

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

General Manager's Report for July 2022

Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, August 8, 2022

Priority 1, Secure: Ensure reliable and available sources of water. (Water rights license, Reservoirs, PVP)

See also: Agenda Items on Water Supply Conditions and Water Resiliency Planning

Potter Valley Project Licensing: On July 28th, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) submitted a response to the May 20, 2022 filing for a request for rehearing, reconsideration, and/or discretionary action regarding the FERC issuance of the annual Potter Valley Project license to PG&E that was approved on April 21, 2022. The rehearing request was submitted by a collective, contending that the annual license is not in compliance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA). FERC reaffirmed the April 21, 2022 issuance of the annual license and addressed some of the petitioners' concerns.

Potter Valley Project Decommissioning: The On July 29th, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released correspondence in response to the July 8th PG&E notice of license surrender and timeline for decommissioning. FERC designates the licensee (PG&E) as the non-federal representative for various consultation requirements that will occur, outlines what is required in the license surrender application and states that FERC expects a surrender application to be filed within 30 months, January 2025. Also on July 29th, several fishery Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) submitted comments in response to FERC's approval of the PG&E license surrender timeline in the document described above. The entities offer an alternative timeline to complete the surrender and decommissioning plan from the proposed 30 months to 22 months.

Priority 2, Use: Ensure water is managed to its highest and best use as a public resource.

(Contracts & water sales, monitor & respond to regional water issues)

(See last page of this report for updates on all community partner meetings attended this month.)

Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA): GM participated in the review and ranking of legal counsel proposals. A Technical Advisory Committee meeting is being scheduled for Wednesday, August 31, 2022 and a Board Meeting for Thursday, September 8, 2022.

Priority 3, Advocate: Participate as an active stakeholder in the security and use of water beyond our direct authority. (Stakeholder positions, participation with community partners, website, legislation)

Department of Water Resources CII Water Conservation Workshop – This Workshop was to help inform the development of DWR's future commercial, industrial, and institutional (CII) turf replacement program and water conservation strategies. As they plan for continued extreme drought and a 4th dry year, DWR is seeking input from water use efficiency leaders in the CII sector on four key strategies for improving water conservation. Feedback will directly help DWR staff build an efficient and effective program to save more water for future generations. More information can be found on the CA DWR website by searching "CII Water Conservation Workshop.)

State Water Board Racial Equity Action Plan Workshop: The CA State Water Board held a workshop to update stakeholders on ongoing racial equity efforts and participate in developing a draft Racial Equity Action Plan to create a future where we collectively equitably preserve, enhance, and restore California's water resources and drinking water for all Californians, and where race is not a predictor of professional outcomes for Water Boards employees. More information can be found on the CA State Water Board website by searching "2022 racial equity action plan."

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California Water Plan Equity Public Workshop: The California Water Plan team is looking for input on efforts to better understand and address equity in the management of California's water resources. A virtual public workshop was held to collect comments. The workshop included presentations on California Water Plan Update 2023 and highlighted State efforts related to equity in water management. website: TBA

Priority 4: Administer: Foster sustainable leadership and management of agency resources.
(GM, Trustees, systems, financial)

Financial: The Fiscal Year 20-21 audit is nearly complete by the new auditor.

Operations: The District office new address is 304 North State Street #2, Ukiah, CA 95482. Office is open by appointment only.

Community Meetings Attended This Month

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (7/6/22): *Staff reported that the consolidation efforts between City and URRWA members is too large for the available funding with \$20 million available and another \$40 million needed. State Water Resources Control Board has offered to help find additional funding opportunities *Redwood Valley is working with LACO for managing the projects funded by their 1.8 million grant. *Millview well 35 has received final approvals from the State. Waiting for the company that provided the filtration system for the iron and manganese to come and start it up. *Willow has the Norgaard well field running and providing 350 gpm. *No action taken on selecting a member for the GSA.

Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (7/11/22): *The Commission heard the continued public hearing for the Community Services Area (CSA) #3 Municipal Services Review & Sphere of Influence update with extensive discussion. *Current and future workplan and applications were reviewed. *The Commission discussed potentially moving to hybrid meetings.

Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) (7/14/22):*General updates were shared. *Funding for IWPC to continue work in securing the inter-basin transfer and feasibility study for the raising of Coyote Valley Dam were discussed. The Board of Supervisor effort to allocate a ballot measure toward water was not successful. Supervisors McGourty and Mulheren are looking for other funding sources. IWPC has self-funded almost \$2.5 mil over last 26 yrs to protect PVP. There is a need to obtain bridge funding to form a regional entity while working to acquire water rights and monetize water. Sonoma Water received grant funding to set up Russian River Water Users Forum. It is not yet clear how RR interest groups will navigate decommissioning and license surrender process. *PG&E's plan for decommissioning planning was submitted with a 30 month timeline. FERC will respond, though it is not known how long. *Janet Pauli spoke about DWR funds to explore a Potter Valley reservoir and groundwater status.

Hopland Public Utility District (7/14/22): No one from the District attended.

Willow County Water District (7/11/22): *GM Walker provided an update on operations and Office Manager shared an update on the audit. *GM Walker provided an update on Service Contracts with the other water supply agencies. *An update was provided on the potential consolidation of Upper Russian River Water Agency JPA members and the City of Ukiah. GM Walker estimated \$20 million is needed for a full consolidation and led a discussion on viable options. *Discussion was held on the current inter-basin transfer from Eel River to the Russian River as well as the longer term decommissioning process by PG&E and what may happen with the continued diversion. *An update was provided on the Upper Russian River Water Sharing Agreement (VSA) Program and forbearance percentages/water allocations for participants. *The Board approved the FY 2022-23 Budget.

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MC Board of Supervisors (7/12/22): *The Board adopted a Resolution Renewing its Declaration of a Local Emergency and Extending the Existence of a Local Emergency Due to Drought Conditions and Imminent Threat of Disaster in Mendocino County. *A “2022-2023 Drought Ad Hoc Committee” was formed and McGourty and Mulheren were appointed. The Drought Task Force (McGourty and Haschak) was disbanded. *The Board heard presentation during the Private Well Water Extraction/Mining Regulation item, including a simple but effective graphic on groundwater pumping. *Gjerde and Mulheren sponsored an item on funding of water projects. Both provided letters in the agenda packet.

Millview County Water District (7/19/22): *Discussions for consolidation of URRWA members and the City of Ukiah are proceeding slowly due to many participants on vacation. *It was reported the Voluntary Water Sharing Program is working well for now. *Staff reported on various operations: Well 6 building is waiting for engineering to be completed, including an issue with a PG&E pole being too close. Well 35 filtration is still waiting for the company that installed the filters to come and do the startup.

Calpella County Water District (7/20/22): No one from the District attended.

City of Ukiah Council (7/20/22): Nothing water related to note.

Redwood Valley County Water District (7/21/22): Board received presentation on solar options at treatment facility.

Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (8/3/22): *Staff provided operational updates of member agencies: Millview’s Well 35 filtration commissioned and removing 100% of the manganese. Expect to be supplying water to the system this week. 90 gpm. * On the topic of proposed consolidation of URRWA members and potentially the City of Ukiah, GM Walker reported that the overview of the consolidation project included in this meeting’s packet was sent to the State Water Resources Control Board, who is working with the agencies on this effort. The report was written by City of Ukiah Director of Water & Wastewater Sean White and edited by GM Walker. The Calpella CWD representative reported that Calpella wants to get things moving on consolidation, including hiring a consultant. GM Walker responded that things are moving slowly and the consultant part will be happening later. Funding is the big issue to be resolved at this time. *Once again, no representative for the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board seat was appointed so the URRWA seat on the GSA remains vacant. It was proposed that GM Walker take the Technical Advisory Committee position and Ken Todd would leave the TAC and serve on the GSA Board, but no action was taken.

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