

CREATING A MENDOCINO COUNTY WATER RESOURCE TEAM - MCWRT

Objective: Have an in-house informed staff to assist Mendocino County in addressing water resource issues including:

- Crafting well informed (scientifically valid) and stake holder supported responses to water emergencies including drought and flood, and compromised water quality
- Assessing county wide needs for potable water, especially in smaller communities with limited water resources
- Create working relationships and communications in the Mendocino County water distribution and user community
- Create relationships with state and federal water agencies that provide and regulate water resources and represent Mendocino County interests at regional and statewide water policy discussions
- Identify and apply for appropriate grants for evaluating groundwater and surface water supplies and infrastructure development, both large and small scale
- Help Mendocino County community and tribal water systems, farmers and local industries negotiate and stay compliant with federal and state water regulations
- Protecting water resources on a watershed basis, focused on adequate water for all stakeholders
- Ability to organize, fund with grants and execute specific research on water issues in Mendocino County partnering with consultants, university specialists and water issue knowledgeable people.
- Assist in creating thoughtful and effective ordinances
- Coordinate with other county agencies involved in water supply issues (Environmental Health, Department of Transportation, Planning and Building Services) to develop policy and program delivery

Team Members:

A **senior level water team leader** hired by Mendocino County. Their role is to provide leadership in developing an overall Mendocino County strategic plan for water; work with the needs of regional and individual water purveyors in our county and find resources to address challenges.

Qualifications:

- Knowledgeable in water science and technology
- Experienced in economic and community development including grant applications, administration, and execution
- Knowledge of state and federal water agencies and has personal relations with their staffs
- Executive experience leading departments, interdisciplinary teams, or programs
- Experience communicating with and convening stakeholders.

Attachment “A” for Scenario #1 Mendocino County Water Resource Team (MCWRT)

--Proven experience working with complex public policy initiatives and project implementation over time.

--Extensive experience in digital media, GIS software and statistical analysis

UC Cooperative Extension Area Water Quality, Quantity and Climate Change Advisor will serve as the water scientist and hydrologist, developing water information and community outreach, conduct applied research, and interact with water scientists at UC Davis, UC Berkeley, UC Riverside, and other scientific specialists. Their job is to develop the science needed to run an effective Mendocino County Water Resource Program and collaborate as a technical advisor to the MCWRT on grant applications and all outreach efforts. This position is part of the UC Water Resilience team of Advisors and Specialists and is assigned to the Mendocino County Office.

--Expert in North Coast water and climate change issues.

--Knowledgeable on broader regional issues like inter-basin water transfers such as the Two Basin Solution Project,

--Advising regional water districts and tribes on drought, fire, and climate change adaptation.

--The position requires a MS or PhD in water resources and policy, irrigation, environmental engineering, climate change, hydrology, or other closely related field. Ideally, degrees would include several of those disciplines.

UC ANR Cooperative Extension Water Specialists including Dr. Sam Sandoval, Land Air Water Resources, UC Davis; Dr. Ted Grantham, UC Berkeley Dept. of Environmental Science and Policy Management (both are water researchers with extensive experience in Mendocino County). They will work as consultants and researchers funded by competitive grants on water issues including groundwater basin delineation, water shed hydrology; impacts of conventional crops and cannabis on surface and ground water supply; water conservation strategies and their impacts on ground water and surface water. They will also staff up with graduate students when necessary for research data gathering, analysis and critical writing when research is conducted in Mendocino County.

Administrative support:

UCCE County Director (John Harper): Overall program management, assistance in budget development and resource needs.

Office Service Supervisor (Michelle Stout): all county and university record keeping; grant tracking and fund disbursements. Proficient in both MUNIS (Mendocino County) and DAFIS (UC Davis Accounting program). Assistance in communications (including phone calls, web site maintenance, emails, written correspondence.) Assistance in meeting organization both virtual and in person.

UCCE Ag Technician (Taylor Delbar) for field data gathering, entry and analysis

Executive Office Contract Team: to assist in state and federal grant application, compliance and reporting.