

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

General Manager's Report for August 2026
Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, September 14, 2026

Priority 1: Water Supply Security ~ Ensure reliable, resilient, and available sources of water.

(1: Improve river & reservoir operations. 2: Advance fair & reliable trans basin diversions. 3: Increased storage capacity. 4: Ensure effective and beneficial use of District water as a public resource.)

1-PG&E Drought Working Group (DWG): The DWG met to review the storage forecast. It is projected that the minimum instream flow for the East Branch Russian River would continue at 25 cfs until October 1st, then drop to 5 cfs for the remainder of the variance period. The variance ends when storage in Lake Pillsbury is greater than 36,000 ac feet after October 1st. Modeling was provided for two scenarios: (1) reducing from 25 cfs to 5 cfs on October 1st, and (2) reducing from 25 cfs to 5 cfs on September 1st. PG&E is recommending maintaining status quo at this time. Temperature profiles are significantly cooler than in 2025, due to the earlier approval of the flow variance. Current and past reports available on District website:

<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/current-pg-e-potter-valley-project-operations>

2-Future of the Trans Basin Diversion: See Agenda Item 6: Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) Updates. More information can be found on the District's website:

<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/future-of-the-eel-river-to-russian-river-trans-basin-diversion-potter-valley-project>

3-US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) Coyote Valley Dam General Investigation for Increased Storage Capacity at Lake Mendocino: See Agenda Item 6: Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) Updates. More information can be found on the District's website:

<https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/lake-mendocino-s-coyote-valley-dam-general-investigation-study>

4-LAFCo Application for Annexation of Redwood Valley County Water District's service area: The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) has tentatively scheduled the Public Hearing to consider approval of the application for Monday, October 5, 2026. Further information was requested by and provided to LAFCo staff. Two informational videos on the project were developed by the District and posted on the webpage. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/proposed-annexation-of-redwood-valley-county-water-district-2025-2026>

Priority 2: Strategic Partnerships ~ Collaborate with partners to achieve aligned goals for a mutual benefit. (1: Cultivate trusted relationships with community partners for regional water security. 2: Expanded relationships with non-traditional partners and stakeholders in pursuit of enhanced Environmental Stewardship. 3: Promote clarity on shared goals and initiatives with our strategic partners.)

1-Water Sharing Program: The working group met and received a presentation by Sonoma Water on a comparison of hydrologic models in effort to develop a methodology to determine when the 10k acre feet reserve in Lake Mendocino for water rights in Sonoma County is being used. More information on the District's webpage: <https://rrfc.specialdistrict.org/upper-russian-river-voluntary-water-sharing-program>

3-Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission Recruitment for an Executive Director: See Agenda Item 6: Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) Updates.

(Continued...)

Priority 3: Advocacy & Engagement ~ Be an influential voice for our region through outreach, education, funding, regulation, & legislation. (1: Improve public awareness and understanding of the importance of water issues. (2) Pursue State and Federal governmental policy and funding support.)

2-State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Funded Telemetry Pilot: New equipment continues to be installed and monitored.

Priority 4: Governance and Operational Excellence ~ 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, administration, and human resources to execute the strategic plan. 4: Sound and sustainable management of District finances.)

1-Executive Leadership: Attended or watched: (1) Voices from the Field - El Niño, Explained with Dr. Daniel Swain.

2-Board of Trustees: Three seats expire in early December 2026. Two Trustees were able to file and because the number of candidates did not exceed the open seats they were appointed in lieu of an election. One Trustee was unable to file during the time required and indicated they will be seeking appointment by the Board of Supervisors as allowed. See **attached** notice from the County of Mendocino.

Community Meetings

Upper Russian River Water Manager's Meeting via zoom (7/30/26): Updates were provided on Reservoir/water supply/FIRO summer conditions update (Nick Malasage, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Mussel prevention program update (Hailey Norman, Sonoma Water), Lake Mendocino/CVD modernization update (Eric Nagy/ IWPC), Lake Sonoma FIRO outlet update (Don Seymour, Sonoma Water), Water sharing program update (Beth Salomone, RRFC), Eel Russian River Project Authority update (David Manning, ERPA), Government affairs update (Mark Fenstermaker, State and Sara Tucker, Federal). Next meeting in December 2026.

Ukiah Valley Water Authority (8/6/26): An update from Carollo Engineers on Application for SAFER Planning Grant Application was given. The State Water Resources Control Board staff provided a presentation on the SAFER Program & Application. They acknowledged the excellent work done locally in advancing efforts and the wonderful collaboration they have experienced. SWRCB staff was asked how many of the Water Authority members would have to consolidate to receive SAFER program funding and responded that while decisions are mostly left to local decision makers, fewer governing bodies are expected. A presentation developed by Sonoma Water on the Eel to Russian River modeling after decommissioning of the Potter Valley Project was given as a segue to further discussion of the Water Authority joining the Inland Water & Power Commission. Though no vote was taken, consensus was supportive and staff were given direction. Staff provided an update on the annual budgets and followed up with questions posed regarding the rate study. Staff gave updates on operations and the next meeting was confirmed for September 3, 2026.

Eel Russian Project Authority (ERPA) (8/6/26): The Board approved the FY 26-27 budget. Sonoma Water staff presented results of the NERF water diversion modeling analysis. Staff provided an update that the CA Department of Fish and Wildlife grant funding includes money for an Inland Water & Power Commission (IWPC) led study and installation of test production wells in Potter Valley as well as money for the IWPC efforts to increase storage capacity at Lake Mendocino. ERPA is applying to Coastal Conservancy for Prop 4 money and continuing to seek financial support from federal government. The next expected update from FERC will be a notice when the formal NEPA review begins, though not required to provide status updates.

(Continued...)

A public review period will be held on the draft document, when ready. Round Valley Indian Tribes Representative James Russ noted the Tribe is willing to support the work on increasing storage capacity at Lake Mendocino and other [Russian River] projects. The Executive Director's report included several updates. (1) Progress report on the revenue strategy to determine feasible approaches to pay for capital costs, bond financing costs, and ongoing maintenance and operation costs of the New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF.) (2) ERPA's response to FERC's NEPA Scoping Document. (3) NERF engineering design update. (4) CEQA process for NERF.

Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (8/13/26): Chair Pauli provided an update on Eel River Water Importation issues. A presentation on progress in the effort to increase storage capacity at Lake Mendocino was given including alternative pathways. The Ad Hoc committee is recommending engaging a Federal lobbyist on behalf of IWPC. The Executive Director Recruitment Ad Hoc committee reviewed its written report and the Marketing & Public Education Ad Hoc reviewed recent and upcoming activities. Legal Counsel noted the updated Joint Powers Agency document update is being drafted that would provide a clear pathway for Ukiah Valley Water Authority to replace Redwood Valley on the Commission. It was noted that the CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife grant funding allocates \$500,000 to Potter Valley Storage Development. Chair Pauli noted she and Commissioner Cline were invited and met with Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District (EVMWD) representatives and some local interested parties for a general update. EVMWD reported it signed the NDA with PG&E and submitted questions. EVMWD had met with interested parties in Sonoma County earlier in the day.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board meeting (8/13/26): Was cancelled and rescheduled due to a noticing glitch.

City of Ukiah (8/19/26): The \$215,000 annual contribution to Mendocino County Inland & Water Commission (IWPC) was approved on the City Council's consent calendar item (see **attached** staff report.) A question arose about the differing contribution amounts from IWPC's member agencies and Council Member Mari Rodin, the City's IWPC representative, indicated that among other reasons, ability to contribute more financially in support of other members unable to do so supported the decision.

Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board meeting (8/26/26): At its August 26, 2026 meeting, the Groundwater Sustainability Agency Board approved several Amended and Restated Governing Documents and received updates on the Groundwater Dependent Ecosystem and Interconnected Surface Water Study and development of the 2027 Periodic Evaluation. A new Strategic Plan was introduced to and adopted by the Board. The consent calendar included authorization for the General Manager (GM) to execute the Agreement with consultants to continue technical support to the Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA) and was approved by the Board. The GM provided reports on operations, future meeting calendars, financial reports, etc. Tribal engagement continues with a priority intent to have Tribal representative seats filled. See Agenda Item 8: Ukiah Valley Basin Groundwater Sustainability Agency Update for more information.

Attachments:

- County of Mendocino letter on November 3, 2026 General Election

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

KATRINA BARTOLOMIE
ASSESSOR
COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER
REGISTRAR OF VOTERS
COMMISSIONER OF
CIVIL MARRIAGES



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September 2, 2026

Dear District Secretary / Manager:

RE: November 3, 2026 Statewide General Election

The enclosed is a copy of your district's certificate to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) requesting appointment in lieu of election for those candidates who completed their declaration of candidacy paperwork. The item went before the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors (BOS) as a Consent Item on September 01, 2026.

Because the number of candidates who filed their declaration of candidacy paperwork did not exceed the number of offices to be filled, your district will not go to election, but the BOS will appoint those who complete their declaration of candidacy paperwork in lieu of election.

For positions where no one filed declaration of candidacy paperwork, the BOS is authorized to appoint any interested electors residing within the boundaries of your district. Those interested in serving on your board should send an email of interest to bos@mendocinocounty.gov, cc'ing cobsupport@mendocinocounty.gov requesting appointment to the district to ensure they are appointed by the deadline send the email by **October 2, 2026**, for the inclusion on the October 20, 2026, BOS Meeting. These appointments by the BOS need to be made prior to Election Day, Tuesday Nov 3, 2026, so please encourage individuals to write to the BOS as soon as possible.

Certificates of Appointment & Oath will be sent out to you by the Clerk of the Board after the meeting date mentioned above. The Oaths will be mailed to the mailing addresses of your district that we have on file. The candidates can be sworn in at the first board meeting after December 4, 2026, where the District Secretary can swear them in. It is suggested that each district keep a copy of these executed Oaths of Office for their records, however ALL ORIGINAL Oath of Offices need to be returned to our Ukiah office at 501 Low Gap Rd. Candidates MUST be sworn in prior to voting on any district business.

We must receive the original and signed oaths within 15 days of execution.
If you have any questions, you can call us at 707 234-6819.

Sincerely,

Katrina Bartolomie
Assessor, County Clerk, Recorder

Amanda Wolter

Amanda Wolter
Assistant Registrar of Voters

enclosure

**CERTIFICATE
(SECTION 10515 ELECTION CODE)**

**TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**

I, **KATRINA BARTOLOMIE, ASSESSOR-COUNTY CLERK-RECORDER**, do hereby certify that at 5:00 p.m. on **AUGUST 12, 2026** the number of nominees did not exceed the number of offices to be filled and that no petition requesting a special election in the **MENDOCINO COUNTY RUSSIAN RIVER FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT** was filed with the County Clerk.

NOW THEREFORE, pursuant to Election Code 10515 (a), the following persons have filed their declaration of candidacy papers and are required to be appointed prior to **NOVEMBER 3, 2026** to the terms as shown:

Term to begin December 4, 2026 at noon and end the first Friday in December of 2030.

John Reardan
Christopher Watt



The Board of Supervisors can make additional appointments in lieu of election for electors residing within the boundaries of the above districts to fill positions to the terms beginning and ending as follows:

- ☒ 1 elector residing within the boundaries of the above district to serve the term beginning December 6, 2026 and end the first Friday in December 2030.

WITNESS MY HAND AND OFFICIAL SEAL THIS 14th DAY OF AUGUST 2026.

(SEAL)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Bartolomie', written over a horizontal line.

KATRINA BARTOLOMIE, County Clerk
in and for the County of Mendocino
State of California

cc: District Secretary