

Re-establish the Mendocino County Water Agency as a Standalone Agency

Presentation to the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors
March 15, 2022

Meeting Objectives

- Brief Board of Supervisors on project scope and progress
- Present overview of survey and interview results
- Seek input on Steering Committee participants
- Seek input on workshop process

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GEI Scope of Work

Task 1 – Information Gathering

- Existing and Historical Information
- Survey
- Interviews
- Stakeholder Assessment and Critical Issues

Task 2 – Shape Mission, Vision and Objectives

- Steering Committee
- Workshops
- Implementation Plan

Task 3 – Define Requirements and Identify Resources

- Staffing and Resource Needs
- General Manager Recruitment
- Policies and Agreements

Task 4 – Determine Funding Mechanisms

- Grants
- Fee for Service
- General Fund
- Assessments

Task 5 – Final Work Plan and Implementation Recommendations

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Schedule

- January 2022 – Project Kickoff
- March 2022 – present to BOS and seek input on Task 2
- April 2022 – Workshops with Steering Committee
- May 2022 – Present workshop results and preliminary budget to BOS
- July-August 2022 – Deliver Final Work Plan

Stakeholder Assessment

Participating Stakeholder Groups

Board of Supervisors
County offices and leadership
Cities and City Managers
Regional, Large and Small Water Providers
Water Systems
Water Agencies
Municipal Advisory Councils
Tribal Representatives
Chambers of Commerce
Business Organizations
Environmental Organizations
State Agency Representatives
State and Federal Legislators

- Over 100 surveys distributed via email
- 48 surveys completed
- 17 interviews conducted

Mission and Vision

RECURRING THEMES

- Addressing climate change impacts
- Resiliency
- Need funding and staff
- Conservation
- Invest in infrastructure
- Protect water quality and water levels
- Conduct scientific studies
- Advocacy and collaboration
- Regulatory compliance
- Healthy watershed
- Equity and inclusion
- Manage natural resources and habitat
- Clearinghouse for information
- Countywide water initiatives
- Support water security and long-term infrastructure solutions
- Increase water capacity

Water Challenges (Ranked)

1. Drought/water conservation
2. Climate change
3. Infrastructure
4. Lack of information on groundwater conditions
5. Water quality
6. Water affordability

Agency Activities

Partnerships, Advocacy, and Outreach Activities Results

Rank	Activity	Preferred Priority	Preferred Water Agency Role
1	Advocate on County water issues with legislators and regulators	High Priority	Lead Role
2	Provide a forum for relationship building and collaboration among water stakeholders	High Priority	Lead Role
3	Promote education on water issues	High Priority	Lead Role
4	Promote water conservation	High Priority	Support Role
5	Provide information for water and land managers	Moderate Priority	Support Role
6	Build a County identity to engage potential partners	Moderate Priority	TIE: Lead Role or Support Role

Agency Activities

Water Planning and Management Activities Results

Rank	Activity	Preferred Priority	Preferred Water Agency Role
1	Plan for countywide water reliability and drought resilience	High Priority	Lead Role
2	Provide countywide drought response	High Priority	Lead Role
3	Identify and develop new sources of water for the county	High Priority	Lead Role
4	Facilitate water exchanges and joint use of facilities	Moderate Priority	Support Role
5	Develop watershed management plans for habitat restoration and enhancement	Moderate Priority	Support Role
6	Manage water rights	Moderate Priority	Support Role

Agency Activities

Technical Services Activities Results

Rank	Activity	Preferred Priority	Preferred Water Agency Role
1	Coordinate and promote cooperation among water providers	High Priority	Lead Role
2	Maintain Geographic Information Systems to support water resources planning	High Priority	Lead Role
3	Provide technical assistance to water agencies/organizations	High Priority	Support Role
4	Provide shared staffing to support small water systems	Moderate Priority	Support Role
5	Provide regulatory support for water users	Moderate Priority	Support Role
6	Provide services to implement water efficiency measures	Moderate Priority	Support Role

Agency Activities

Water Facilities Development and Operation Activities Results

Rank	Activity	Preferred Priority	Preferred Water Agency Role
1	Plan, construct, operate, and maintain water supply facilities	High Priority	Support Role
2	Manage the Countywide NPDES Stormwater Permit	Moderate Priority	Lead Role
3	Plan, construct, operate, and maintain flood control facilities	Moderate Priority	Support Role
4	Plan, construct, operate, and maintain wastewater treatment facilities	Low Priority	Support Role
5	Plan, construct, and maintain water-related recreational facilities	Low Priority	Limited or No Role

Agency Activities

Funding Assistance Activities Results

Rank	Activity	Preferred Priority	Preferred Water Agency Role
1	Track grant opportunities and communicate with groups who might benefit from them	High Priority	Lead Role
2	Assist in grant preparation	High Priority	Support Role
3	Manage/administer grants and other sources of financial assistance	High Priority	Support Role

Proposed Steering Committee

Devon Boer Jones - *Executive Director, Mendocino County Farm Bureau*

Carre Brown – *former Supervisor, District 1*

Joe Scriven or Deborah Edelman - *Senior Project Manager, Mendocino County RCD*

John Morrill - *Operations Manager, Westport County Water District*

Janet Pauli - *Chair, Inland Water and Power Commission*

Elizabeth Salomone - *General Manager, Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District*

Javier Silva – *Tribal Consultant, North Coast Resource Partnership*

John Smith - *Public Works Director, City of Fort Bragg*

Jessica Stull-Otto – *Round Valley MAC*

Jim Sullivan – *Mendocino CSD*

Jared Walker - *Calpella County Water District; Hopland PUD, Millview County Water District, Redwood Valley County Water District; River Estates Mutual Water Company, Upper Russian Water Agency*

Sean White - *Director of Water & Sewer, City of Ukiah*