

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

## **General Manager's Report for January 2023**

*Presented at Regular Meeting of Monday, February 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:** On January 16, 2023, the US Army Corps of Engineers conducted a high-flow release at Coyote Valley Dam. More information can be found on the District's website: <https://www.rRFC.net/lake-mendocino-coyote-valley-dam-flood-releases-january-2023>

**1-Water Sharing Program:** The Steering Committee met, continued to refine 2023 program implementation, discussed the impacts of Sonoma County's 10,000 acre feet a year reserved pool of stored water in Lake Mendocino, and worked on 2022 wrap up. The first annual implementation report was submitted on January 31, 2023, and will be published on the Program website soon.

**2-Russian River Water Forum:** The Project Management Advisory Team met weekly, conducted and reviewed briefings, refined proposed Forum structure and outreach materials, and began establishing an interim steering committee for the Planning Group. A grant application was submitted by Sonoma Water to continue funding the Forum and a local match will be required if awarded.

**2-Potter Valley Project Licensing:** Comments regarding PG&E's decommissioning plan and schedule were submitted to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by the following organizations: Friends of the Eel River; Trout Unlimited; California Trout; California Sportfishing Protection Alliance; Sierra Club, Redwood Chapter; Native Fish Society; Save California Salmon; American Whitewater; California River Restoration and Dam Removal, American Rivers; Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations; and Institute for Fisheries Resources.

**3-Water Right Applications:** The Administrative Hearing Office issued a notice of status conference, the District filed a Status Conference Statement, and a conference was held January 30, 2023. Progress continues on the refinement of the water availability analysis and working with protestants.

**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 winter 2022-2023 GSA update presentation was given at the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District Board meeting and the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission meeting and was rescheduled to provide the same update to the Upper Russian River Water Agency but the meeting was cancelled. The second public workshop on the well permitting process in cooperation with the County of Mendocino was postponed, date to be determined.

**1-Relationship Building:** GM met with Sonoma Water's Strategic Planning Committee to review the District's Strategic Plan development, implementation, format, etc. and was the guest speaker featured at the all-staff meeting

**2-Russian River Water Forum: (See Priority 1)**

*(Continued...)*

**3- Expanded Relationships:** The new Executive Programs and Initiatives Committee of the Russian River Watershed Association (RRWA) met. To clarify, the District is not a member of RRWA, however, there has been a continued collaboration and GM was invited to participate in this committee.

**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 provided a GSA update presentation at the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District Board meeting and the Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission meeting and was rescheduled to provide the same update to the Upper Russian River Water Agency but the meeting was cancelled.

**2-ACWA:** The ACWA Region 1 Board met, reviewing the work plan, committee assignments, and other business items.

**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:** The annual water reporting to the State Water Resources Control Board was submitted by the deadline. District Engineer, Balance Hydrologics, is working with Sonoma Water Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board to verify and refine data and an amendment will be filed, as is allowed.

**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.)

**4-Finances:** District Accountant and Auditor to address financial planning, reporting, and enhancement. The draft FY 2021-2022 audit was completed and on this meeting's agenda. District Account issued all required annual tax documents has a copy of the books to close out payroll reporting and other items. Additional discrepancies continue to be addressed.

**Community Meetings Attended This Month**

**Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA) (1/4/22):** Cancelled

**City of Ukiah (1/4/23):** Cancelled

**Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) (1/9/23):** The public hearing on the City of Ukiah and Ukiah Valley Sanitation District Out-of-Agency Services Agreement was postponed. The new special district alternate representative was sworn in. General updates were provided.

**Willow County Water District (1/9/23):** No one from the District attended as the RRFC Board meeting overlapped.

**Ukiah Valley Sanitation District (1/11/23):** GM Salomone provided an update on the GSA and 2023 water supply.

(Continued...)

**Mendocino County Inland Water & Power Commission (1/12/23):** \*The City of Ukiah reported State Water Board Division of Financial Assistance funding for phase 4 of the recycled water project was signed. Construction slated to begin in autumn 2023. The project will add another 500 acre feet capability to treatment plant and extends the distribution under Highway 101, up Low Gap Road to the cemetery, high school, middle and elementary schools, golf course, Todd Grove Park, the ball field complex, and Vinewood Park. \*Chair Pauli reported on the FERC consultation meeting with National Marine Fisheries (NMFS.) PG&E declined public comment during the meeting but is expected to submit written comment in response. \*Chair Pauli and RRFC GM Salomone provided an update on Water Forum development work. \*Chair Pauli reported on progress in negotiations with PG&E to gain access to facilities for the facilities assessment project. \*The Potter Valley storage project is postponed slightly due to weather. \*Chair Pauli is in contact with Congressman Huffman's office to confirm if funding for Coyote Valley Dam improvements is included in the Omnibus Bill. A letter to the United States Army Corp of Engineers reaffirming MCIWPC's commitment as the local sponsor for the feasibility study on Coyote Valley Dam was passed. City of Ukiah Water & Wastewater Director White noted a court date has been set for early March 2023 on a lawsuit filed against the Army Corp regarding Coyote Valley Dam. \*Locations for the in-person meetings starting in March 2023 were discussed. \*Mari Rodin appointed the new City IWPC rep and Juan Orozco will be alternate. \*IWPC Ad-hoc working with grant consultant from Sonoma water for "projects" and almost done with communication brochure. \*Chair Pauli reported Lake Pillsbury spilling as of few weeks ago. \*Janet Pauli was reappointed as Chair and John Reardan as Vice Chair.

**Hopland Public Utility District (1/12/23):** No one from the District attended.

**Millview County Water District (1/17/23):** No one from the District attended.

**Calpella County Water District (1/18/23):** Cancelled due to lack of quorum.

**City of Ukiah (1/18/23):** Cancelled.

**Redwood Valley County Water District SPECIAL (1/18/23):** No one from the District attended. An account can be read here: <https://mendofever.com/2023/01/23/redwood-valleys-water-board-district-attempts-to-fill-vacancy-but-winds-up-deadlocked/>

**Redwood Valley County Water District (1/19/23):** Cancelled due to lack of quorum.

\* \* \* \*

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

# MENDOCINO

## Local Agency Formation Commission

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

---

**DATE:** January 17, 2023  
**TO:** Independent Special Districts of Mendocino County  
**FROM:** Uma Hinman, Executive Officer  
**SUBJECT:** 2022 Special District Member Election Results

Pursuant to GOV §56332(f), the Mendocino Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) Executive Officer conducted the Mendocino County Special Districts 2022 Election by mail. January 16, 2023, was the deadline for ballots to select a regular special district member to LAFCo. The Election was initiated with a call for nominations on April 29, 2022, and a distribution of ballots on August 19, 2022. Based on the ballots received by the deadline, a quorum of special districts was achieved (GOV §56332(f)(6)).

Ballots were received from the following independent special districts:

Anderson Valley CSD	Mendocino City CSD
Brooktrails Township CSD	Mendocino County Recreation & Park District
Calpella County Water District	Mendocino Fire Protection District
Cemetery District of the Redwoods	Millview County Water District
Covelo CSD	Potter Valley Irrigation District
Elk CSD	Redwood Valley-Calpella Fire Protection District
Elk County Water District	Redwood Valley County Water District
Gualala CSD	Russian River Cemetery District
Hopland Cemetery District	Russian River Flood Control District
Hopland Fire Protection District	Ukiah Valley Fire District
Hopland PUD	Ukiah Valley Sanitation District
Little Lake Fire Protection District	Willow County Water District
Long Valley Fire Protection District	

On January 17, 2023 at 11:00 a.m., the Mendocino LAFCo Executive Officer and LAFCo Chair Mulheren counted ballots at the LAFCo office at 200 South School Street, Ukiah, CA. The ballot count was as follows:

Regular Special District Member Seat for term 2023 - 2026		
Candidate	Sponsoring Agency	Number of Ballots Cast
Francois Christen	Anderson Valley Community Services District	5
Candace Horsley	Ukiah Valley Sanitation District	20

We welcome Candace Horsley who will be sworn in as a regular special district representative at the next regular meeting of the Commission.

Note that as the sole nominee for the alternate special district representative for the term 2023-2026, Francois Christen was sworn in as the Alternate Special District Commissioner on January 9, 2023.

Thank you to all that participated in the 2022 Special District Election. Results of individual district ballots are available upon request.