

Mendocino County

Russian River Flood Control

& Water Conservation Improvement District

Board Workshop on
District Surplus Water
Policy Development

~

November 7, 2022



2021 Lake Mendocino

- Lack of rainfall
- No demand reduction in 2020
- Eel River diversions slashed
- Water Sharing Program still in development
- Emergency Regulations and widespread curtailment
- RRFC Customers on demand reduction and diversion schedule



Photo by DWR



2021

Curtailment of Diversions to Protect Water Supplies and Threatened and Endangered Fish in the Russian River Watershed

§ 877.6 Rediversion of Water Previously Stored in Lake Mendocino

- (e) No rediversions shall occur following September 1 unless Sonoma County Water Agency and the Flood Control District have jointly submitted an executed agreement to the Deputy Director specifying the amount of water stored in Lake Mendocino pursuant to License 13898, the amount of water that will remain stored in Lake Mendocino for use in 2022, and a methodology acceptable to the Deputy Director for determining how inflows to Lake Mendocino are attributed to the Flood Control District and SCWA's respective water rights.



Two Agreements

August 31, 2022:

“Sonoma and RRFC will engage in twice monthly consultations to develop and agree to a methodology acceptable to the Deputy Director for determining how inflows to Lake Mendocino are attributed to RRFC and Sonoma’s respective water rights. Sonoma and RRFC will meet with the Deputy Director in early December 2021 to provide a progress report and submit a final report agreement no later than February 15, 2022.”

March 21, 2022:

Sonoma and RRFC entered MOU “Concerning Lake Mendocino Storage Planning and Russian River Management” committing to co-development of an annual Technical Memo.



Technical Memo

Timeline: Completed by July 1 of each year and may update as the year progresses.

Content: Establish baseline assumptions, methodology, and operational goals for managing storage and conditions in RR for the current year. Will, among other things:

- (A) Analyze watershed conditions, including projected Eel River diversions;
- (B) Assess Lake Mendocino storage to meet streamflow requirements and projected demand;
- (C) Establish the frequency and level of analysis needed based on year's hydrology;
- (D) Project diversions by 10,000 acre foot reserve in Sonoma County





Technical Memo

Operational Goals

Sonoma Water will use its reservoir and river operations model to estimate the availability of stored water for authorized users.

Ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, water stored in Lake Mendocino will be used for the following purposes:

- (A) Complying with minimum instream flow requirements (typically set through TUCP process);
- (B) Rediversion by Mendocino RRFC pursuant to License No. 13898;
- (C) Rediversion by Sonoma Water pursuant to its Permit No. 12947A; and
- (D) Diversion by post-1949 water-right permittees and licensees within Sonoma County under the 10,000 acre foot reservation.



Technical Memo Timeline

Monthly:

Sonoma Water & RRFC meet to determine necessity of tech memo for year, develop technical memo, and develop required reporting.

By March 1 of each year, and by 1st of each month after:

Sonoma Water: Lake Mendocino storage projections (see MOU for factors.)

April 15 of each year and monthly through September:

RRFC: Report Jan-March use by April 15th and update monthly



Photo by RR Confluence



Technical Memo

June 15 of each year and monthly through September 15 of the relevant year:

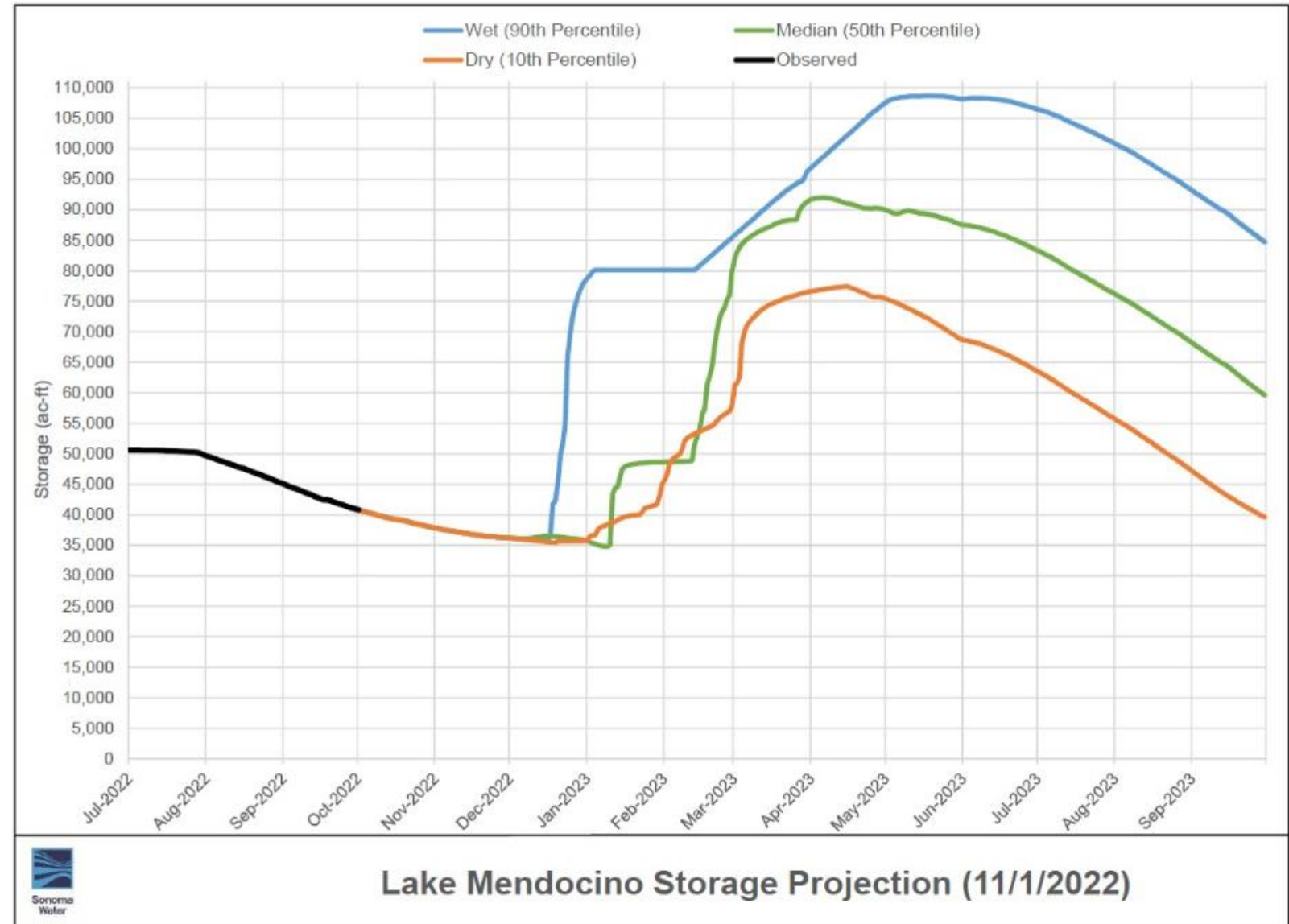
Sonoma Water & RRFC to provide the Deputy Director with an accounting report related to Lake Mendocino conditions and operations containing:

- (A) Lake Mendocino storage necessary to meet minimum Russian River streamflow requirements, including an operational buffer, until September 30;
- (B) Lake Mendocino storage for RRFC through September 30;
- (C) Lake Mendocino storage available under the 10,000 acre-foot reservation through September 30;
- (D) The projected volume of Lake Mendocino storage on October 1.



Sonoma Water Projections 11/5/22

LAKE MENDOCINO



Uniform Water Supply & Purchase Agreement



Photo by CJ Watt

Customer Schedule

By February 15 of each year, Customers to submit schedule of water to be made available under contract for the year and request for any available surplus.

POD NAME:		
	A	B
Month	Projected use of Contracted Quantity	Request for Surplus if available
January		
February		
March		
April		
May		
June		
July		
August		
September		
October		
November		
December		
Totals:		



Importance of Customer Schedule

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT,)	No. 42059
)	<u>JUDGMENT</u>
Plaintiff,)	
vs.)	
REDWOOD VALLEY COUNTY WATER DISTRICT,)	
Defendants.)	

Stipulated Judgement:

RRFC to sell RVCWD surplus water which is not put to beneficial use within RRFC boundary.



Photo by [unreadable] mone





Defining Surplus Water

“District” surplus vs “system” surplus

Surplus in License 13898 is not equal to surplus in the Russian River watershed or Lake Mendocino.

District Surplus defined as:

- a) Uncontracted water under RRFC License 13898
(report provided monthly in Board Meeting materials.)
- b) Contracted water that is unused (not being put to beneficial use), determined by the following:
 - i) Customer Schedule
 - ii) Technical Memo
 - iii) Quantity in excess to meet scheduled demand is made available to customers for 15 days.
 - iv) Remaining quantity is District Surplus.

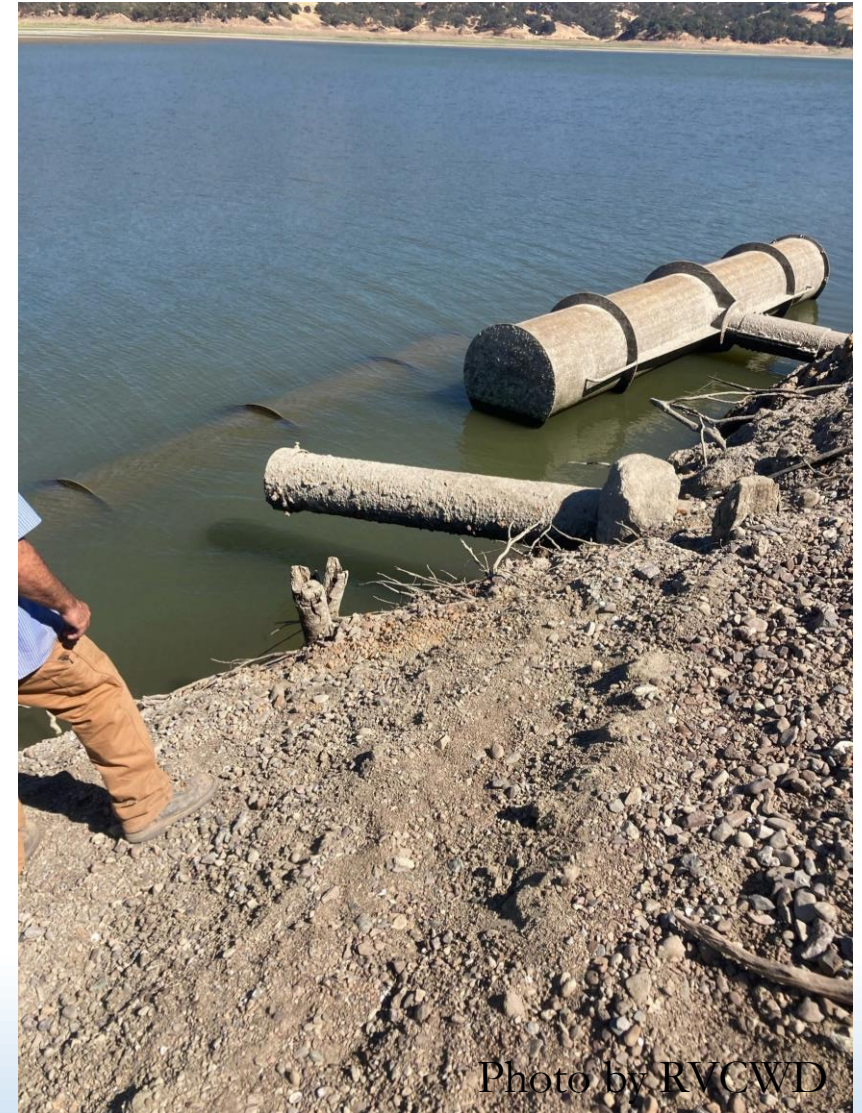


District Surplus Water

“District Surplus” is NOT available when:

- RRFC storage allocation as per the Technical Memo is insufficient to meet Customer demand schedule (customers are unable to use all the water they want under contract.)
- District receives Notice of Water Unavailability and/or curtailment notice on License 13898

District Surplus unavailability can be documented in a District Declaration pursuant to California Water Code Section 350.



District Surplus Water

“District Surplus” can be sourced from:

- a) **Direct Diversion of Unimpaired Flows**
Eel River diversions to the East Fork Russian River through the Potter Valley Project.
- b) **Stored Water in Lake Mendocino**
The Technical Memo will address the allocation of stored water.
- c) **A combination of direct diversion and stored water**



DRAFT TIMELINE **for providing District Surplus Water to Redwood Valley County Water District**

February 1: Receive RVCWD for monthly schedule of requested surplus.

February 15: As per contract, Customer preliminary schedules/surplus requests due

Late February: Preliminary District Surplus offered to Customers for 15 days.

Early March: Preliminary District Surplus made available to RVCWD through written notification.

July 1: Technical Memo allocating available stored water - may update as the year progresses.

Early July: Notice to Customers of RRFC stored water allocation.

Mid July: Updated Customer schedules/surplus requests due & surplus offered for 15 days.

Early August: District Surplus made available to RVCWD through written notification.

If additional water is made available throughout the year, RVCWD will be updated in writing.

[Green text indicates current procedure.]



Refinement Needed

- Determining available District Surplus from direct diversion of unimpaired flows October through June. Direct diversion of unimpaired flows may not be available in winter months as it has in the past due to (1) changed climate and precipitation patterns; and (2) changes to the Eel River diversion through PVP.
- Customer schedules due February 15 will need to account for possible curtailment of Customer water rights due to reduced Eel River diversions. In order to put District water to beneficial use by making available to RVCWD, updated Customer schedules will be needed.
- Timing of Tech Memo (July 1) is not ideal for planning, though some information will be available during development.





Photo by E Salomone

Discussion and Recommendation

Discussion:

Board to provide feedback on policy development regarding water allocation and District surplus water.

Recommendation:

Direct Staff and Legal Counsel to draft policy and/or procedure to return to the Board for review and possible approval.

