

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

General Manager's Report for May 2024

Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, June 3, 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)

2-Russian River Water Forum: The Steering Committee met with facilitators Kearns & West who noted this Forum meeting is likely the last, at least under their contract. The Forum meeting was held Wednesday, May 15th 2-4 PM on zoom. The main part of the meeting was the same presentation by David Manning that was given at the last Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) meeting. Additionally, the State Water Resources Control Board staff introduced the Russian River Telemetry Pilot Project. The recording will be available on the Forum website <https://russianriverwaterforum.org/>. Sonoma Water intends to keep the website up for a year or so.

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-Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA): The GSA Board met for a special meeting to receive information on an update to the Rate and Fee Study report. Direction was given to staff and approval of the rates and fees are expected at the June 13, 2024 GSA Board meeting.

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 Telemetry Pilot: An information meeting was held on Zoom. Volunteers are being sought and more meetings focused on technical points are being scheduled by the State Water Resources Control Board.

2-Association of CA Water Agencies (ACWA): The ACWA Spring Conference was held in Sacramento, with many opportunities for further education, networking with colleagues, and meeting vendors in the exhibit hall. Region 1 hosted a successful panel on the North Coast Resource Partnership Board and the Region 1 Board met during conference. GM was a panelist in the Fiscal Sustainability in Times of Uncertainty session hosted by the ACWA Finance Committee. During the CA Natural Resources Secretary Wade Crowfoot's keynote speech, he surprised the crowd by bringing Governor Newsom to the stage to speak, as well.

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: A pre-petition proposal was submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board, as requested. In early May, a response was received, and staff will work with legal counsel to finalize the change petition for submission.

(Continued...)

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: GM attended the following meetings/webinars: (1) DWR presentation on the CA Water Plan Update (2) 3 weekly Water Bootcamp sessions. (3) Climate Resilience through Regeneration webinar; Session 2 (Surface Water Rights, Surface Water and Distribution, Private Well Ownership) (4) DWR GSA Annual Forum. (5) North Coast Resource Partnership CAL FIRE Forest Health Pilot Grant Workshop. (6) Unlocking Grant Potential: a guide for districts to access federal funding.

3-Metering: Several new meters and conversion equipment have been ordered. Those received are being scheduled for installation.

Community Meetings

City of Ukiah (5/1/24): Nothing water related to note.

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (5/1/24): Cancelled.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (5/6/24): The Commission held a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget.

Ukiah Valley Water Agency JPA: Cancelled.

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) (5/9/24): There was a presentation and robust discussion with representatives from the Alexander Valley agricultural water users. They are trying to form a special district which would, among other things, manage Sonoma County water right holders' allocation of Lake Mendocino and administer the Water Sharing Program.

Hopland PUD (5/9/24): No one from the District attended.

Willow Water District (5/13/24): Cancelled.

Calpella Water District (5/15/24): Cancelled.

City of Ukiah (5/15/24): The Council approved the recommended action to approve plans and specifications for the Riverside Park Regeneration Project, which has been lightly mentioned at the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) as a positive demonstration of habitat restoration benefitting water resources.

Redwood Valley Water District (5/16/24): Cancelled.

Millview Water District (5/21/24): Staff provided updates on operations: tank refurbishing completed, river diversions are in place and running, meter replacements ongoing with lots of leaks being found and fixed, lots of weeds to be mowed and cleared. Ackerman Bridge project with county requiring Millview to redo waterlines. Granite bid at \$750,000. Talking with WIPF for a possible option less expensive. The Board decided to move one million dollars from the 1.8 million in the Savings Bank Capital account (0.05% interest) to LAIF account (4% interest). The District's legal counsel is meeting with City attorney to revive the Waltufel water right in light of the new JPA. Board member Jerry Cardoza asked to be replaced as the Millview representative for URRWA. They voted to have Tim Prince take his place.

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