

Declaration #21-01

of the

Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District

Announcing A Water Supply Alert

WHEREAS:

1. The Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District (District) holds the right to 7,940 acre-feet of Project Water stored in Lake Mendocino.
2. As of March 6, 2021, the water supply in Lake Mendocino is 32,988 acre-feet, which is similar to the level during the 2014 drought.
3. In accordance with provisions in the Order approving the 2021 Sonoma Water Agency Temporary Urgency Change Petition, instream flows requirements for the Upper Russian River are 25 cubic feet per second which is about 1,500 acre-feet per month.
4. Typical summer-time evaporation losses from Lake Mendocino are on the order of 1,000 acre-feet per month.
5. Precipitation in the Upper Russian River has been below normal for two years.
6. The Board of Trustees heard and fully considered all verbal and written public comment including the General Manager's report and recommendations at a Special Board Meeting on March 8, 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, the District Board hereby declares as follows:

- There is a high probability of reduced surface water availability in the Upper Russian River and storage of Project Water in Lake Mendocino for 2021 water use.
- In an effort to extend current supplies of water and minimize the effects of the current and possible future water supply shortage, the Board is calling for District customers to follow their water conservation plans and begin water shortage contingency planning.
- A Russian River watershed-wide approach to the water supply shortage, drought condition response, and water system management is needed through coordination with all water users in the Upper Russian River watershed.

District Staff is directed to:

- a. Communicate to all District customers advising them of the Board's call for voluntary water use reduction, asking for their cooperation, and encouraging them to review the specifics of their District Uniform Water Sale & Purchase Agreement.
- b. Continue providing the Board and customers with updates on the drought conditions, District reservoir storage levels, and any anticipated changes through a weekly Water Supply Conditions email and other outreach.
- c. Continue monitoring customer water supply demand and making surplus supply available to District customers and Redwood Valley County Water District through water transfers.
- d. Continue Russian River watershed-wide coordination to address the water supply shortage, drought condition responses, and water system management.
- e. Continue public outreach to emphasize the reduced surface water and storage supplies necessitating significant reduction in water consumption by utilizing local and social media, public comment and presentations at regional entity meetings, the District's website, correspondence, etc.
- f. Closely monitor the water supply conditions to determine if further action is needed.

The Board recognizes that water supply conditions could change and intends to be agile in its approach and response to any changes.

The Board thanks District customers and the public for their anticipated cooperation and fully understands that it will take all residents and water leaders in the Russian River watershed to successfully navigate this situation.

ADOPTED 8th of March, 2021 by the Board of Trustees of the Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control & Water Conservation Improvement District, by the following vote:

Christopher Watt, President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / No / Abstain / Absent
Alfred White, Vice President	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / No / Abstain / Absent
Matthew Froneberger, Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / No / Abstain / Absent
Tyler Rodrigue, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / No / Abstain / Absent
John Reardan, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / No / Abstain / Absent

Signed: _____
Christopher Watt, Board of Trustees President _____ Date

Attest: _____
Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager _____ Date

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Signed:  3/9/21
Christopher Watt, Board of Trustees President Date

Attest:  3/9/21
Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager Date