

Mendocino County

Inland Water & Power Commission

P.O. Box 1247 • Ukiah, CA 95482

Phone (707) 391-7574 • Email: iwpc@mendoiwpc.com

Notes for discussion from MCIWPC Chair Pauli:

The Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission has voted to fund the proposed study of the hydrology of the Upper Main Eel River and its relationship to the operation of the Potter Valley Project and contribution to the water supply of Lake Mendocino by Sam Sandoval, Phd., Professor, University of California, Davis

From my perspective this information will be critical to the discussion of relicensing the Potter Valley Project. FERC will require this information at some point. We will have to give them an analysis of the impacts of various flow changes that will be proposed during the relicensing process and our answer will be countered by "studies" prepared by other entities. If the same scenario occurs, that we saw in the 90's with the last relicensing and license amendment proceedings, those other studies will be prepared by agencies like the Department of the Interior, National Marine Fisheries Service, or people hired by the Friends of the Eel River. We need science based modeling, and resultant irrefutable answers based on science...not emotional pleadings, political rhetoric or partisan agendas.

As a follow up to this proposal from Dr. Sandoval I asked him two questions and here are his responses:

1. How would the study/modeling specifically be useful to our area with regards to the relicensing of the Potter Valley Project?

Response: We can estimate the range of possible outcomes of different relicensing scenarios, we will provide information on what every outcome looks like with regards to water exported through Potter Valley. We do not recommend what is the best scenario, we will just provide information on what every outcome means in terms of water supply reliability, lost in storage, crop production (economic impact) and improving environmental health of the Eel River by analyzing various flow releases. You will have a clear picture of what might be the potential outcomes, and of course, debate over scientific facts.

2. How do you handle the concern by some that a study funded by stakeholders has no credence?

Response: Every time we engage in a project we take no side, we are scientists that develop research so decisions can be made based on science-based information. The fact that an agency provides funding doesn't mean that we will follow that specific agency's agenda. You have

already seen that, we have been very clear in providing facts and communicating clear findings of, let's say: "You can increase the storage capacity of Coyote Valley Dam Reservoir, but if the water is not imported from the PVP, Lake Mendocino will be empty. It might take one more year of drought to be empty, but make no mistake, it will be empty." Before our study there were some that said a larger reservoir would never even fill up. Or, on the contrary, that a larger lake would mean we no longer need the PVP diversion. We now know that is not true.

We have been providing scientific hard-facts, so that there is no room for suspicion. Yes, we present our findings first to our funding partners, so they are informed what the result of our studies show. These meetings can never change the results of our findings.

As an added benefit it is clear that this study cost is a "bargain" because the Graduate Student working on this project, Bruno Britos, brings his Fulbright Scholarship funding as well as a contribution from UC Davis. The \$52,000 that MCIWPC will provide is actually less than half of the cost of the study without these contributions.

Please consider joining the other member agencies of the Mendocino County Inland Water and Power Commission in funding this valuable study proposed by Dr. Sandoval.

Sincerely,
Janet K.F. Pauli, Chair MCIWPC

MCIWPC Recommendation:

Total amount requested from MCIWPC as a sponsor is \$52,000.

The proposal from the Commission on 1/12/17 is to use \$30,000 from existing MCIWPC funds and the 5 member agencies contribute \$4,400 each.