

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

## **General Manager's Report for March 2023**

*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, April 3, 2023*

**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)

See also the Agenda Item on Water Supply Conditions

**1-Coyote Dam/Lake Mendocino Operations:** Meetings began between the District and Sonoma Water regarding development of the Technical Memo as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning Lake Mendocino Storage Planning and Russian River Management.

**1-Water Sharing Program:** The Steering Committee met to discuss current conditions and developments in the Potter Valley Project that would impact moving forward with the program for 2023. The Program cannot be implemented in 2023 as currently designed without the State Water Board's Emergency Regulations which have now been rescinded. Alternatives are being explored. Consensus was to continue working to adapt the Program including considering 'water stewardship' to include a spectrum of approaches to manage the balancing of a reduced water supply with 'normal' demand. Administration and tracking of the Sonoma County 10,000 acre foot reserve pool discussion continued.

**2-Russian River Water Forum:** The Project Management Advisory Team continued to meet and steer the process for Planning Group and caucus formation. The Interim Steering Committee convened to refine the Planning Group Charter and nomination process. A Special Meeting was held to brief the caucus members and discuss Planning Group representation. Website was recently launched: <https://russianriverwaterforum.org/>

**3-Water Right Applications:** District Legal Counsel submitted a letter to request withdrawal of petitions for partial assignment of State-Filed Applications 12919 and 12920 and water-right applications 12919C and 12920B which were accepted by the State Water Board's Administrative Hearing Office and the Division of Water Rights.

**4-Increased Storage Capacity:** GM received a request from IWPC for a support letter on an application to receive funding towards the Coyote Valley Dam Feasibility study. See the **attached** correspondence.

**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-Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA):** GM served on an ad hoc committee to consider recommendation of a consultant for the Rate & Fee Study. The well permitting workshop #2 has been scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023, at Barra Tasting Room in Redwood Valley. The GSA Board met, see section on meetings.

*(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-Public Awareness of Water Issues:** GM Salomone was interviewed by several reporters regarding the Water Forum, Potter Valley Project, and 2023 water supply. Materials continue to be added to District website.

**2-ACWA:** The ACWA Region 1 Field Representative visited for a tour of the Redwood Valley County Water District treatment plant facility and discussion with local ACWA member leadership. The Region 1 Board and the full ACWA Board met. The ACWA Groundwater Committee's SGMA Implementation Sub Committee met. Received a presentation from DWR on the soon-to-be released drinking water guidance, heard from Paul Gosselin, head of DWR SGMA implementation, discussed GSP determinations including the recent failures of several critically designated basins that are now transferred to the State Water Board for further action. Discussion on well permitting revealed other basins struggling with how to determine findings of non-impact to existing wells when issuing well permits. Groundwater Resources Association is developing a white paper on the topic.

**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.)

**2-Strategic Use of Water- FLOODMAR/GW RECHARGE:** On March 10, 2023, Governor Newsom signed Executive Order N-4-23, which set forth the conditions under which water users may capture and divert floodwater for groundwater recharge – temporarily lifting regulations and setting clear conditions for diverting flood stage water without state permits to boost groundwater recharge storage. The Executive Order suspends certain regulatory requirements under conditions of imminent risk of flooding during this Spring's runoff months until June 1, 2023. The California Department of Water Resources, State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife held a webinar on the Executive Order N-4-23, related to flood water capture and groundwater recharge. The webinar included opening remarks, a presentation detailing the requirements of the Executive Order, and opportunity for question and answer from participants. For more information contact the District GM.

**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 Salomone presented to Leadership Mendocino, Mendocino County Resource Conservation District Board meeting, took several days off, attended several webinars.

**2-Human Resources:** Recruitment continued for an Office Administrator. GM Evaluation process update continues.

**4-Finances:** The FY 2021-22 audit is being finalized by CPA now that all GM and Treasurer questions have been addressed. All customer invoices have been issued and some payments have been received. Met with grant funding consultant to refine search for strategic plan implementation funding. Met with Accountant regarding ongoing clean-up issues.

(Continued...)

## Community Meetings

**Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) 3/2/23):** Main topic of discussion was the proposed consolidation of services between the small water suppliers of URRWA and the City of Ukiah. The ad hoc group of members and attorneys are working on a revised JPA to include the City of Ukiah and an organizational structure and functionality. It was noted that cost allocation plan is the biggest challenge at this point though all are trying to reach conclusion to benefit from the opportunity of significant grant funding for the necessary infrastructure.

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (3/6/23):** Public Hearing on Out-of-Agency Services Agreement Area for Wastewater Services from the City of Ukiah and Ukiah Valley Sanitation District and a Mid-Year Budget and Work Plan Report.

**Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (MCIWPC) (3/9/23):** Chair Pauli provided update on PG&E's operation of Potter Valley Project under annual license, studies being conducted from DWR funding to Sonoma Water, and the development of the Russian River Water Forum. Additional funding to continue Forum work was discussed with \$30,000 from each of the 5 members suggested. Commissioners asked for a written request from IWPC to present to their governing bodies. A workshop was proposed to discuss longer term budgeting for ongoing projects. Pauli noted that no funding was identified for Coyote Dam improvements in Federal budgets despite Congressman Huffman's office indicating otherwise.

**Hopland Public Utility District (3/9/23):** No one from the District attended.

**Willow Water District (3/13/23):** Willow completed repairs to well 8 on Burke Hill. Motor was rebuilt. Considering open LAIF account to provide more protection that afforded by FDIC. Will look at change to drought resolution next month. Updates on contract service accounts: Redwood Valley grant funded project for new VFD drives at lake water treatment plant. Also upgrade SCADA system. Treatment plant not running well. Hopefully, RV can get some surplus water from RRFC this year. RV could use their water right now but nowhere to store it; customer ponds are full. Hopland PUD will have new wastewater permit with expanded monitoring requirements. Update on consolidated services of City of Ukiah and water districts of URRWA: State wants to see all infrastructure built by end of 2026 and requires 30% plans in order to fund. Willow is providing infrastructure info to City of Ukiah engineering consultant. Ad hoc continues to meet once a month. River Estates and Hopland will be managed by new entity but not part of infrastructure consolidation and unlikely to join JPA. City won't be able operate as economically as Willow. Concern about transparency of water rates and costs. No updates provided on PVP.

**Calpella Water District (2/15/23):** Cancelled.

**City of Ukiah (3/14/23):** Mayor Mari Rodin provided an update from the IWPC meeting, specifically the request for \$30,000 from each of the 5 members and a report that IWPC is working on a broader budget for the mid to long term efforts to maintain the diversion. She also shared comments regarding the lack of funding for the feasibility study on raising Coyote Valley Dam. Some Councilmembers are waiting for a break in the weather to go on a tour of City water facilities. The Council received a presentation on the Riverside Park floodplain regeneration project, which could have benefits to groundwater sustainability efforts. It was funded by the Natural Resources Agency.

**Redwood Valley Water District (3/15/23):** After a closed session with legal counsel, staff provided updates on operations, finances, proposed consolidating of services with the City of Ukiah and small water suppliers, and progress on the grant funded projects. Both the lake pumps and the treatment plant are offline at the moment due to improvements/repairs. It is unclear if water can be pumped from the lake for frost season. Adam Gaska was appointed as President, Tom Schoeneman as Vice President. Some changes minor changes were made to JPA and committee assignments.

**Millview Water District (3/21/23):** Cancelled due to lack of quorum.

**Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission Special (3/23/23):** Forum update and discussion of potential candidates for Planning Group nomination and work group participants.

**County Public Health, Resource Committee, aka “Drought Ad Hoc” (3/27/23):** The Committee received an update from consultants EKI on recommendations from the TAC for projects to receive technical assistance in developing grant applications. No committee recommendation to the full Board of Supervisors was made; the Board of Supervisors scheduled to hear the item on 3/28/23.

**County Board of Supervisors (3/28/23):** No one from the District attended or reviewed recording to date.

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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***

*304 North State Street, Ukiah, CA 95482 707.462.5278 Website: [RRFC.net](http://RRFC.net) [DistrictManager@rrfc.net](mailto:DistrictManager@rrfc.net)*

March 17, 2023

Congressmember Jared Huffman  
2445 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman,

**RE: Support for FY 2024 Community Project Funding for Feasibility Study of Coyote Dam as requested by Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission**

The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District (RRFC) is a member of the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (MCIWPC) and is in support of the feasibility study of Coyote Dam.

RRFC understands that the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies, Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works, Construction account could provide much needed funding toward the feasibility study of Coyote Dam. We ask for your support in directing available funds to this effort.

Dramatic changes in the historical diversions from the Eel River to the Russian River leave the constituents of RRFC and the greater upper Russian River communities incredibly vulnerable regarding water supply for homes, businesses, agriculture, Tribal community and cultural uses, and the environment. Increased storage at Lake Mendocino from the raising of Coyote Valley Dam could play a significant part in water security for the region. This feasibility study is essential in determining the future of the Russian River watershed.

Russian River Flood Control thanks you for your consideration of these comments.

Yours Sincerely,



Christopher Watt  
Board President

**Cc:**

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors and CEO  
Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission

**President**  
*Christopher Watt*

**Vice President**  
*Alfred White*

**Treasurer**  
*John Bailey*

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*Tyler Rodrigue*

**Trustee**  
*John Reardan*

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** ACWA Member Agency Leadership  
*(sent via email)*

**CC:** ACWA Board of Directors

**FROM:** ACWA Executive Director

**DATE:** March 15, 2023

**SUBJECT:** ACWA 2023 BOARD OFFICERS' ELECTION – Authorized Voting Representative Form

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ACWA has launched two separate but concurrent election processes for the 2024-'25 term: the Board officers' election for President and Vice President and the region board elections. **This memo provides a summary of the Board officers' election process, including key dates and changes being implemented this year.**

The biggest change to the election process is that voting will no longer take place during conference. Instead, voting will take place electronically July 17 - Sept. 15. Ballots will be distributed July 17 and include all qualified candidates, in addition to the Election Committee's preferred candidates. All candidates will also be listed on the ACWA website and invited to participate in a town hall style webinar in which members can ask the candidates questions.

Each member agency in good standing may vote in the election for President and Vice President. **Member agencies must designate the agency's one voting representative by submitting an Authorized Voting Representative Form to [donnap@acwa.com](mailto:donnap@acwa.com) by June 16. The form is available [online](#).**

ACWA will be using a web-based online voting system called Simply Voting, which will independently tabulate the votes and provide verified results in a timely manner while keeping individual votes confidential. Designating your agency's voting representative is an important step to ensure the ballot is sent to the correct person.

## Important Officers Election Dates

- Call for candidates begins: **Monday, April 17**
- Deadline to submit Authorized Voting Representative Forms: **Friday, June 16**
- Deadline to submit candidate nominations: **Friday, June 16**

- Election begins: **Monday, July 17**
  - Authorized voting representatives who are voting electronically will receive an email from Simply Voting with a link to the ballot for President and Vice President.
  - Authorized voting representatives who have requested a paper ballot will be sent a ballot by first class mail to their member agency's address.
- Deadline to submit ballots: **Friday, September 15**
- Announcement of ACWA President and Vice President for 2024-'25 term: **September 27**
- Introduction of ACWA President and Vice President at fall conference: **November 29**

For more details about the election process, please visit [www.acwa.com/elections](http://www.acwa.com/elections). Additional questions can be directed to ACWA Senior Clerk of the Board Donna Pangborn at 916-669-2425 or [donnap@acwa.com](mailto:donnap@acwa.com).

## Dave Eggerton

Executive Director

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