

For Sonoma Water agency WAC/TAC/ Nov 3, 2025 Item on “Statement Of Interests “

Dear Sonoma Water contractor agencies

Given the discussion on “Statement Of Interests” amongst the contractors, I’m advocating for a more informed view of the Upper Russian River system. Due to the tight deadline for discussions, I’ve circulated a version of an Upper Russian River Position Paper that I co-authored, to a number of the regularly scheduled Sonoma County City Meetings.

To provide context for Sonoma Water's “Statement of Interests” (items 1, 2, and 16), please refer to the attached Sierra Club Redwood Chapter [“Upper Russian River Position Paper”](#)

<quote> 2 Recognize the continued diversion of water from the PVP and planned through the proposed New Eel-Russian Facility (NERF) into the Russian River watershed supports overall water supply reliability, fisheries, and operations of Lake Mendocino, as well as, particularly during dry periods, providing water volume to supplement releases from Lake Sonoma thereby preserving storage. <end quote>

A valuable question raised at a Public Meeting that would be good to ask in the future is (to paraphrase): “Sonoma Water makes the case that continued flows (from Lake Mendocino with spring top-ups from the Eel River) would reduce the volume of water required for release from Lake Sonoma to maintain regulatory minimum summer flows in the lower river. A projection for this volume has not been provided, but it would be helpful in determining the estimated benefit to water users in the Russian River basin.”

<quote> 16 Ask Sonoma Water and ERPA to request that the State Water Board enforce limits on water use, especially in the upper Russian River (north of the Dry Creek confluence), in order to maintain the benefits of any future Eel River Diversions. <end quote>

The Position Paper suggests that there could be a benefit in looking at a portfolio of water resiliency in the Upper Russian River watershed.

Thankyou for considering these views, Neil Hancock, Cotati.