



# Developing a Water Resources Team

Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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*Glenn McGourty, Supervisor 1<sup>st</sup> District*

# Why We Need to Create a Water Resource Team (Problems to Address)



- Create water security and resiliency for county residents county wide
- Provide needed water supply to allow communities to create much needed new housing
- Address climate change in which rainfall is less predictable
- Respond quickly to State Water Resource Grant Funds
- Have County staff to assess community needs, think creatively to find solutions and funding for studies and projects

# Why not expand existing small Mendocino County Water Agency (MCWA)?



- Present minimal funding won't support a fully staffed department (presently around \$160K allocated)
- GEI Consultants estimate a water agency staffed at a level when the MCWA was fully functional would cost around \$750K- \$1M
- Present County budget is stressed and this would be difficult to fund
- Finding qualified staff may also be difficult and expensive (the pool of qualified hydrologists and water scientists with public agency experience is small)



# An Affordable Solution

- Take a “matrix” approach to creating a Water Resource Team
- Utilize staff from multiple departments to provide expertise, write grants and administer programs
- Consultant Expertise in Hydrology and Grants



# Core Components

- Utilize institutional knowledge of Drought Emergency Ad Hoc Committee (considerable effort has gone into community outreach and needs assessment)
- Hire a knowledgeable Water Resource Specialist who is also experienced in grant writing as well as community and economic development
- Work with existing County departments that have resources to sustain and support the Water Resources Team



## University of California Cooperative Extension



- Provides office space for Water Resource Specialist, administrative support, and technical support for field work and GIS through an existing department with knowledgeable staff
- Opportunities for collaboration with UC Water And Climate Change Advisor (in recruitment) housed in Mendocino County, as well as the UC Soils and Irrigation Advisor (cross county assignment with Sonoma County)
- Also access to Water Specialists at UC Davis, UC Berkeley and UC Riverside



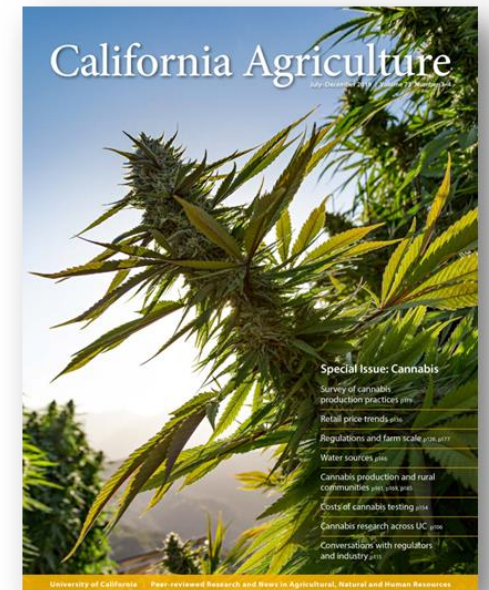
# Water Studies Done by UC Researchers in Mendocino County



- Russian River Watershed Ag Water Use 2007 (Lewis et al)
- Navarro River Watershed Ag Water Use 2012 (McGourty et al)
- Characterization of the Ukiah Valley Groundwater Basin 2017 (Sandoval et al)
- Water Use in Cannabis Culture 2020 (Grantham et al. )



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# Other Departments With Water Expertise In the Matrix



- Environmental Health (wells and domestic water supply, regulations)
- Department of Transportation (presently addressing storm water pollution prevention, Quagga mussel control, groundwater level monitoring)
- CEO Office: Office of Emergency Services, Finance Team, Contracts and Grants personnel
- Planning and Building Services (water planning for developments and communities, permitting)





# Organization

- Water Resource Specialist reports to the BOS and coordinates with CEO Office
- Housed in UCCE Office and receives administrative and technical support
- Staff for Drought Emergency Ad Hoc Committee
- Will also be County contact person for State Water Resource Agencies

# Budget



- Repurpose some of \$160 K going to DOT
- Funds already allocated for Drought Emergency Response

## *Existing MCWA Budget*

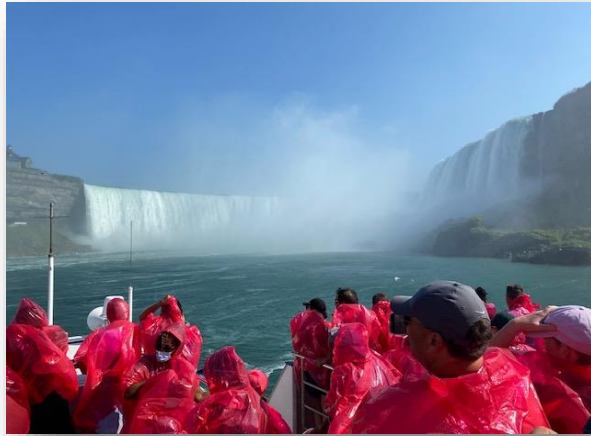
Water Agency Costs Breakdown by Task/Program (Non-grant funded only)										
	NPDES Stormwater	Invasive Mussel Prevention	SGMA	CASGEM	Website & Social Media	RRWA	R3MP	Drought Response	General Admin Support	Total
<b>Staff</b>	\$9,034	\$13,692	\$26,817	\$2,329	\$2,329	\$2,329	\$2,329	\$30,323	\$10,000	<b>\$99,183</b>
<b>Consultant</b>	\$20,000			\$5,000				\$22,500	\$4,937	<b>\$52,437</b>
<b>Miscellaneous Services &amp; Supplies</b>									\$7,080	<b>\$7,080</b>
										<b>\$158,700</b>

Proposed Water Resource Team Budget	Anticipated Cost
Consultant	1125 hours @ \$200 per hour: \$225,000
Augmentation to UCCE for support	\$25,000 (travel, IT, communications)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>

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If all else fails...pray for rain!



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