diligence in monitoring, filing TUCPs, managing, outreach & education, advocacy, and regional collaboration. Sonoma Water's efforts benefit all water uses and users in the Russian River watershed.

The next year or two are crucial in the watershed as we adjust to the rapidly changing conditions of the Eel River to Russian River trans basin diversion. Locally, there is a significant investment of resources to support the community through the transition. While long term solutions are being developed, the TUCP is a required tool to buffer from extremes.

Russian River Flood Control thanks you for your consideration of these comments. It also extends sincere appreciation for the resources expended in the Russian River by the State Water Resources Control Board since 2020 and collaboration that bolsters the region's water security and resiliency.

Yours Sincerely,



Elizabeth Salomone
General Manager

Cc: Sonoma Water Agency

President
Christopher Watt

Vice President
Tyler Rodrigue

Treasurer
John Bailey

Trustee
John Reardan

Trustee
Dave Koball



August 28, 2024

Christopher Watt, Board President
Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District
PO Box 2104
Ukiah California, 95482

Re: President’s Special Acknowledgement Award – Property/Liability Program

Dear Christopher,

On behalf of SDRMA Board of Directors and staff, it is my great pleasure to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you, your governing body at Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District, management, and staff on achieving an outstanding milestone of maintaining an impeccable record of zero “paid” claims for the Property/Liability Program years 2019-2024. A “paid” claim for the purposes of this recognition represents the first payment on an open claim during the prior program year and excludes property claims.

As a symbol of our appreciation and acknowledgment of your exceptional performance, we are honored to present Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District with the *President’s Special Acknowledgement Award*, representing our admiration for your outstanding achievement and our encouragement to continue your excellent work. In addition to this annual recognition, members with no “paid” claims receive the following, all resulting in a reduction to their annual contribution amount:

- during 2023-24 earned one credit incentive point (CIP)
- for the prior five consecutive program years earned three additional bonus CIPs

This remarkable accomplishment is a testament to your agency’s unwavering commitment to risk management excellence and a culture of safety and proactive governance. By consistently prioritizing risk management and fostering an environment where safety and diligence are paramount, your agency has set a standard of excellence that is truly commendable.

The success you have achieved is not by chance, but through the dedication, hard work, and collaboration of your entire team. It reflects the high level of professionalism and care with which you approach your responsibilities and serve your community.

Please accept our sincerest thanks and appreciation for your efforts in making your agency a model of excellence within the special district community. We look forward to continuing our partnership and supporting you in all your future endeavors.

Once again, congratulations on this extraordinary achievement. May your agency continue to thrive, setting an inspiring example for others.

Sincerely,

Sandy A. Seifert-Raffelson, President
Board of Directors
Special District Risk Management Authority





President's Special Acknowledgement Award

The President of the Special District Risk Management Authority

Hereby gives special recognition to

Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District

The President's Special Acknowledgement Award is to recognize members with no "paid" claims during the prior five consecutive program years in the Property/Liability Program. A "paid" claim for the purposes of this recognition represents the first payment on an open claim during that same period and excludes property claims. Congratulations on your excellent claims record!

Sandy A. Seifert-Raffelson, SDRMA Board President

August 28, 2024

Date