

CARMEL J. ANGELO
Chief Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CONTACT INFORMATION
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221
FAX: (707) 463-7237
Email: bos@co.mendocino.ca.us
Web: www.co.mendocino.ca.us/bos

May 2, 2017

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for Voluntary Consolidation of the Ukiah Valley Water Districts

Dear Governor Brown:

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors fully endorses the consolidation efforts of five water districts in the Ukiah Valley to combine and create a regional water agency. Mendocino County planning documents recommend this action and after years of discussion, these districts have worked together to create the Upper Russian River Water Agency (URRWA), a Joint Powers Authority (JPA) to facilitate the consolidation of four retailers, Calpella County Water District (CWD), Millview CWD, Redwood Valley CWD, Willow CWD, and a wholesaler, Russian River Flood Control and Water Conservation Improvement District.

Efforts to complete the consolidation of these five small special districts into one regional water agency will provide economies of scale to the ratepayers and a more responsive agency for the public. Although the formation of the JPA is a step toward eventual consolidation of the districts, it does not constitute consolidation by itself. The County of Mendocino encourages the opportunity to work with a consolidated agency on the water issues facing our constituents and asks for your support of their consolidation efforts.

Your office has promoted the active use of consolidations to ensure equity among water users and a fair allocation of natural resources for all Californians. The process leading to the resolution at the state level will be critical to the success of this consolidation effort. Having positive results will create a more effective governance structure for water service delivery to approximately 8,000 drinking water customers at 4,000 service connections and over 6,000 acres of agricultural production. Any assistance or leadership that you can provide at the State level would be appreciated.

A consolidated regional water district will better manage our water supply and ensure that safe, reliable and affordable water is available for all our beneficial users. We look forward to your support of their efforts.

Sincerely,

John McCowen
Board of Supervisors Chairperson

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