



General Manager's Monthly Report – June 2010

(Prepared June 28, 2010)

Active Projects

Scout Lake Phase I Feasibility Investigation

The Boy Scouts comments on the first draft of the Partnership Agreement have been received. Staff is incorporating comments received to date and preparing a second draft of the Partnership Agreement for subsequent review and comment and will finalize a technical report summarizing the three principal options to be addressed in the Partnership Agreement – construction of alternative “A” off-stream storage reservoir, construction of alternative “B” off-stream storage reservoir, and raising existing Scout Lake dam, as time allows.

Coyote Dam Feasibility Investigation

No significant activity in the last 30 days.

Mendocino County Water Conservation Practices Assessment

A draft report summarizing the Willow Water District's water use trends and opportunities for implementing water conservation measures has been prepared.

Mill Creek Dams

California Department of Fish and Game representatives involved with the Department's fish propagation activities are seeking permission from within the Department and from the National Marine Fisheries Service to resume periodic catchable trout fish plants at the Upper Mill Creek Dam. Fish stocking – approximately 15,000 catchable trout over a six-month period – is tentatively scheduled to begin in late December or early January, 2011. Caltrans funding for the partial removal of the Feliz Creek dam is currently on hold pending adoption of the State budget. If Caltrans funding is not received by mid August, completion of the Feliz Creek fish passage project will be delayed until the summer of 2011.

NPDES Storm Water Management Compliance

The County's State and Federal mandated 5-year NPDES storm water discharge permit with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board is now up for renewal. Based on the experience of other entities in the State that recently have or are in the process of renewing their respective NPDES storm water discharge permits it is anticipated that the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board will seek to impose additional terms and conditions – additional compliance activities – on Mendocino. The County's staff level NPDES committee, which includes staff from the Water Agency, Building and Planning, Environmental Health, Transportation, and the General Services Agency have been meeting over the last year to develop the County's Storm Water Ordinance and Standard Urban Storm Water Mitigation Plan (SUSMP), both of which must be prepared pursuant to the County's existing NPDES storm water discharge permit with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. A draft storm water ordinance has been prepared and has reviewed by County Counsel, and is now tentatively scheduled for Board adoption, along with the SUSMP, in late July, 2010.

North Coast Energy Independence Program

Due to a legal challenge brought forth by the Western Riverside Council of Governments (WRCOG), the disbursement of CEC grant funds for the North Coast Energy Independence Program is on hold. The WRCOG is contending that the CEC was biased in the evaluation of proposals and that the WRCOG proposal should have been selected for at least partial funding. CEC staff is hopeful that the issue will be resolved in the near future and anticipate that the disbursement of the North Coast Energy Independence Program grant funds will begin in August, 2010. An informational webpage for Mendocino's portion of the North Coast Energy Independence Program has been created on the Water Agency's website (go to www.mendocountywa.com and click on the "Energy Independence Program" button found on left side of the home page).

North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan

On June 24, 2010 the North Coast Integrated Regional Water Management Plan's Policy Review Panel (PRP) and the Technical Review Panel (TRP) met to update members and interested stakeholders on the status of existing and pending Proposition 50 implementation projects, the status of Proposition 84 grant funds, and to consider a proposal by north coast Native American tribes that would add Native American tribal representatives to the PRP and TRP.

Noyo/Big River Integrated Coastal Watershed Management Plan

Work has once again been suspended pending adoption of the State budget and the resumption of grant payments to grantees.

Navarro River Agricultural Water Use Inventory Project

All field activities and data analyses have been completed. However, preparation of the final report is on hold due to a lack of funding. Approximately \$15,000 is needed to complete the project.

Greater Ukiah Valley Groundwater Study

Staff continues to compile hydrogeologic and groundwater elevation data on file with the Water Agency and Environmental Health into an electronic data base that will eventually be used to update a groundwater availability study published by the United States Geological Survey in 1986.

Inactive Projects

Calpella Reservoir Sites Phase II Feasibility Study

No activity due to lack of funding.

Mendocino College Reservoir Phase II Feasibility Study

No activity due to lack of funding.

Other Activities

SB 610 Water Supply Assessment for Ukiah Valley

Preparation of a revised Water Supply Assessment for the Ukiah Valley Area Plan, based in part on the draft Water Supply Assessment previously prepared by a county contractor, has been delayed and is now scheduled for completion the first week of August.

Mendocino County Green Business Certification Program

The Water Agency is working with the Economic Development and Financing Corporation of Mendocino County, local businesses, and interested stakeholders to develop a Green Business Certification Program that would be patterned after similar programs in the San Francisco Bay Area. In addition to hosting the program on a cost reimbursable basis, the Water Agency would provide technical expertise – implementation of water conservation and storm water pollution control measures – to participating businesses. Initiation of a Mendocino County Green Business Certification Program was first proposed by several local businesses, who view the program as a valuable marketing opportunity. From the Water Agency’s perspective, the proposed program provides an opportunity to recognize businesses that are in full compliance with the County’s State and Federal mandated NPDES storm water discharge permit and at the same time, meet some of the County’s NPDES storm water discharge permit obligations, most notably public outreach and education, at minimal cost. A funding agreement that would allow the Water Agency to host the proposed Mendocino County Green Business Certification Program will be presented to the Board for review and approval in late July or early August.

SBX7 6: Groundwater Monitoring

In 2009 the State Legislature passed SBX7 6, which mandates groundwater monitoring – “...On or before January 1, 2012, local groundwater Monitoring Entities will regularly and systematically monitor groundwater elevations in California’s alluvial basins and subbasins in order to determine seasonal and long-term trends, and this information will be made readily and widely available to the public”. Groundwater monitoring is required in all 515 alluvial basins and subbasins located in the state and as identified in DWR Bulletin 118. Twenty of these basins are located in Mendocino County. Pursuant to SBX7 6, local agencies can – by January 1, 2011 - petition the Department of Water Resources (DWR) to become the local groundwater monitoring entity that is responsible for monitoring and reporting groundwater elevation data to DWR. If no local agency volunteers to monitor groundwater elevations, DWR will assume responsibility for monitoring and the local agencies whose jurisdiction encompasses the groundwater basin to be monitored, as well as the County, will no longer be eligible for State water grants or loans.

The Water Agency currently monitors groundwater elevations in three of the County’s twenty basins and historically monitored groundwater elevations in a fourth. Water Agency staff will be working with other local water districts this summer and fall to coordinate compliance with SBX7 6. Staff anticipates the County being directly responsible for groundwater elevation monitoring in at least some of 20 groundwater basins located in the County, and coordinating the collection and reporting of groundwater elevation data with other local water districts and water purveyors for the remaining groundwater basins.