

Declaration #21-02
of the
**Mendocino County Russian River Flood Control
& Water Conservation Improvement District**

Stage III - Water Supply Warning

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. The Russian River watershed is experiencing a second consecutive year of severely below-average rainfall.
3. The Board of Trustees approved Declaration #21-01 Stage II – Water Supply Alert, on March 8, 2021, calling for customers to follow their water conservation plans and begin water shortage contingency planning to maintain the minimum storage threshold.
4. While state officials have yet to formally declare a drought, hydrologic conditions are more severe than the drought years of 2013 through 2014.
(See <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/StateDroughtMonitor.aspx?CA>)
5. The State Water Resources Control Board issued early warning notices in March to water rights holders in the region, urging them to plan for potential shortages by reducing water use and adopting practical conservation measures.
6. As of March 30, 2021, the water supply in Lake Mendocino is 36,077 acre-feet, or 46% of the target supply curve, the lowest storage level for this time of year since it filled.
7. Sonoma Water Agency is modeling ways to maintain the minimum storage threshold in Lake Mendocino of 20,000 acre feet by the end of October 2021, significantly lower than the usual storage goal of 40,000 af.
8. 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.
9. Typical summer-time evaporation losses from Lake Mendocino can be as much as 1,000 acre-feet per month.
10. 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 April 5, 2021;

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

- Under current and forecasted conditions, the District's supply or distribution system will not be able to meet all of the water demands of its Customers due to 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 water supply shortage, the Board is calling for District customers to cooperate with District General Manager in addressing demand management through the development of a voluntary agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.
- 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.
- This Declaration #20-02 Water Supply Warning supersedes Declaration #21-01 Stage II – Water Supply Alert.

District Staff is directed to:

- a. Communicate to all District customers the Board's elevated declaration, warning of water supply conditions and the need for increased conservation measures.
- b. Communicate to all District customers the Board's call to cooperate with District General Manager in developing a voluntary agreement with the State Water Resources Control Board.
- c. Continue providing the Board and customers with updates on the drought conditions, reservoir storage levels, and any anticipated changes through a weekly Water Supply Conditions email and other outreach.
- d. Continue Russian River watershed-wide coordination to address the water supply shortage, drought condition responses, and water system management.
- e. Continue the 2021 Drought Preparedness public outreach campaign with the Resource Conservation District of Mendocino and other partners to communicate the immediate need of significant reduction in water use.
- 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 5th of April, 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	Yes / No / Abstain / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Absent
John Reardan, Trustee	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes / No / Abstain / Absent

Signed:  4/6/21
Christopher Watt, Board of Trustees President Date

Attest:  4/6/21
Elizabeth Salomone, General Manager Date