

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

**General Manager's Report for August 2024**  
*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, September 9, 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 Permits. The petitions include seeking authorization to implement a hydrologic index based on Lake Mendocino storage values, rather than the current index based on cumulative inflow into Lake Pillsbury, starting November 1, 2024. In the absence of the proposed changes, the applicable minimum instream flow requirements may require releases of water from Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma at levels that would risk significant depletions of storage levels that could cause impacts to human health and welfare and reduce water supplies needed for protection of listed salmon species in the Russian River. Therefore, Sonoma Water proposes alternative monthly storage values, in lieu of cumulative Lake Pillsbury inflow, to define the water supply conditions that determine which minimum instream flow requirements. For more information: <https://www.sonomawater.org/tucp>

**2-PG&E 2024 flow variance:** The Federal Energy Resources Commission (FERC) approved the 2024 flow variance submitted by PG&E in late June. PG&E has reconvened the Drought Working Group which has met twice to receive condition updates. The City of Ukiah filed a Request for Rehearing of the Commission's Order granting PG&E's 2024 variance request without analyzing the impacts to the Upper Russian River and in violation of the most basic tenets of NEPA. At the end of August, FERC published a Notice of Denial of Rehearing by Operation of Law and Providing for Further Consideration re Pacific Gas and Electric Co. under P-77. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://www.rrfc.net/updates>

**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:** LACO Associates has been engaged to assist with the annexation application and a verbal update will be provided in the meeting. The District Engineer is working on mapping. For more information: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lafco-msr-soi-update-annexation-application-2024>

**3: North Coast Resource Partnership:** The Technical Peer Review Committee met to review the CAL Fire Forest Health Pilot applications and develop a recommendation for the Leadership Council. GM is appointed by the County Board of Supervisors to represent Mendocino County.

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**1-Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):** The Staffing Ad Hoc Committee met with GSA legal counsel to pose questions regarding potential staffing changes. A special meeting of the GSA Board was held to consider a recommendation from the GSA Staffing Ad Hoc Committee to engage the City of Ukiah for Executive Director and administrative staffing services. The Board took the following actions: 1. Directed the Staffing Ad Hoc Committee to work with the City of Ukiah to develop a scope and budget for providing administrative services (in place of the current contractor West Yost); 2. Approved the extension of the current contract with West Yost to provide longer transition period (if City is engaged to provide admin services.) An additional approximately \$100k was also approved for the West Yost budget. 3. Direction for the well inventory study to be started by Larry Walker & Associates. This will be a multistep project and is necessary for compliance in implementing the Groundwater Sustainability Plan. The next meeting is scheduled for October.

**1-US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Channel Maintenance:** Legal Counsel and GM met with USACE staff to discuss District obligations for channel maintenance. This will be brought back to the Board in future agenda items.

**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 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) Implementation subcommittee of the ACWA Groundwater Committee met and discussed Groundwater Sustainability Agency's (GSA's) in probationary status, recently published reports and their impact on SGMA water budgets, and the climate resilience bond groundwater funding. The State Legislative Committee met and reviewed positions on several items.

**2-State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Funded Telemetry Pilot:** Trustees Reardan and Koball attended the Santa Rosa in-person workshop on the pilot this week. GM provided feedback on the written draft report.

**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:** Legal Counsel and Engineers are moving quickly, and it is possible Board approval will be sought in October or November to file the application.

**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) a webinar by the District's website host company regarding increased requirements for website ADA Compliance; (2) ADA compliance training by website hosts.

**2-Board Leadership:** Trustees Rodrigue and Koball were the only two who filed for the two open seats on the Board so they will continue their seats, and the District will have no election fees (just a small admin fee to the County.)

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**3-Website compliance:** GM met with a representative of website host. ADA compliance requirements are increasing. The website host company, which specializes in special districts and compliance, is improving features to assist in compliance, therefore rates are increasing. A feature for District customers to pay online via the website was negotiated which will hopefully be set up for the next payment cycle.

**4-Finances:** The updated 23024 fiscal year end report is on website:  
<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/finances#/> (scroll down below the budgets and audits.)

<b>Community Meetings</b>
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**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 (7/18/24):** Press covered it well:  
<https://mendofever.com/2024/08/07/redwood-valleys-water-future-board-addresses-consolidation-and-challenges/> Trustee Reardan reported that the RVCWD board approved the MOU with RRFC.

**Ukiah Valley Water Authority JPA (8/6/24):** Report on Status of Application for SAFER Planning Grant. Submitted SAFER application to SWRCB last week assisted by Carollo Engineers who will be coming to Ukiah soon to observe existing facilities. Not too late for other districts to join the application but time is of the essence. Report on Expected Services Start Date of January 1, 2025, and Progress Report. Had cross training days with CWDs (Willow CWD staff) and City staff. Accounting, administrative, and HR coordination is ongoing. Will provide an update at next UVWA meeting. Goal to make sure to support Willow CWD staff that want to make the transition to City employment. Report on Status of Secretary of State and State Controller Filing. Phil Williams reports that filing submitted but not processed by State. He will stay on tracking status of filing. Report on Master Tax Sharing Agreement between Mendocino County and the Cities of Fort Bragg, Point Arena, Ukiah, and Willits. UVWA JPA agreement contemplates annexation and LAFCo cannot approve annexation without tax sharing agreement. All parties have approved agreement. Transition in tax revenue will occur over 10 years (weaning). Tax sharing has been an impediment to annexation and community progress for decades. Next meeting date: 4pm, September 12, 2024 at UVCC.

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