

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

General Manager's Report for February 2023

Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, March 6, 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: GM Salomone met with State Water Resources Control Board several times discussing the water supply conditions and potential responses by the SWRCB in 2023. The Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) Steering Committee met and GM Salomone attended as a guest.

2-Russian River Water Forum: The Project Management Advisory Team met weekly. Tribal and elected official briefings continue. The Interim Steering Committee held its first meeting and scheduled its second. The Forum website will go live in March.

1-Water Sharing Program: The Steering Committee met to discuss moving forward with the program for 2023 and how the SWRCB emergency regulations change/interact with the Program. Consensus was to move forward. The first annual implementation report was submitted. A discussion was held on the amplification of conservation within the Program to encourage demand reduction rather than only switching to an alternative source of water such as groundwater. Administration and tracking of the Sonoma County 10,000 acre foot reserve pool was discussed.

3-Water Right Applications: The Submittal of Supplemental Information to the Water Availability Analysis for the East Fork Russian River Permit Applications A012919C and A012920B along with the attachments (Water Availability Analysis dated July 2022 and WAA Supplemental Info Memo) was submitted to the Administrative Hearing Office and all protestants. The Administrative Hearing Office issued a status conference update, noting the public comment period on the updated WAA is March 20, 2023. The Districts has until March 15, 2023 to inform the State Board of any amendments to pending applications, and only until April 15 to issue a Notice of Intent (NOI) on CEQA for the project underlying that application. Meetings continued with District engineering consultants, Balance Hydrologics. The next Administrative Hearing Office Status Conference is scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, 2023.

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): The Technical Advisory Committee met, received updates on stakeholder and GSA projects of interest, received an update on the 2022 annual report development, discussed compliance issues with the Governor's Executive Order that addresses well permitting entities to coordinate with GSAs, and touched upon grant funding opportunities.

2-Diverse, Equitable, & Inclusive Stewardship: Early discussions with Resource Conservation District on project ideas for improved engagement. Continued communication with MLSTEP Members on aligned interests.

(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 presented to the Ukiah Rotary Club on the Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency and answered general water questions.

1-Groundwater Sustainability Agency: The well permitting workshop #2 has been scheduled for Monday, April 17, 2023 at Barra Tasting Room in Redwood Valley.

2-State Agency Outreach: GM Salomone was a panelist for an agenda item on Long-term Drought: Expert Panel on Drought Preparedness and Response Strategies to the California Water Commission at its February 15, 2023 Meeting. By invitation, GM Salomone testified at the State Assembly Committee on Water, Parks, and Wildlife hearing on February 28, 2023. The Committee oversees water rights, flood, and water policy (among other topics) in the state legislature and is currently working on an informational hearing on water rights modernization. The goal of the hearing was to hear from experts about how climate change is challenging our water rights system, learn about some specific examples of what these challenges look like on the ground, and hear about some potential reforms.

2-ACWA: The ACWA Region 1 Board met to discuss agenda materials for the ACWA Board workshop and meeting. GM Salomone attended both the workshop and meeting in person while in Sacramento. Most ACWA Committees met on February 15th.

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 Accounting: Water use reporting for the October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022 water year was submitted though further refinement is needed on the data and an amendment will be filed.

2-Strategy for Frost Season: Fish Friendly Farming (CA Land Stewardship Institute led by Laurel Marcus) in cooperation with Mendocino County Farm Bureau held two meetings to provide updates and coordinate on water use for frost season.

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 attended the CA Water Law Symposium, presented at the Executive Leadership Institute of Mendocino County, attended the CCST Science Day at the California Natural Resources Agency, attended the CA Natural Resources Agency webinar: After the Storm - A Timely Update on California's Water Supply.

2-Systems: Recruitment has been initiated for additional administrative assistance, see Agenda Item 7. Computers are undergoing maintenance and enhancement. Equipment was purchased and set up to conduct hybrid meetings from the District's office.

4-Finances: GM and Treasurer met to discuss audit, budget, and financial policies. Account was unavailable to meet until March regarding questions on the draft FY 2021-2022 audit.

(Continued...)

Community Meetings

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (2/1/23): Cancelled at last minute due to lack of quorum.

City of Ukiah (2/1/23): Nothing to note.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (2/6/23): Cancelled

Board of Supervisors (2/7/23): Nothing to note.

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (MCIWPC) (2/9/23): Members provided updates. A summary was provided of the grant funding received by the City of Ukiah and announced at the last MCIWPC meeting: City received a 100% grant from State Water Resources Control Board for \$53.7M for recycled water Phase 4 development, providing distribution. It was reported the City will produce 1500 af a year of recycled water which is 50% of the 3,000 af a year use in total by the City. Redwood Valley representative reported the proposed consolidation of the City of Ukiah and water districts services continues to progress and the SAFER program may provide \$55M funding. DWR grant projects updates provided. Raising Coyote Dam - Funding has been made available in the WARDA bill for the feasibility study to raise Coyote Valley Dam, but no update on when the US Army Corp will begin work again. Prior studies included inundation and bathymetry. Engineering geology/geotechnical studies are still needed. In the past IWPC contributed \$600,000 from 2005-2012 as part of \$1.2 mil in work. In person meetings starting in March at the County Ag office 809 North Bush. Meeting will be hybrid.

Hopland Public Utility District (2/9/23): No one from the District attended.

Willow Water District (2/13/23): No one from the District attended.

Calpella Water District (2/15/23): No one from the District attended.

City of Ukiah (2/15/23): Nothing to note.

Redwood Valley Water District (2/16/23): No one from the District attended.

Millview Water District (2/21/23): Cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Mendocino County Public Health, Safety, Resource Committee (2/27/23): Formerly called the Drought Task Force. The Committee members are Supervisors Gjerde and Williams, a change from the previous make up of Supervisors Haschak and McGourty. Consultant EKI Environment and Water, Inc. provided a review of work. Director of Transportation Howard Dashiell received direction from the Committee on future agenda items.

Board of Supervisors (2/28/23): Bree Klotter was appointed to the Redwood Valley County Water District Board on the consent calendar. The Board approved Adoption of a Resolution Terminating the Local Emergency Related to COVID-19.

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MENDOCINO

Local Agency Formation Commission

Ukiah Valley Conference Center | 200 South School Street | Ukiah, California 95482
Telephone: (707) 463-4470 | E-mail: eo@mendolafo.org | Web: www.mendolafo.org

COMMISSIONERS

Maureen Mulheren, Chair
County Member

Gerald Ward,
Vice Chair/Treasurer
Public Member

Glenn McGourty
County Member

Mari Rodin
City Member

Vacant
City Member

Candace Horsley Elected
Special District Member

Vacant
Special District Member

Francois Christen, Alternate
Special District Member

Gerardo Gonzalez, Alternate
City Member

John Haschak, Alternate
County Member

Richard Weinkle, Alternate
Public Member

STAFF

Executive Officer
Uma Hinman

Clerk/Analyst
Larkyn Feiler

Counsel
Scott Browne

REGULAR MEETINGS

First Monday of each month
at 9:00 AM in the
Mendocino County
Board of Supervisors
Chambers
501 Low Gap Road, Ukiah

Sent by Electronic Mail

January 23, 2023

To: Board of Directors of Independent Special Districts
From: Uma Hinman, Executive Officer
Subject: NEW Notice of Vacancy for Special District Member to LAFCo

Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) has a new Special District Member vacancy as of December 2, 2022 and invites **nominations to fill the remainder of the Regular Special District term of 2021-2024**. View our website for the current Commission members: <https://www.mendolafo.org/commission>.

Special District Members	Seat	Term
Vacant	Regular	2021 – 2024
Candace Horsley (<i>elected</i>)	Regular	2023 – 2026
Francois Christen	Alternate	2023 – 2026

LAFCo is an independent, quasi-legislative agency that reviews city and special district changes of organization and the establishment of boundaries and authorized services for numerous local government agencies (see website for a list of local special districts). The Commission is comprised of seven regular and four alternate members representing the county, cities, independent special districts, and general public.

In accordance with Government Code Section 56332(f), the Mendocino LAFCo Executive Officer conducts the nomination and election process on behalf of the Special District Selection Committee.

Commission members are elected to four-year terms; there are no term limits. Each district may nominate one person for the regular member seat. Nominees must be board members and nominations must be approved by the district's governing body. All nominations must be accompanied by a completed nomination form (enclosed) and may be mailed or emailed to LAFCo at eo@mendolafo.org.

If nominations are received for only one candidate by the end of the nominating period, the candidate shall be deemed appointed. If more than one nomination is received, LAFCo will prepare and send ballots to each district for an election. Contact LAFCo staff with questions at (707) 463-4470 or email the Executive Officer at eo@mendolafo.org.

The nomination and election schedule are as follows:

Election Process Step	Date
Nominations due	March 14, 2023
Ballots issued (if more than 1 nomination)	March 17, 2023
Ballots due	April 30, 2023
Term begins	May 2023

Signed nominations may be submitted by mail, email or hand delivery and must be received by March 14, 2023.

Nomination Form

(due to Mendocino LAFCo by March 14, 2023)

Special District Regular Member

Remainder of 4-year Term, Ending December 31, 2024

Name of District: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

The Board hereby nominates _____
to serve on the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission.

Board action taken on the _____ day of _____, 2023 by the following
vote:

Ayes: _____

Noes: _____

Abstain: _____

Absent: _____

District Representative:

Signature

Date

Printed Name

Title

Nominations due to LAFCo by March 14, 2023

(Nomination Forms accepted by mail, email, or hand delivery)